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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

## **Votes and Proceedings**

**of the Assembly**

**Thursday, 10 March 2005 — No. 125**

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

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**QUÉBEC**

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

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**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**Debates on Reports from Committees**

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Public Administration, which heard the Auditor General on his 2003-2004 annual management report and examined his financial commitments for the months of April 2003 to March 2004. This report contains recommendations.

Following a meeting with the House leaders, Mr. Cusano, First Vice-President, announced the allocation of speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this limited debate: ten minutes shall be set aside for the independent Members; the two parliamentary groups will share equally the rest of the period allotted for this debate; any time not used by a parliamentary group may be added to that of the other group, while any time not used by the independent Members will be redistributed equally among the two parliamentary groups; within this framework, individual speeches will not be limited.

And debate arising;

The debate expired and, pursuant to Standing Order 95, no question was put.

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At 11.44 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**

Mr. President tabled the following:

The report from the Director General of Elections of Québec on the implementation of section 30.8 of the *Act respecting school elections*, within the framework of the by-elections held on 20 February 2005 in District Nos. 18 and 25 of the Commission scolaire des Patriotes and District No. 9 of the Commission scolaire Harricana.

(Sessional Paper No. 1611-20050310)

#### **Presenting Petitions**

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mrs. Beaudoin (Mirabel) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the modernization of low-cost housing facilities, and signed by 79 citizens from the riding of Mirabel.

(Sessional Paper No. 1612-20050310)

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mrs. Perreault (Chauveau) tabled the following:

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The abstract of a petition respecting the extension of the derogatory clause concerning moral instruction and Catholic or Protestant religious education in public schools and signed by 1526 citizens from the riding of Chauveau.

(Sessional Paper No. 1613-20050310)

The abstract of a petition respecting the modernization of all low-cost housing facilities, and signed by 58 citizens from the riding of Chauveau.

(Sessional Paper No. 1614-20050310)

### **Oral Questions and Answers**

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 59, Mrs. Marois (Taillon) tabled the following:

Copy of a press release concerning a motion on the millennium scholarships that was carried in the National Assembly on 14 May 1998.

(Sessional Paper No. 1615-20050310)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 59, Mr. Landry, Leader of the Official Opposition, tabled the following:

Copy of a letter, dated 10 March 2005, addressed to the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Canadian Minister of Finance, by Mr. Michel Audet, Québec Minister of Finance, concerning the fiscal imbalance.

(Sessional Paper No. 1616-20050310)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 59, Mrs. Lemieux, Official Opposition House Leader, tabled the following:

Historical information concerning the tabling of the estimates and the budget speeches since 1868.

(Sessional Paper No. 1617-20050310)

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, the Assembly immediately took Notices of Proceedings in Committees.

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

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 145, Mr. Dupuis, 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 Planning and the Public Domain, to conclude its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 62, Municipal Powers Act.

### **Motions Without Notice**

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Dupuis, Minister of Public Security, Mr. Charbonneau (Borduas) and Mrs. Roy (Lotbinière) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly express its condolences to the families and friends of the four officers of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who were killed tragically in the line of duty last 3 March in Mayerthorpe.

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

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

At the invitation of Mr. Cusano, First Vice-President, the Assembly then observed a minute of silence.

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Mrs. Beauchamp, Minister of Culture and Communications, moved:

THAT, within the framework of the transaction between Corus Entertainment and Astral Media Inc., the National Assembly of Québec ask the said companies to improve their news production service offer for the Montreal region in order to ensure and maintain the diversity of information sources in the region.

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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Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup) moved a motion concerning the education financing policy regarding students attending private schools; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

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

Mr. Cusano, First Vice-President, gave the following notices:

- the Committee on Institutions will hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of discussing proposed orders of initiatives.
- the Committee on Public Administration will hold a deliberative meeting to prepare the hearing of the Deputy Minister of Employment, Social Solidarity and Family Welfare, concerning Chapter 5, Volume II, of the Auditor General's report, entitled "Qualité de l'information sur la performance".

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**Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly**

Mr. Cusano, First Vice-President, informed the Assembly that on Friday, 18 March 2005, Mrs. Marois (Taillon) would question Mr. Fournier, Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports, during an interpellation on "the Government's education policies".

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**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**Government Motions**

Mr. Marcoux, Minister of Justice, informed the Assembly that Her Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor recommended to its consideration the following motion and then moved:

THAT the National Assembly:

- I Concur in the position and justifications given by the government and stipulated in its answer to the Report from the Comité de la rémunération des juges de la Cour du Québec et des cours municipales tabled on 8 March 2005 by the Minister of Justice; and
- II Concerning the Court of Québec judges:
  1. Approve Recommendations 3, 4 and 5 of the Comité;
  2. Amend Recommendations 1 and 2 of the Comité so as to :
    - a) set the annual salary of Court of Québec associate judges:
      - at \$158,170 as from 1 July 2004;
      - at \$161,333 as from 1 July 2005;
      - at \$164,560 as from 1 July 2006;

- a) maintain at the current rates the percentages of the supplementary remuneration paid to judges exercising managerial duties at the Court of Québec;
- b) set at 8 % the percentage of supplementary remuneration paid to the judge responsible for training.

III Concerning the municipal court judges:

1. Approve Recommendations 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 of the Comité, by specifying:
  - for Recommendation 7 that it applies to all municipal court associate judges;
  - for Recommendation 9 that the Montreal judges participate in a pension plan that is identical to that of the Court of Québec judges administrated by the city of Montreal;
2. Amend Recommendations 1 and 3 of the Comité with regard to the annual salary of municipal judges so as to:
  - a) set the annual salary of Laval, Montréal and Québec municipal court judges:
    - at \$152,309 as from 1 July 2004;
    - at \$155,355 as from 1 July 2005;
    - at \$158,462 as from 1 July 2006;
  - b) adjust by 2 % the remuneration per sitting of municipal judges as from 1 July 2004, 2005 and 2006 in order that, as from 1 July 2004, their remuneration be set as follows :
    - \$509 per sitting of less than 2 hours;
    - \$678 per sitting of no less than 2 hours and of no more than 5 hours;
    - \$1357 per sitting extending beyond 5 hours;
    - \$1357 as a daily maximum remuneration;
    - \$152,225 as an annual maximum remuneration;
    - \$6780 as an annual minimum;
3. Reject Recommendations 10 and 11 of the Comité with regard to the participation of municipal judges who are remunerated per sitting to the pension plan of the Montréal, Laval and Québec judges and, if they choose, to the group insurance plan of these same judges;

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4. Amend Recommendation 13 to specify that reimbursement to the Montréal, Laval and Québec judges, as a contribution to the payment of their lawyers' fees, is made without any acknowledgement of whatsoever description as regards the competence of the Comité to recommend payment.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried on division.

### **Government Bills**

#### *Report Stage*

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Public Finance on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 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.

After debate thereon, the report was concurred in on division.

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The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Public Finance on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 77, An Act to again amend the Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu.

After debate thereon, the report was concurred in.

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At 5.25 o'clock p.m., at the request of Mr. Kelley, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Cusano, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 6.00 o'clock p.m.

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### Debates Upon Adjournment

At 6.00 o'clock p.m., the Assembly held a debate upon adjournment between Mr. Bouchard (Vachon) and Mrs. Courchesne, Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity, about the support plan for older workers in the region of Huntingdon.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 59, Mr. Bouchard (Vachon) tabled the following:

Copy of a document submitted on 16 September 2003 to Mr. Claude Béchar, then Minister of Employment, Social Solidarity and Family Welfare, by representatives of the CSD, CSN, CSQ and FTQ unions, entitled "Le Programme de soutien du revenu pour les travailleuses et travailleurs âgés — Pourquoi les quatre centrales syndicales québécoises le revendiquent?"

(Sessional Paper No. 1618-20050310)

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Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, moved the adjournment of the Assembly until Tuesday, 15 March 2005, at 2.00 o'clock p.m.

The motion was carried.

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Accordingly, at 6.14 o'clock p.m., Mr. Cusano, First Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Tuesday, 15 March 2005, at 2.00 o'clock p.m.

**MICHEL BISSONNET**

*President*