



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Thursday, 17 November 2005 — No. 185

**President of the National Assembly:
Mr. Michel Bissonnet**

QUÉBEC

The Assembly was called to order at 10.06 o'clock a.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

Mr. Audet, Minister of Finance, moved, —That Bill 127, An Act to amend the Act respecting financial services cooperatives and the Act respecting the Mouvement Desjardins, do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried and Bill 127 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mr. Moreau, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 127 be referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Public Finance.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been adjourned on 16 November 2005, on the motion by Mr. Bergman, Minister of Revenue, —That Bill 126, Budget Act giving effect to the Budget Speech delivered on 21 April 2005 and to certain other budget statements, do now pass in principle.

At 11.59 o'clock a.m., Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

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The proceedings resumed at 2.05 o'clock p.m.

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Presenting Papers

Mrs. Gagnon-Tremblay, Minister of International Relations, tabled the following:

The Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as an explanatory note on its contents and the effects thereof.

(Sessional Paper No. 2364-20051117)

She then tabled the following motion:

THAT, pursuant to section 22.3 of the *Act respecting the Ministère des Relations internationales*, the National Assembly approve the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

(Sessional Paper No. 2365-20051117)

Mr. Marcoux, Minister of Justice, tabled the following:

The annual management report of the Office des professions du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2005;

(Sessional Paper No. 2366-20051117)

The annual report of the Fonds d'aide aux recours collectifs for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2005.

(Sessional Paper No. 2367-20051117)

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Presenting Petitions

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. Charbonneau (Borduas) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the passage of the Ultramar pipeline in Verchères woods, and signed by 58 citizens of Québec.
(Sessional Paper No. 2368-20051117)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. Gabias (Trois-Rivières) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting sections 1939 and 1974 of the *Civil Code of Québec*, and signed by 1373 senior citizens of the riding of Trois-Rivières.
(Sessional Paper No. 2369-20051117)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

At 2.18 o'clock p.m., Mr. President suspended the proceedings for a few moments, owing to a technical problem.

The proceedings resumed at 2.28 o'clock p.m.

At the request of Mr. President, Mrs. Harel, Leader of the Official Opposition, withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

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At the request of Mr. President, Mr. Charbonneau (Borduas) withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

At the request of Mr. President, Mrs. Lemieux, Official Opposition House Leader, withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

Motions Without Notice

Mrs. Harel, Leader of the Official Opposition, moved a motion concerning certain comments made by the Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pierre Pettigrew; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mrs. Théberge, Minister of Families, Seniors and the Status of Women, moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark Universal Children's Day, that it reiterate its support to the principles set forth in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and that it reaffirm the importance of implementing measures to ensure the protection, development and growth of our children.

By leave of the Assembly under Standing Order 84, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT, within the framework of the consideration of Bill 118, Sustainable Development Act, the Committee on Transportation and the Environment hold special consultations and public hearings on 23, 25 and 29 November as well as on 2, 6 and 8 December 2005, in Louis-Hippolyte-LaFontaine Room, and that, for this purpose, it hear the following groups:

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- Ami(e)s de la Terre de Québec
- Association professionnelle des éco-conseillers du Québec
- Association québécoise de lutte contre la pollution atmosphérique
- Association québécoise des industriels du compostage
- Association québécoise pour l'évaluation d'impacts
- Association québécoise pour la promotion de l'éducation relative à l'environnement
- Barreau du Québec
- Centre de droit international du développement durable
- Centre de recherche et d'éducation à l'environnement régional
- Centre interuniversitaire de référence sur l'analyse, l'interprétation et la gestion du cycle de vie des produits, procédés et services
- Centre québécois de développement durable
- Centre universitaire de formation en environnement de l'Université de Sherbrooke
- Chaire de recherche et d'intervention en éco-conseil de l'Université du Québec à Chicoutimi
- Chaire de responsabilité sociale et de développement durable de l'Université du Québec à Montréal
- Chantier de l'économie sociale
- Coalition Québec Vert Kyoto
- Comité de l'environnement de Chicoutimi
- Conseil de la science et de la technologie
- Conseil patronal de l'environnement
- Conseil québécois du commerce de détail
- Eau Secours ! – La Coalition québécoise pour une gestion responsable de l'eau
- Environnement Jeunesse
- Équiterre
- Fédération québécoise des municipalités
- Fonds d'investissement en développement durable
- Front commun québécois pour une gestion écologique des déchets
- Greenpeace
- Le Groupe Solutions pour un Développement durable

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- Observatoire de l'environnement et du développement durable
- Ordre des agronomes
- Ordre des architectes
- Ordre des ingénieurs
- Regroupement des organisations de bassin versant du Québec
- Regroupement national des conseils régionaux de l'environnement du Québec
- Réseau des ressourceries du Québec
- Réseau environnement
- Réseau québécois des groupes écologistes
- Union des municipalités du Québec
- Union des producteurs agricoles
- Union québécoise pour la conservation de la nature
- Vivre en ville
- Wal-Mart
- Association des premières nations du Québec et du Labrador
- Représentants des conférences régionales des élus
- Ville de Montréal
- Ville de Québec
- Association francophone pour le savoir - Acfas
- Kativik Regional Government
- Réseau québécois des femmes en environnement
- Fondation québécoise en environnement
- Fonds d'action québécois pour le développement durable
- Conseil du patronat du Québec
- Association québécoise pour la maîtrise de l'énergie

A period of 20 minutes shall be allotted for the opening statements, which time period shall be divided as follows: 10 minutes for the members of the parliamentary group forming the Government and 10 minutes for the Members sitting in Opposition;

The presentation by each individual and group shall last no more than 15 minutes and the exchange with the members of the Committee shall last no more than 30 minutes, which time shall be shared equally among the members of the parliamentary group forming the Government and the Members sitting in Opposition;

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A period of 20 minutes shall be allotted for the closing statements, which time period shall be divided as follows: 10 minutes for the Members sitting in Opposition and 10 minutes for the members of the parliamentary group forming the Government;

The Minister of Sustainable Development, the Environment and Parks shall be a member of the said Committee during its proceedings with respect to this order of reference.

By leave of the Assembly under Standing Order 84, the motion was carried.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, convened the following Committees:

- the Committee on Social Affairs, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 124, Educational Childcare Act;
- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 122, An Act to amend the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State and other legislative provisions;
- the Committee on Institutions, to give clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 123, An Act respecting tax-exempt status for certain payments made in accordance with the Partnership Agreement on Economic and Community Development in Nunavik.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

The debate continued on the motion by Mr. Bergman, Minister of Revenue, –That Bill 126, Budget Act giving effect to the Budget Speech delivered on 21 April 2005 and to certain other budget statements, do now pass in principle.

At the request of Mr. Cusano, First Vice-President, Mr. MacMillan (Papineau) withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

At the request of Mr. Cusano, First Vice-President, Mrs. Lefebvre (Laurier-Dorion) withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

Mr. Cusano, First Vice-President, rendered the following ruling on point of order raised by Mr. Moreau, Deputy Government House Leader, regarding relevance in debates:

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

Pursuant to Standing Order 211 regarding relevance in debates, speeches must be directed only to the matter under discussion. During the debate on the passage in principle of a bill, this rule must be broadly interpreted and, when in doubt, it must be interpreted in favour of the speaker. However, it is recognized that undue digressions are prohibited and that even if it is permitted to address certain general principles, discussions must focus on the content of the bill under debate, on the bill's purpose or on the means of achieving the same ends.

During the passage in principle of a bill giving effect to a budget speech, relevance in debate must be more broadly interpreted, as the Chair is not always in a position to link the Member's speech to the content of the bill which is often very extensive. Nonetheless, the Chair must ensure that digressions are not undue and that the speeches are related to budgetary matters.

And debate continuing;

The debate was adjourned in the name of Mr. Blackburn (Roberval).

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Debates Upon Adjournment

The Assembly held a debate upon adjournment on a question by Mrs. Doyer (Matapédia) addressed to Mr. Corbeil, Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife, about the tabling of supplementary estimates; Mr. Reid, Minister of Government Services, replaced the Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife during this debate.

At 6.13 o'clock p.m., Mrs. Leblanc, Second Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Tuesday, 22 November 2005, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

MICHEL BISSONNET

President