



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Tuesday, 9 March 2004 — No. 46

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

QUÉBEC

The Assembly was called to order at 2.06 o'clock p.m.

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Mr. Williams informed the Assembly of his resignation as Member for the Electoral Division of Nelligan.

Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup), Mr. Landry, Leader of the Official Opposition, and Mr. Charest, Premier, then took the floor.

Presenting Papers

Mr. Séguin, Minister of Finance, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Société du cheval de course for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2002.

(Sessional Paper No. 678-20040309)

Mr. Reid, Minister of Education, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Université du Québec and its institutions for the fiscal year ended 31 May 2003.

(Sessional Paper No. 679-20040309)

The annual management report of the Commission d'évaluation de l'enseignement collégial for the fiscal year ended 30 June 2003.

(Sessional Paper No. 680-20040309)

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Mr. Pelletier, Minister for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs and Native Affairs, tabled the following:

The document entitled "The Council of the Federation - A First Step Towards a New Era in Intergovernmental Relations in Canada".

(Sessional Paper No. 681-20040309)

Mr. President tabled the following:

The Message from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in honour of Commonwealth Day.

(Sessional Paper No. 682-20040309)

The report from the Director General of Elections on the implementation of section 30.8 of the *Act respecting school elections*.

(Sessional Paper No. 683-20040309)

Five draft regulations amending the voting regulations made under section 550 of the *Election Act*.

(Sessional Paper No. 684-20040309)

The following Decisions from the Office of the National Assembly, dated 17 December 2003:

— Decision 1179 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting Members' allowances (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur les allocations aux députés).

(Sessional Paper No. 685-20040309)

— Decision 1180 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting the supply of printed material to Members (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur la fourniture de certains imprimés aux députés).

(Sessional Paper No. 686-20040309)

— Decision 1181 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting Members' allowances (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur les allocations aux députés).

(Sessional Paper No. 687-20040309)

- Decision 1184 concerning the regulation respecting the reclassification of a public servant (Règlement relatif à l'attribution d'un nouveau classement à une fonctionnaire).

(Sessional Paper No. 688-20040309)

Presenting Reports from Committees

Mr. Copeman (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce), chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Social Affairs, which, on 3 February 2004, held special consultations and public hearings on Bill 11, An Act to implement the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption and to amend various legislative provisions in relation to adoption.

(Sessional Paper No. 689-20040309)

A report from the Committee on Social Affairs, which met on 3 and 10 February 2004 for clause-by-clause consideration of the following Bill:

- 11 An Act to implement the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption and to amend various legislative provisions in relation to adoption.

The report contains certain amendments to the bill.

(Sessional Paper No. 690-20040309)

A report from the Committee on Social Affairs, which, on 24, 25 and 26 February and on 2, 3 and 4 March 2004, held a general consultation and public hearings on the document entitled "Adapting the Pension Plan to Québec's new realities".

(Sessional Paper No. 691-20040309)

Mr. Simard (Richelieu), chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Institutions, which, on 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29 January and on 3 and 5 February 2004, held public hearings within the framework of a special consultations on Bill 35, An Act to amend the Act respecting administrative justice and other legislative provisions.

(Sessional Paper No. 692-20040309)

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Mrs. Harel (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve), chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, which met on 1 and 4 December 2003 and on 12, 17 and 20 February 2004 for clause-by-clause consideration of the following Bill:

- 29 An Act to amend the Highway Safety Code and other legislative provisions.

The report contains certain amendments to the bill.

(Sessional Paper No. 693-20040309)

Mrs. Lemieux (Bourget), chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy, which, on 21 and 22 January 2004, examined Hydro-Québec's strategic plan 2004-2008.

(Sessional Paper No. 694-20040309)

Presenting Petitions

Mrs. Maltais (Taschereau) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the adoption of a motion in support of Mr. Mohamed Cherfi and signed by 318 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 695-20040309)

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

The abstract of a petition respecting the solicitation of organ donation and signed by 3173 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 696-20040309)

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Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Motions Without Notice

Mr. Charest, Premier, moved:

THAT the National Assembly extend its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Claude Ryan, and pay him a final tribute by recognizing his outstanding contribution and the extraordinary legacy he passes on to Québec society.

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

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

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

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

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

- the Committee on Social Affairs, to hold public hearings within the framework of a general consultation on Bill 38, An Act respecting the Health and Welfare Commissioner;
- the Committee on Public Finance, to continue its public hearings within the framework of a general consultation on the document entitled "Report from the working group on the Québec Government's role in risk capital";

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- the Committee on Education, to continue its public hearings within the framework of a general consultation on the quality, accessibility and funding of Québec universities.

Motions Without Notice

Mrs. Courchesne, Minister of Relations with the Citizens and Immigration, moved:

THAT, on the occasion of International Women's Day, the National Assembly reaffirm its commitment and determination to continue the fight against factual inequalities of women.

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. Boulerice (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) moved a motion concerning the death of Mimi d'Estée; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

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Mr. Mulcair, Deputy Government House Leader, moved:

THAT the Committee on Institutions hold special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 2, An Act respecting the reciprocal issue and enforcement of support orders, on 16 and 17 March 2004, and, for this purpose, hear the following groups:

- Association des avocats et avocates en droit familial du Québec
- Barreau du Québec
- Chambre des notaires du Québec
- Commission des droits de la personne et de la jeunesse
- Commission des services juridiques du Québec
- Conseil de la famille
- Conseil du statut de la femme

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- Fédération des femmes du Québec
- Comité des organismes accréditeurs en médiation familiale

The Minister of Justice 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. Gendron, Third Vice-President, gave the following notice:

- the Committee on Public Administration shall meet to hear the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks concerning the document entitled "Étude bénéfico-coût de la Corporation Innovation-papier", and shall hold a deliberative meeting immediately thereafter to further discuss this hearing.

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 Deputy Minister of Relations with the Citizens and Immigration concerning the management and improvement of services to citizens, the Deputy Minister of Revenue concerning the development of information systems at the Ministère, the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks concerning Government grants to non-profit organizations, within the framework of the follow-up on the examination of resources optimization, the Chief Executive Officer of the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec and the Deputy Minister of Relations with the Citizens and Immigration, within the framework of the examination of the 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 annual management reports, and the Chairman of the Conseil du trésor concerning the 2002-2003 report on the implementation of the *Public Administration Act*. This report contains recommendations.

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Before the debate began, Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, announced that, following a meeting with the House leaders, the allocation of speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this limited debate had been established as follows: ten minutes shall be set aside for the independent Members; the two parliamentary groups shall share equally the rest of the time 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 shall be redistributed amongst the two parliamentary groups, and individual addresses shall not be limited.

And debate arising;

The debate was adjourned in the name of Mrs. Charest (Rimouski).

Debates Upon Adjournment

The Assembly held two debates upon adjournment:

- the first, on a question by Mr. Charbonneau (Borduas) to Mr. Chagnon, Minister of Public Security, about the events that took place on the Kanesatake reservation in January 2004;
- the second, on a question by Mrs. Caron (Terrebonne) to Mrs. Courchesne, Minister of Relations with the Citizens and Immigration, about the demands addressed to the Government by women's groups.

At 6.26 o'clock p.m., Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 10 March 2004, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

MICHEL BISSONNET

President