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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

## **Votes and Proceedings**

**of the Assembly**

**Thursday, 17 March 2005 — No. 128**

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

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**QUÉBEC**

The Assembly was called to order at 10.07 o'clock a.m.

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**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**Government Bills**

*Passage in Principle*

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been adjourned on 16 March 2005, on the motion by Mr. Reid, Minister of Government Services, —That Bill 85, An Act respecting the Centre de services administratifs, do now pass in principle.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried and Bill 85 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mrs. Lamquin-Éthier, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 85 be referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Public Finance.

The motion was carried.

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At 10.45 o'clock a.m., at the request of Mrs. Lamquin-Éthier, Deputy Government House Leader, Mr. Cusano, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

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The proceedings resumed at 2.07 o'clock p.m.

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Moment of reflection

## **ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

### **Presenting Papers**

Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, Chair of the Conseil du trésor and Minister responsible for Government Administration, transmitted the following Message from the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor, which Mr. President communicated to the Assembly:

#### **OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR**

The Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor of Québec transmits to the Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of section 54 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, the Estimates of Expenditure required for the Government administration from 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005, and recommends the said Estimates to the consideration of this Assembly.

Québec City, 16 March 2005

Lise Thibault

Mrs. Jérôme-Forget, Chair of the Conseil du trésor and Minister responsible for Government Administration, laid upon the Table the Estimates of Expenditure required for the Government administration from 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005.

(Sessional Paper No. 1644-20050317)

Mrs. Lemieux, Official Opposition House Leader, raised a point of order in which she asked whether the Government may table only a portion of the estimates of expenditure.

At 2.20 o'clock p.m., after having heard comments from both sides, Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, took the matter under advisement.

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At 2.26 o'clock p.m., after a suspension of the proceedings, Mr. President rendered the following ruling:

**RULING FROM THE CHAIR**

In our parliamentary system, the Government and the Parliament each have a role to play in the budgetary process. Initially, the Government enjoys complete latitude in the preliminary phase of this process. It is therefore up to the Government to determine the amount of the estimates it will submit to the Assembly and when it will do so. Once the estimates have been submitted to the Assembly, the latter's role is to examine them and to decide whether or not it will grant them in an appropriation bill. The role of the Chair is to make sure that the role of the Assembly in budgetary matters is maintained. It is not for the Chair to interpret the law, to rule on the document tabled nor to evaluate it.

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Mr. Corbeil, Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife, tabled the following:

Draft amendments to Bill 71, An Act to amend the Forest Act and other legislative provisions applicable to forest management activities.

(Sessional Paper No. 1645-20050317)

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Mrs. Beauchamp, Minister of Culture and Communications, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Société du Grand Théâtre de Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 August 2004.

(Sessional Paper No. 1646-20050317)

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Mr. President tabled the following:

The Strategic Plan, 2004-2009, of the administration of the National Assembly.

(Sessional Paper No. 1647-20050317)

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He then tabled the following Decisions from the Office of the National Assembly, dated 15 March 2005:

- Decision 1249 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting the remuneration and conditions of employment which apply to a Member's personnel and respecting payment for professional services (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur la rémunération et les conditions de travail du personnel d'un député et sur le paiement des services professionnels);  
(Sessional Paper No. 1648-20050317)
  
- Decision 1250 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting the remuneration and conditions of employment of ministerial staff at the National Assembly and respecting payment for professional services (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur la rémunération et les conditions de travail du personnel des cabinets de l'Assemblée nationale et sur le paiement des services professionnels);  
(Sessional Paper No. 1649-20050317)
  
- Decision 1251 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting financial and administrative management (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur la gestion financière et administrative);  
(Sessional Paper No. 1650-20050317)
  
- Decision 1252 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting the amounts granted to the Government and Official Opposition caucus chairmen (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur les sommes accordées aux présidents des caucus des partis gouvernemental et de l'opposition officielle);  
(Sessional Paper No. 1651-20050317)
  
- Decision 1253 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting the amounts granted to the Member who is the leader of another opposition party represented at the National Assembly (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur les sommes accordées au député qui est chef d'un autre parti d'opposition représenté à l'Assemblée nationale).  
(Sessional Paper No. 1652-20050317)

Finally, Mr. President tabled the following:

The new seating plan of the National Assembly, dated 17 March 2005.  
(Sessional Paper No. 1653-20050317)

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### **Presenting Petitions**

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. Gendron (Abitibi-Ouest) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting a request made to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Regions by the taxpayers committee of Colombourg, and signed by 279 citizens of Colombourg, in the riding of Abitibi-Ouest.

(Sessional Paper No. 1654-20050317)

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mrs. Loiselle (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the modernization of low-cost housing facilities, and signed by 109 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 1655-20050317)

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

The abstract of a petition respecting the reinvestment of \$103 million to reduce student debt, and signed by 30 citizens from the riding of Vimont.

(Sessional Paper No. 1656-20050317)

### **Oral Questions and Answers**

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

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**Motions Without Notice**

Mr. Mulcair, Deputy Government House Leader, moved:

THAT the name of Mr. Benoît Pelletier replace that of Mrs. Michelle Courchesne as sponsor of the following Bill:

Bill 86 An Act to amend the Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information and other legislative provisions;

THAT the title of the sponsor of Bill 86, An Act to amend the Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information and other legislative provisions, be replaced by "Minister responsible for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, Francophones within Canada, the Agreement on Internal Trade, the Reform of Democratic Institutions and Access to Information".

The motion was carried.

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Mr. Couillard, Minister of Health and Social Services, moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark National Nutrition Month.

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

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mrs. Papineau (Prévost) and Mr. Kelley, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, jointly moved:

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THAT, on the occasion of St. Patrick's Day celebrated on 17 March, the National Assembly mark the contribution of Quebecers of Irish descent to Québec society.

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

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Marcoux, Minister of Justice, and Mr. Côté (Dubuc) jointly moved:

THAT, within the framework of Social Workers Week, the National Assembly of Québec mark the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ordre professionnel des travailleurs sociaux.

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

### **Notices of Proceedings in Committees**

Mr. Mulcair, Deputy Government House Leader, convened the following Committees:

- the Committee on Social Affairs, to continue its public hearings within the framework of a general consultation on Bill 83, An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services and other legislative provisions;
- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations with reference to the document entitled "The Energy Sector in Québec – Context, Issues and Questions";
- the Committee on Institutions, to continue its public hearings within the framework of a general consultation on Bill 88, Private Security Act.

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### **Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly**

Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, informed the Assembly that on Friday, 25 March 2005, Mr. Deslières (Beauharnois) would question Mr. Després, Minister of Transport, within the framework of an interpellation on "the Québec Government's transport policies".

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### **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

#### **Government Bills**

##### *Passage in Principle*

Mr. Corbeil, Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife, moved, –That Bill 71, An Act to amend the Forest Act and other legislative provisions applicable to forest management activities, do now pass in principle.

A debate arose thereon.

At the request of Mrs. Leblanc, Second Vice-President, Mrs. Normandeau, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Regions, withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

The debate continued.

#### **Debates Upon Adjournment**

At 6.00 o'clock p.m., the Assembly held a debate upon adjournment on a question by Mrs. Charest (Rimouski) addressed to Mrs. Delisle, Minister for Youth Protection and Rehabilitation, about the certification of private lodging facilities for vulnerable persons.

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At 6.14 o'clock p.m., Mrs. Leblanc, Second Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Tuesday, 22 March 2005, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

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**ROYAL ASSENT**

On Thursday, 17 March 2005, at 4.04 o'clock p.m., in the Office of the Lieutenant-Governor, in the presence of Mrs. Leblanc, Second Vice-President of the National Assembly, of Mr. Auclair (Vimont), the Delegate of the Premier, and of Mrs. Giguère, Director of the Secretariat of the Assembly and Delegate of the Secretary General, the Honourable Lise Thibault, Lieutenant-Governor of Québec, was pleased to assent to the following Bills:

- 70 An Act giving effect to the Budget Speech delivered on 30 March 2004 to introduce family support measures and giving effect to certain other budget statements
  
- 77 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu (*modified title*)

**MICHEL BISSONNET**

*President*