



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

Order Paper and Notices

of the Assembly

Tuesday, 29 November 2016 — No. 214

One forty p.m.

President of the National Assembly:
Mr. Jacques Chagnon

QUÉBEC

Part 1

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

- The Member for Abitibi-Est on the following subject: *The Chambre de commerce de Val-d'Or receives the Coup de cœur award at the FCCQ's annual gala.*
- The Member for Bonaventure on the following subject: *Congratulate Irène Chapados Delarosbil for her community involvement.*
- The Member for Sainte-Rose on the following subject: *Congratulations to the Chambre de commerce de Laval, finalist for the title of Chamber of the Year at the FCCQ gala.*
- The Member for Repentigny on the following subject: *Diabète Rive Nord.*
- The Member for D'Arcy-McGee on the following subject: *Underline the groundbreaking for the Château B'nai Brith seniors' residence.*
- The Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve on the following subject: *40th anniversary of Comité logement Ville-Marie.*
- The Member for Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata on the following subject: *Congratulations to all the Noël chez nous team, in Rivière-du-Loup.*
- The Member for Bourassa-Sauvé on the following subject: *Underline the 30th anniversary of Centre d'activités pour le maintien de l'équilibre émotionnel de Montréal-Nord (CAMÉÉ).*
- The Member for Jacques-Cartier on the following subject: *Underline the 50th anniversary of the Pointe-Claire Oldtimers.*
- The Member for Saint-Jean on the following subject: *Underline the Chamber of Commerce of the Year award for the Chambre de commerce et de l'industrie du Haut-Richelieu.*

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

PRESENTING (a) **Papers**
 (b) **Reports from committees**
 (c) **Petitions**

ORAL ANSWERS TO PETITIONS

**COMPLAINTS OF BREACH OF PRIVILEGE OR CONTEMPT AND
PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS**

ORAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DEFERRED DIVISIONS

Motion by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Land Occupancy for the passage in principle of Bill 109, An Act to grant Ville de Québec national capital status and increase its autonomy and powers.

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

NOTICES OF PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEES

INFORMATION ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Part 2

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUSINESS HAVING PRECEDENCE

URGENT DEBATES

DEBATES ON REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

OTHER BUSINESS

I. Government Bills

Passage in Principle

(1) Bill 27

An Act respecting the optimization of subsidized educational childcare services

Introduced by the Minister of Families on 26 November 2014

Report from the Committee on Citizen Relations (consultations) tabled on **10 February 2015**

(2) Bill 49

An Act to implement the Accord Between the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec for the Joint Management of Petroleum Resources in the Gulf of St. Lawrence

Introduced by the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources on **11 June 2015**

(3) Bill 53

An Act to update the Act respecting collective agreement decrees mainly to facilitate its application and enhance the transparency and accountability of parity committees

Introduced by the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity on 26 May 2015

Report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy (consultations) tabled on **19 October 2016**

- (4) Bill 56*
Lobbying Transparency Act
Introduced by the Minister responsible for Access to Information and the Reform of Democratic Institutions on **12 June 2015**

*** Recommendation of the Lieutenant-Governor**

- (5) Bill 63
An Act respecting inmate identity verification through fingerprinting
Introduced by the Minister of Public Security on **28 October 2015**
- (6) Bill 72
An Act respecting the suspension of school by-elections
Introduced by the Minister of Education, Higher Education and Research on **11 November 2015**

- (7) Bill 79*
An Act to give effect to the report of the L'Heureux-Dubé independent committee and to introduce the conditions of employment of the Members of the National Assembly as of the 42nd Legislature
Introduced by the Government House Leader and Minister responsible for Access to Information and the Reform of Democratic Institutions on **12 November 2015**

*** Recommendation of the Lieutenant-Governor**

- (8) Bill 85
An Act to establish two logistics hubs and an economic development corridor along Autoroute 30 and develop the industrial port zones in the Montréal metropolitan area
Introduced by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Land Occupancy on **4 December 2015**

(9) Bill 86

An Act to modify the organization and governance of school boards to give schools a greater say in decision-making and ensure parents' presence within each school board's decision-making body

Introduced by the Minister of Education, Higher Education and Research on 4 December 2015

Report from the Committee on Culture and Education (consultations) tabled on **7 April 2016**

(10) Bill 96

An Act to amend the Civil Code, the Code of Civil Procedure and the Public Curator Act as regards the protection of persons

Introduced by the Minister of Families on **7 June 2016**

(11) Bill 102*

An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act to modernize the environmental authorization scheme and to amend other legislative provisions, in particular to reform the governance of the Green Fund

Introduced by the Minister of Sustainable Development, the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change on **7 June 2016**

*** Recommendation of the Lieutenant-Governor**

(12) Bill 107

An Act to increase the jurisdiction and independence of the Anti-Corruption Commissioner and the Bureau des enquêtes indépendantes and expand the power of the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions to grant certain benefits to cooperating witnesses

Introduced by the Minister of Public Security on **8 June 2016**

(13) Bill 109

An Act to grant Ville de Québec national capital status and increase its autonomy and powers

Introduced by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Land Occupancy on 8 June 2016

Report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain (consultations) tabled on 17 November 2016

Resuming the debate adjourned in the name of the Member for La Peltre on 23 November 2016

Division deferred on **24 November 2016**

(14) Bill 113

An Act to amend the Civil Code and other legislative provisions as regards adoption and the disclosure of information

Introduced by the Minister of Justice on **6 October 2016**

(15) Bill 115

An Act to combat maltreatment of seniors and other persons of full age in vulnerable situations

Introduced by the Minister responsible for Seniors and Anti-Bullying on **19 October 2016**

(16) Bill 118

An Act respecting medical laboratories, orthopedic service centres and respiratory physiology centres operated by an entity other than a health and social services institution

Introduced by the Minister of Health and Social Services on **2 November 2016**

(17) Bill 119

An Act to promote the resolution of disputes in connection with an intermunicipal agreement on police services

Introduced by the Minister of Public Security on **1 November 2016**

Committee Stage

(18) Bill 62

An Act to foster adherence to State religious neutrality and, in particular, to provide a framework for religious accommodation requests in certain bodies

Introduced by the Minister of Justice on 10 June 2015

Report from the Committee on Institutions (consultations) tabled on 9 November 2016

Passed in principle on **15 November 2016**, and

Referred to the Committee on Institutions

(19) Bill 87

An Act to facilitate the disclosure of wrongdoings within public bodies
Introduced by the Minister responsible for Government Administration and
Ongoing Program Review and Chair of the Conseil du trésor on
2 December 2015
Report from the Committee on Public Finance (consultations) tabled on
17 February 2016
Passed in principle on **18 February 2016**, and
Referred to the Committee on Public Finance

(20) Bill 92

An Act to extend the powers of the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec
and to amend various legislative provisions
Introduced by the Minister of Health and Social Services on 6 April 2016
Report from the Committee on Health and Social Services (consultations)
tabled on 17 May 2016
Passed in principle on **26 May 2016**, and
Referred to the Committee on Health and Social Services

(21) Bill 98

An Act to amend various legislation mainly with respect to admission to
professions and the governance of the professional system
Introduced by the Minister of Justice on 11 May 2016
Report from the Committee on Institutions (consultations) tabled on
22 September 2016
Passed in principle on **27 September 2016**, and
Referred to the Committee on Institutions

(22) Bill 99

An Act to amend the Youth Protection Act and other provisions
Introduced by the Minister for Rehabilitation, Youth Protection, Public
Health and Healthy Living on 3 June 2016
Report from the Committee on Health and Social Services (consultations)
tabled on 6 October 2016
Passed in principle on **19 October 2016**, and
Referred to the Committee on Health and Social Services

(23) Bill 106

An Act to implement the 2030 Energy Policy and to amend various legislative provisions

Introduced by the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources on 7 June 2016

Report from the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources (consultations) tabled on 20 September 2016

Passed in principle on **6 October 2016**, and

Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources

(24) Bill 108

An Act to facilitate oversight of public bodies' contracts and to establish the Autorité des marchés publics

Introduced by the Minister responsible for Government Administration and

Ongoing Program Review and Chair of the Conseil du trésor on 8 June 2016

Report from the Committee on Public Finance (consultations) tabled on 4 October 2016

Passed in principle on **24 November 2016**, and

Referred to the Committee on Public Finance

(25) Bill 112

An Act to give effect mainly to fiscal measures announced in the Budget Speech delivered on 17 March 2016

Introduced by the Minister of Finance on 15 November 2016

Passed in principle on **23 November 2016**, and

Referred to the Committee on Public Finance

(26) Bill 114

An Act to modernize the governance of national museums

Introduced by the Minister of Culture and Communications on 20 October 2016

Report from the Committee on Culture and Education (consultations) tabled on 9 November 2016

Passed in principle on **10 November 2016**, and

Referred to the Committee on Culture and Education

(27) Bill 116

An Act to transfer the activities of the enterprise registrar to the Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
Introduced by the Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity on 9 November 2016
Passed in principle on **22 November 2016**, and
Referred to the Committee on Labour and the Economy

Report Stage

Passage

(28) Bill 120

An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs
Introduced by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Land Occupancy on 8 November 2016
Passed in principle on 17 November 2016
Report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain adopted on **24 November 2016**

II. Private Members' Public Bills

Passage in Principle

(29) Bill 190

An Act to amend the Civil Code in order to protect the rights of seniors as lessees
Introduced by the Member for Gouin on 27 May 2014
Resuming the debate adjourned on **5 June 2014**

(30) Bill 192

An Act to amend the Anti-Corruption Act as concerns the protection of whistleblowers
Introduced by the Member for Chutes-de-la-Chaudière on **23 September 2014**

(31) Bill 193

An Act to regulate ferrous and non-ferrous metal transactions and recycling
Introduced by the Member for Chutes-de-la-Chaudière on **21 October 2014**

- (32) Bill 194
An Act to promote the inclusion of social housing or affordable housing in new construction projects
Introduced by the Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve on **2 October 2014**
- (33) Bill 195
An Act to amend the Municipal Powers Act to allow regional county municipalities to carry out certain work without delay
Introduced by the Member for Nicolet-Bécancour on **25 September 2014**
- (34) Bill 196
An Act to amend the Public Protector Act
Introduced by the Member for Deux-Montagnes on **1 October 2014**
- (35) Bill 197
An Act to reduce medication procurement costs in Québec
Introduced by the Member for Mercier on **17 February 2015**
- (36) Bill 390
An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act in order to assert the primacy of Québec's jurisdiction in this area
Introduced by the Member for Jonquière on **3 December 2014**
- (37) Bill 392
An Act respecting zero-GHG-emission motor vehicles
Introduced by the Member for Vachon on **15 April 2015**
- (38) Bill 394
An act to amend the Police Act as concerns issuing statements of offence
Introduced by the Member for Chutes-de-la-Chaudière on **12 February 2015**
- (39) Bill 395
Religious Fundamentalism Observer Act
Introduced by the Member for Taschereau on **11 February 2015**
- (40) Bill 396
Parliamentary Budget Officer Act
Introduced by the Member for Granby on **19 February 2015**

- (41) Bill 397
Parliamentary Budget Officer Act
Introduced by the Member for Rousseau on **26 February 2015**
- (42) Bill 398
An Act to amend the Act respecting the conditions of employment and the pension plan of the Members of the National Assembly
Introduced by the Member for Verchères on **18 March 2015**
- (43) Bill 399
An Act to exclude child support payments from income calculation under various social laws
Introduced by the Member for Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques on **18 March 2015**
- (44) Bill 490
An Act to amend the Act respecting the conditions of employment and the pension plan of the Members of the National Assembly as regards the transition allowance
Introduced by the Member for Deux-Montagnes on **18 March 2015**
- (45) Bill 491
An Act to put an end to accessory costs by amending various legislative provisions
Introduced by the Member for Taillon on **21 October 2015**
- (46) Bill 494
Taxpayer Protection Act
Introduced by the Member for Granby on **28 May 2015**
- (47) Bill 495
An Act to amend the Act respecting lotteries, publicity contests and amusement machines
Introduced by the Member for Granby on **3 December 2015**
- (48) Bill 496
Whistleblower Protection Act
Introduced by the Member for Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques on **22 October 2015**

- (49) Bill 497
Inmate Pay-for-Stay Act
Introduced by the Member for Beauce-Nord on **4 November 2015**
- (50) Bill 498
An Act to amend the Act respecting the Société des alcools du Québec and the Act respecting liquor permits to create a farmer-distiller's permit
Introduced by the Member for Granby on **26 November 2015**
- (51) Bill 590
An Act to amend the Auditor General Act
Introduced by the Member for Lac-Saint-Jean on **9 March 2016**
- (52) Bill 591
An Act to affirm Québec's participation in the appointment process for Québec Supreme Court of Canada judges
Introduced by the Member for Borduas on **25 February 2016**
- (53) Bill 592
An Act respecting the selection of Québec senators
Introduced by the Member for Borduas on **9 March 2016**
- (54) Bill 593
An Act to put an end to illegal taxi services
Introduced by the Member for Vachon on **18 February 2016**
- (55) Bill 594
An Act to amend the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities
Introduced by the Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve on **25 February 2016**
- (56) Bill 595
An Act to protect access to institutions where elective abortions are performed
Introduced by the Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve on **24 February 2016**

(57) Bill 596

An Act to amend the Civil Code to make judicial remedies for victims of sexual aggression imprescriptible

Introduced by the Member for Borduas on **16 March 2016**

(58) Bill 597

An Act to amend the Anti-Corruption Act to make the Anti-Corruption Commissioner a person designated by the National Assembly

Introduced by the Member for Borduas on **20 April 2016**

(59) Bill 598

An Act to amend the Civil Code as regards civil status to allow a change of designation of sex for transgender children

Introduced by the Member for Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques on **12 May 2016**

(60) Bill 599

Anti-Farmland Grabbing Act

Introduced by the Member for Berthier on **26 May 2016**

(61) Bill 690

An Act to amend the Police Act to minimize the cost of police services without compromising public safety and to facilitate service-sharing among police forces

Introduced by the Member for Blainville on **24 May 2016**

(62) Bill 691

An Act to prohibit billing accessory costs for insured services

Introduced by the Member for Taillon on **25 May 2016**

(63) Bill 696

An Act to incite municipalities to adopt by-laws governing free play in streets and lanes in order to promote healthy lifestyle habits among children and young people and further family well-being

Introduced by the Member for Borduas on **24 November 2016**

Committee Stage

Report Stage

(64) Bill 693

An Act to amend the Act respecting the governance of state-owned enterprises to promote the presence of young people on the boards of directors of such enterprises

Introduced by the Member for Sainte-Rose on 10 June 2016

Report from the Committee on Public Finance (consultations) tabled on 9 November 2016

Passed in principle on 16 November 2016

Report from the Committee on Public Finance tabled on **23 November 2016**
(Amend. handed in under Standing Order 252)

Passage

III. Private Bills

Hearings and Clause-by-Clause Consideration

(65) Bill 204

An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Joseph-de-Sorel

Introduced by the Member for Saint-Hyacinthe on **13 November 2014**, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

(66) Bill 209

An Act respecting Ville de Mascouche

Introduced by the Member for Masson on **14 May 2015**, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

(67) Bill 211

An Act respecting Municipalité régionale de comté Les Moulins

Introduced by the Member for Terrebonne on **29 October 2015**, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

(68) Bill 214

An Act respecting Ville de Drummondville

Introduced by the Member for Drummond–Bois-Francs on
12 November 2015, and

Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

(69) Bill 220

An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures
Introduced by the Member for Louis-Hébert on **16 November 2016**, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

(70) Bill 221

An Act respecting Ville de Salaberry-de-Valleyfield
Introduced by the Member for Vaudreuil on **16 November 2016**, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

(71) Bill 222

An Act to allow the conversion and amalgamation of L'Assurance Mutuelle
de l'Inter-Ouest and L'Assurance mutuelle des fabriques de Montréal
Introduced by the Member for Chapleau on **22 November 2016**, and
Referred to the Committee on Public Finance

Passage in Principle

Passage

IV. Government Motions

V. Estimates of Expenditure

VI. Statutory Debates

BUSINESS STANDING IN THE NAME OF MEMBERS IN OPPOSITION

Part 3

BILLS PASSED

(Bills not yet given Royal Assent)

Part 4

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEES

*The detailed calendar of the proceedings of each committee
is available on the Internet site of the Assembly*

COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Order in compliance with the Standing Orders

- Hearing of Investissement Québec concerning chapter 1 of the Auditor General's June 2016 report entitled "Investissement Québec: Information on Financial Profitability and Economic Performance".
- Hearing of the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications concerning the administrative management and financial commitments of the Ministère and of the Régie du cinéma.
- Hearing of the Société des alcools du Québec concerning chapter 6 of the Auditor General's spring 2016 report entitled "Société des alcools du Québec: Purchase and Sale of Alcoholic Beverages and Performance".
- Hearing on the administrative management and financial commitments of the Régie du logement and as a follow-up to chapter 4 of the Auditor General's spring 2016 report entitled "Régie du logement: Processing of Applications".
- Hearing on the administrative management and financial commitments of the Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor and as a follow-up to chapter 7 of the Auditor General's spring 2016 report entitled "Government of Québec's Electronic Call for Tenders System".

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 106**, An Act to implement the 2030 Energy Policy and to amend various legislative provisions (Order of reference given on 6 October 2016).

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 204**, An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Joseph-de-Sorel (Order of reference given on 13 November 2014).
- **Bill 209**, An Act respecting Ville de Mascouche (Order of reference given on 14 May 2015).
- **Bill 211**, An Act respecting Municipalité régionale de comté Les Moulins (Order of reference given on 29 October 2015).
- **Bill 214**, An Act respecting Ville de Drummondville (Order of reference given on 12 November 2015).
- **Bill 220**, An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures (Order of reference given on 16 November 2016).
- **Bill 221**, An Act respecting Ville de Salaberry-de-Valleyfield (Order of reference given on 16 November 2016).

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 114**, An Act to modernize the governance of national museums (Order of reference given on 10 November 2016).

Order in compliance with the Standing Orders

Consideration of petitions:

- Petitions 2753-20161115, 2754-20161115 and 2755-20161115 respecting opposition to weighing students in physical education classes.

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 116**, An Act to transfer the activities of the enterprise registrar to the Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale (Order of reference given on 22 November 2016).

Order in compliance with the Standing Orders

Surveillance of public bodies and accountability:

- Régie du bâtiment du Québec.
- Fonds de recherche du Québec – nature and technologies.
- Fonds de recherche du Québec – health.
- Fonds de recherche du Québec – society and culture.

Order of initiative

- Hear the Regroupement activistes pour l'inclusion Québec.
- Examine the process that led to the sale of Investissement Québec's shares in RONA.
- Assess the Commission de la construction du Québec's Carnet de référence and its impact on the intimidation and union discrimination phenomena on Québec's construction sites.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 87**, An Act to facilitate the disclosure of wrongdoings within public bodies (Order of reference given on 18 February 2016).
- **Bill 108**, An Act to facilitate oversight of public bodies' contracts and to establish the Autorité des marchés publics (Order of reference given on 24 November 2016).
- **Bill 112**, An Act to give effect mainly to fiscal measures announced in the Budget Speech delivered on 17 March 2016 (Order of reference given on 23 November 2016).

- **Bill 222**, Loi permettant la conversion de L'Assurance Mutuelle de l'Inter-Ouest et de l'Assurance mutuelle des fabriques de Montréal et leur fusion (Order of reference given on 22 November 2016).

Order of initiative

- The tax havens phenomenon.

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 62**, An Act to foster adherence to State religious neutrality and, in particular, to provide a framework for religious accommodation requests in certain bodies (Order of reference given on 15 November 2016).
- **Bill 98**, An Act to amend various legislation mainly with respect to admission to professions and the governance of the professional system (Order of reference given on 27 September 2016).

Special Consultations:

- **Bill 113**, An Act to amend the Civil Code and other legislative provisions as regards adoption and the disclosure of information (Order of reference given on 9 November 2016).

Statutory order

- Examination of the report on the implementation of the Code of ethics and conduct of the Members of the National Assembly.

Order in compliance with the Standing Orders

Surveillance of public bodies and accountability:

- Examination of the policy directions, activities and management of the reintegration support central fund's advisory committee.
- Examination of the policy directions, activities and management of the 18 reintegration support funds of Québec's correctional facilities.

COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN RELATIONS

Order of reference

Special Consultations:

- **Bill 115**, An Act to combat maltreatment of seniors and other persons of full age in vulnerable situations (Order of reference given on 15 November 2016).

Order of initiative

- Aboriginal women's living conditions as affected by sexual assault and domestic violence.
- Women's place in politics.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 92**, An Act to extend the powers of the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec and to amend various legislative provisions (Order of reference given on 26 May 2016).
- **Bill 99**, An Act to amend the Youth Protection Act and other provisions (Order of reference given on 19 October 2016).

Statutory order

- Examination of the 2013-2014 annual reports of the following health and social services agencies: Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Bas-Saint-Laurent, Capitale-Nationale, Chaudière-Appalaches, Côte-Nord, Estrie, Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Lanaudière, Laurentides, Laval, Mauricie et Centre-du-Québec, Montérégie, Montréal, Outaouais, Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, and of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay and the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (deferred on 7 October 2014).
- Examination of the 2013-2014 annual management report of the Centre régional de santé et de services sociaux de la Baie-James (deferred on 9 October 2014).

Order in compliance with the Standing Orders

Surveillance of public bodies and accountability:

- Examination of the policy directions, activities and management of the Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Côte-Nord, Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine and Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean health and social services agencies and of the Centre régional de santé et de services sociaux de la Baie-James.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Order of reference

Special Consultations:

- **Bill 102**, An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act to modernize the environmental authorization scheme and to amend other legislative provisions, in particular to reform the governance of the Green Fund (Order of reference given on 1 November 2016).

Statutory order

- Examination of the report from the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec on automobile advertising guidelines.
- Examination of the 2013 evaluation report – Photo radar devices and red light camera systems.

Order in compliance with the Standing Orders

Surveillance of public bodies and accountability:

- Hearing the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec on its administrative management, activities and policy directions.

Part 5

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Questions already placed on the Order Paper
are published each Wednesday

(217) Mr. Khadir (Mercier) – **29 November 2016**
To the Minister of Finance

The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP), which, each year, allows over 315,000 vulnerable individuals to complete and file their tax return, is in jeopardy.

Testimonies of several organizations show the negative impact of the changes made to the CVITP on persons in situations of greater vulnerability. As you know, this program is jointly administered by the Canada Revenue Agency and Revenu Québec. The CVITP allows eligible individuals who have a modest income to get help in preparing their income tax and benefit returns. This help is provided during annual tax preparation clinics held by community organizations throughout the province.

At first, the role of the CVITP was to support the organization, management, training and recruitment of volunteers. The CVITP provided comprehensive training to future volunteers, including annual updating for experienced volunteers. Returns were filled out by hand on paper forms, which allowed for a greater number of persons to volunteer their help in the various clinics.

Since 2008, a digital shift (returns filed via electronic mailing) has taken place without evaluating and without thinking about the consequences for community organizations.

Moreover, the CVITP criteria have considerably changed:

- Volunteers must henceforth be recruited by community organizations. The CVITP requires that new volunteers already have basic knowledge about income taxes and electronic transmission of reports. The number of volunteers has dropped from 1230 in 2014 to 534 in 2015 for the Montréal region alone (source: freedom of information request).

- Training offered to volunteers is now strictly technical and is carried out exclusively via Webinar, with basic presentations that do not meet their needs.
- The CVITP strongly recommends that returns be filed electronically, using software, which poses a major challenge for organizations that don't necessarily have the required equipment and the financial means to comply with this new directive. It is difficult to find volunteers who have the computer skills required to produce online returns.
- Employees and volunteers are overwhelmed by the growing number of calls, the complex needs and the inability to meet demands.

In light of the elements brought to the attention of the Minister of Finance, we would like him to answer the following questions:

- Is the Minister aware that with this shift, over 300,000 people served by the organizations risk losing this service and that among them there are seniors, families, single persons, homeless persons, all of whom are already vulnerable?
- Is the Minister aware that if these persons can no longer file their tax returns owing to lack of access and availability of resources that are adapted to their needs, following some purely administrative decisions, their economic and social conditions will be even more precarious and they will risk losing the tax credits to which they are entitled (ex.: housing allowance, GST, solidarity tax credit and guaranteed income supplement)?
- Since the program's implementation in 1988, what funds have been allocated to the CVITP by Revenu Québec, per year?
- When do you intend to re-establish the former criteria of the CVITP, a simple program that is relatively inexpensive and that has proved its worth, in order to allow organizations to continue filing tax returns on paper, while ensuring that the CVITP recruits and adequately trains volunteers?
- When do you intend to grant financial assistance to organizations that want to file tax returns electronically (purchase of a printer, Internet connection, paper for printing, volunteer training)?
- When do you intend to extend the CVITP's mandate for it to adequately support community organizations by providing remunerated, trained and competent personnel?

- Will you commit to initiating discussions with your federal counterpart, Ms. Diane Lebouthillier, to ensure that the Liberal Government will reinvest in the CVITP program?
- Will you commit to making the case to the federal minister that significant and immediate reinvestment in this program is needed?
- In the event of your federal counterpart's refusal to reinvest in this program, will you commit to compensating for the federal's withdrawal so that Québec's vulnerable populations are not further weakened?

Part 6

NOTICES

I. NOTICES PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

Government Bills

Private Members' Public Bills

Private Bills

II. NOTICES APPEARING FOR THE FIRST TIME