



*Votes and Proceedings*  
*Wednesday, 5 June 2002 - No. 110*

*Ten o'clock*  
**President : Mrs. Louise Harel**

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*The paper version of the Votes and Proceedings takes precedence over its electronic equivalent. The headings under the table of contents are neither all-inclusive nor restrictive.*

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The Assembly was called to order at 10.05 o'clock a.m.

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Moment of reflection

## **ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

### **Presenting Papers**

Mr. Simard, Deputy Government House Leader, tabled the following:

Answer to a petition presented on 23 April 2002 by Mr. Laprise (Roberval) concerning the distribution of parking stickers for spaces reserved for disabled persons by the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 1210-20020605)

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Madam President tabled the following:

Volume I of the 2001-2002 report of the Auditor General of Québec to the National Assembly, accompanied by a brochure on the highlights of the said report.

(Sessional Paper No. 1211-20020605)

### **Presenting Reports from Committees**

Mr. Lachance (Bellechasse), chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Institutions, which met on 4 June 2002 for clause-by-clause consideration of the following Bill:

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- 70 An Act to amend the Act respecting administrative justice and other legislative provisions.

The report contains certain amendments to the bill.

(Sessional Paper No. 1212-20020605)

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Mrs. Doyer (Matapédia), vice-chairman, tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, which met on 4 June 2002 for clause-by-clause consideration of the following Bill:

- 97 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère des Régions.

The report contains certain amendments to the bill.

(Sessional Paper No. 1213-20020605)

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Madam President communicated to the Assembly and then tabled the following:

The report from the Committee on the National Assembly, which, on 30 May 2002, continued the examination of parliamentary reform proposals and, pursuant to Standing Orders 122 and 127, appointed the Member for Saguenay and the Member for Maskinongé as members of the Committee on Labour and the Economy.

(Sessional Paper No. 1214-20020605)

Mr. Brouillet, First Vice-President, moved:

THAT the National Assembly approve the appointment of the Member for Saguenay and of the Member for Maskinongé as members of the Committee on Labour and the Economy.

The motion was carried.

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Madam President tabled the following:

The document entitled "Proposal for temporary amendments to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly concerning the election of the President of the National Assembly by secret ballot".

(Sessional Paper No. 1215-20020605)

The document entitled "Proposal for a temporary amendment to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly concerning the introduction and passage of a bill during the same sessional period".

(Sessional Paper No. 1216-20020605)

The document entitled "Proposal for temporary amendments to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly concerning the motion to introduce an exceptional procedure and extraordinary sittings.

(Sessional Paper No. 1217-20020605)

The document entitled "Proposal for temporary amendments to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly and to the Rules for the Conduct of the Proceedings in the National Assembly concerning petitions.

(Sessional Paper No. 1218-20020605)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 188, Mr. Brouillet, First Vice-President, then moved:

THAT the Standing Orders and Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly be amended by the provisions contained in the documents entitled "Proposal for temporary amendments to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly concerning the election of the President of the National Assembly by secret ballot"; "Proposal for a temporary amendment to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly concerning the introduction and passage of a bill during the same sessional period"; "Proposal for temporary amendments to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly concerning the motion to introduce an exceptional procedure and extraordinary sittings"; and "Proposal for temporary amendments to the Standing Orders and Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings in the National Assembly concerning petitions" tabled today by the President of the National Assembly;

THAT the amendments contained in the document on the election of the President of the National Assembly by secret ballot be in force immediately this motion is carried, and this, for the duration of the 36th Legislature, notwithstanding the prorogation of the session;

THAT the amendments contained in the other documents be in force immediately this motion is carried until 21 December 2002, notwithstanding the prorogation of the session;

THAT these amendments be included in the Votes and Proceedings of the National Assembly as part of the present motion.

## CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

### SECTION 1 THE PRESIDENT

#### § 1. — OFFICE

**1. Duties** — The President shall chair the meetings of the National Assembly and direct its services; he shall likewise represent it, most particularly in its relations with other Parliaments.

**2. Powers** — In addition to such powers as may be invested in the President by statute, it shall be his office to:

- (1) call to order, suspend, and adjourn the meetings of the Assembly;
- (2) preserve order and decorum, for which purpose he shall exercise all the necessary powers;

- (3) enforce the Standing Orders;
- (4) propose every motion from the chair, put the question thereon, and declare the sense of the Assembly;
- (5) convene and preside over conferences with the House leaders of the parliamentary groups;
- (6) organize the limited debates;
- (7) choose the place in which the Assembly shall meet when it cannot meet in the Parliament Building;
- (8) exercise such other powers as he may require to perform his duties and to protect the privileges of the Assembly and its Members.

**3. Political affiliation prohibited** — The Member called to the chair of the Assembly as its President shall, during his tenure of that office, belong to no parliamentary group.

**4. Abstention and casting vote** — The President shall take no part in any debate before the Assembly, nor shall he vote: Provided that when the numbers are equal upon any division, he shall give the casting vote.

§ 2. — WHEN ELECTION TO BE HELD

**5. Election of President** — At the opening of the first meeting in every Legislature and whenever thereafter the office of President may become vacant, the Members of the Assembly shall, by secret ballot, elect one of their number to be President.

The Secretary General shall report any vacancy in the office of President to the Assembly, which shall forthwith elect a new President; and such election shall take precedence over all other business.

**6. Sole matter to be considered; hours of meeting; adjournment** — No other business shall be taken and no debate shall be permitted at any meeting of the Assembly during which a new President and, if necessary, new Vice-Presidents are to be elected.

Except as otherwise provided in Standing Order 8.12, any meeting of the Assembly held for this purpose shall not be adjourned until a new President or new Vice-Presidents have been called to the chair.

Such election being concluded, the Government House leader shall thereupon move the adjournment of the proceedings; and the question on such motion shall be put without debate.

### § 3. — PRESIDING OFFICER DURING ELECTION

**7. Longest-serving Member** — Whenever it may be necessary to elect a new President, the chair shall be taken by that Member who has served longest as a Member of this Assembly:

Provided that no Member who stands candidate for the office of President, nor any minister, nor the leader of any parliamentary group, nor any member of the Committee on the National Assembly may be deemed to have served longest as a Member of the Assembly for the purposes of this Standing Order;

Provided further that when more than one Member satisfies the criteria set forth hereinbefore, the eldest

among them shall take the chair as presiding officer during the election of the President.

**7.1. Powers of presiding officer** — The presiding officer shall exercise all the powers invested in the President of the Assembly. In particular, he may suspend the proceedings at any time during pleasure.

**7.2. Presiding officer's vote** — The presiding officer shall be entitled to vote in the election of the President.

#### § 4. — BALLOTING PROCEDURE

**8. Eligibility and candidacies** — Every Member who wishes to stand candidate for the office of President shall, not later than twelve o'clock noon on the day prior to the meeting at which a new President is to be elected, subscribe in the office of the Secretary General a declaration of candidacy.

No Member who is a minister or the leader of a parliamentary group shall be eligible to stand in election for the office of President.

**8.1. List of candidates** — The Secretary General shall prepare an alphabetical list of the names of the candidates in election for the office of President.  
(See R.C.P. 44, 45, and 46)

**8.2. Sole candidate** — If there is but one candidate for the office of President, the presiding officer shall announce that Member's name to the Assembly, and he shall thereupon be deemed called to the chair of the Assembly as its President.

**8.3. Multiple candidates; requisite majority**

— When two or more Members stand candidates for the office of President, that Member shall be called to the chair of the Assembly as its President who shall have received a number of votes that is not less than that of the majority of its Members.

**8.4. Conduct of Members while voting —**

No Member may enter the Assembly Chamber after any ballot has commenced or leave it before the presiding officer has suspended the proceedings in order to count the votes.

**8.5. Vote —**

Each Member shall vote in a booth and then deposit his ballot paper in an urn provided for that purpose, and shall thereupon return to his place.  
(See R.C.P. 47, 48, and 49)

**8.6. Ballot paper —**

The ballot paper shall provide the forename, the surname, and the electoral district of every candidate and shall list the candidates' names in alphabetical order by surname.

Each Member voting shall make his mark in the appropriate circle on the ballot paper by means of a pencil that the Secretary General, or his representative, shall have handed to him with the ballot paper.

**8.7. Counting the votes —**

The Secretary General shall count the votes, in the presence of the jurisconsult, in some place outside the Assembly Chamber. The election of the President having been concluded, the Secretary General shall destroy all ballot papers together with any record that may show the number of votes received by any candidate.

No person present when the ballots are counted shall divulge the number of votes received by any candidate.

**8.8. Announcing the result** — Five minutes before the result of a ballot is to be announced, the presiding officer shall cause the division bells recalling the Members to be rung.

If some candidate has received the requisite number of votes, the presiding officer shall announce that Member's name and declare him called to the chair of the Assembly as its President.  
(See R.C.P. 50)

**8.9. Subsequent ballot** — If no candidate has received the requisite number of votes, a new ballot shall be taken as provided in the present section.  
(See R.C.P. 51)

**8.10. New list of candidates** — The Secretary General shall prepare an alphabetical list of the names of the candidates for the subsequent ballot.

He shall exclude from such list the name of the candidate or candidates who received the smallest number of votes during the previous ballot. He shall likewise exclude the name of every candidate who received five votes or fewer, unless in so doing he would exclude every candidate, or prevent the election of some candidate as President.  
(See R.C.P. 51)

**8.11. Equality of numbers** — When every candidate has received the same number of votes during

any ballot, no candidate shall be excluded from the list of candidates prepared for the subsequent ballot:

Provided that when there are but two candidates and the numbers with respect to these candidates are equal during two consecutive ballots, the presiding officer shall, before any further ballot is taken, suspend the proceedings for sixty minutes.

**8.12. Adjournment of proceedings** — When there are but two candidates and the numbers with respect to these candidates are equal during three consecutive ballots, the presiding officer shall thereupon adjourn the Assembly; and the proceedings respecting the election of a new President shall be resumed at the next meeting thereafter.

Except as otherwise provided, the rules set forth in the present section shall apply during such subsequent meeting.

**8.13. Withdrawal of candidacy** — A Member may, before any ballot is taken, withdraw his candidacy for the office of President either orally before the Assembly or by prior written notice to the Secretary General.

## § 5. — ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENTS

**9. Election of Vice-Presidents** — A First, a Second, and a Third Vice-President shall be elected severally, with the President in the chair, as follows :

The First and Second Vice-Presidents shall be elected from among the Members of the parliamentary group forming the Government, and the Third Vice-

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President shall be elected from among those of the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition.

**9.1. Nominations** — Any Member may, without notice, propose some other Member to assume the office of First, Second, or Third Vice-President. Each Member shall be proposed upon a separate motion, to which no amendment may be received.

**9.2. Putting the question** — If only one Member is proposed for some office of Vice-President, that Member shall be deemed elected.

If two or more Members are proposed, the motions proposing them shall be debated together. The debate concluded, the question shall be put on the several motions in the order in which they were made, until one of them is carried: Provided always that a motion by the Prime Minister respecting the offices of First and Second Vice-President shall be put before any other, and likewise a motion by the Leader of the Official Opposition respecting the office of Third Vice-President. In the event of an equality of numbers, a motion shall be declared defeated.

**9.3. Vacancy** — Notwithstanding Standing Order 6, whenever some office of Vice-President becomes vacant, there being no vacancy in the office of President, the election of some Member to assume such office of Vice-President shall be held when motions without notice are entered upon during the Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day after such office shall have become vacant.

§ 6. — UNAVOIDABLE ABSENCE OF PRESIDENT  
AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

**10. Unavoidable absence of President** — In the unavoidable absence of the President or whenever

asked by him to do so, a Vice-President shall take the chair, and he shall perform the duties of the President and exercise his authority in relation to all proceedings of the Assembly.

**11. Unavoidable absence of President and Vice-Presidents** — Whenever the President and the Vice-Presidents are absent or unable to act, the Secretary General shall so advise the Assembly, which shall appoint one of its Members to take the chair temporarily; and the Member so appointed shall perform the duties of the President and exercise his authority in relation to all proceedings of the Assembly.

The Assembly shall appoint such Member in the manner prescribed in Standing Orders 9.1 and 9.2 for the election of the First and Second Vice-Presidents.

**12. Presiding officer during election** — Whenever it may be necessary to appoint some Member to take the chair temporarily, the chair during such election shall be taken by that Member who has served longest as a Member of this Assembly as defined in Standing Order 7.

**22. Introduction and passage of bill during same sessional period** — No bill introduced between the eighth day of November and the twenty-first day of December or between the eighth day of May and the twenty-third day of June shall be called for final passage during the same sessional period.

**25. Extraordinary sittings after prorogation of session** — Whenever the Assembly, having been prorogued, is summoned to meet for extraordinary sittings, the rules of procedure for the opening of a new session shall be suspended, save those respecting the Lieutenant Governor's address.

**26. Extraordinary sittings; hours of meeting** — At the time set aside during the Routine Proceedings for motions without notice the Government House leader

shall make a motion to appoint the times during which the Assembly shall meet for extraordinary sittings. Such motion shall state the matters for which the Assembly has been summoned.

The Government House leader may then move a motion to introduce an exceptional procedure, pursuant to Standing Order 182.

**27. Limited debate** — The causes for which the Assembly has been summoned to extraordinary sittings, the motion envisaged in Standing Order 26, and that envisaged in Standing Order 182, if there be any, shall be discussed together during one and the same limited debate. This debate shall proceed notwithstanding the times appointed in Standing Orders 20 and 21 for the Assembly to rise or to suspend its proceedings.

The limited debate having been concluded, the President shall put the question on the motion envisaged in Standing Order 182, if there be any. He shall thereafter put the question on the motion envisaged in Standing Order 26. If this motion is carried, the Assembly shall thereupon conclude the Routine Proceedings.

**27.1. Other matters; limited debate** — If the Assembly has been summoned for the consideration of two or more matters and if upon the conclusion of the consideration of the first matter one or more further motions to introduce an exceptional procedure are moved, each such motion may be discussed in a limited debate that may last for not more than one hour.

**28. Conclusion of proceedings** — Any extraordinary sittings shall conclude when the Assembly shall have dealt with the matters for which it was summoned.

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**45. First meeting** — Subject to the provisions of Standing Orders 5 and 6, the Lieutenant Governor shall open every new session with an address, after which the Prime Minister shall deliver an opening speech.

**53. Routine Proceedings: sequence** — The Routine Proceedings shall be taken up in the following sequence:

- (1) Statements by Ministers;
- (2) Introduction of Bills;
- (3) Presenting:
  - a) Papers;
  - b) Reports from committees
  - c) Petitions;
- (3.1) Oral Answers to Petitions
- (4) Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations;
- (5) Oral Questions and Answers;
- (6) Deferred Divisions;
- (7) Motions Without Notice;
- (8) Notices of Proceedings in Committees;
- (9) Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly.

**62. Right to petition** — Every person or association of persons may submit to the Assembly through one of its Members a petition seeking the redress of some present grievance that lies within the competence of the public authorities of Québec.

The Member presenting such petition shall lodge it with the office of the Secretary General not later than one hour before the Routine Proceedings are to be taken.

**63. Form and content of petitions** — Every petition shall state the material allegations on which it is based. It must contain the original signatures of all the petitioners and, where appropriate, identify the group to which they belong; and it shall make a clear, concise, accurate, and temperate statement of the facts regarding the grievance for which redress is sought.

**64. Presenting petitions; abstract of petition to be tabled** — Members shall present petitions at the time set aside for this purpose during the Routine Proceedings. Not more than fifteen minutes shall be allotted for presenting petitions.

A Member when presenting any petition shall lay upon the Table a document that he shall certify to be true to the original thereof and in conformity with these Standing Orders, and in which he shall state the number of signatures attached to such petition, the parties from whom it comes, the material allegations it contains, and the prayer thereof.

**64.1. Answers to petitions; time limit for answers** — Immediately the petition is presented, the Secretary General shall transmit to the House leader of each parliamentary group a copy of the document tabled. The government shall answer each petition in writing not later than sixty days after it has been presented.

Such answer shall be tabled at the time set aside during the Routine Proceedings for presenting papers. The Secretary General shall transmit a copy of the answer together with the original of the petition to the Member who presented it.

If the Assembly is not then meeting, the answer shall be tabled not later than three days after the resumption of its proceedings.

**64.2. Expiry of time limit; petition to be set down upon Order Paper** — Failing an answer thereto from the government within the period of sixty days hereinbefore provided, the petition shall be set down upon the Order Paper for the next sitting day after the expiry of the said period.

The entry upon Order Paper shall consist of the subject of the petition and the date on which it was presented.

**64.3. Oral answers to petitions** — Not later than on the second sitting day after a petition has been set down upon the Order Paper, at the time set aside during the Routine Proceedings for oral answers to petitions, a minister shall communicate to the Assembly the government's answer to such petition:

Provided that when two or more petitions concern one and the same subject, the government may give a single oral answer for all such petitions jointly.

The Secretary General shall inform the Member who presented the petition of the oral answer given by the government and shall return to him the original thereof.

**64.4 Unsatisfactory answer** — The opinion that a minister's answer to a petition is unsatisfactory cannot be raised as a point of order.

**87. Business having precedence: sequence** — The Orders of the Day for business having precedence shall be taken up in the following sequence:

- (1) the opening speech of the session and, during the debate thereon, the addresses by the leaders of the parliamentary groups or their representatives;
- (2) motions relating to breaches of privilege or contempt;
- (3) motions relating to the conduct of Members of Parliament;

- (4) the limited debate on a motion to introduce an exceptional procedure and every debate in the Assembly relating to the matter to which such motion to introduce an exceptional procedure shall apply;
- (5) the budget speech and, during the debate thereon, the addresses by the leaders of the parliamentary groups or their representatives;
- (6) the order for resuming the debate on the budget speech;
- (7) the limited debate on the reports from the committees respecting the main estimates;
- (8) the order for resuming the debate on the opening speech;
- (9) want of confidence motions.

Proceedings in all committees shall be suspended during the consideration of the Orders of the Day envisaged in paragraphs (1) and (5) of this Standing Order.

## CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

### SECTION 1 PROCEDURE IN THE ASSEMBLY

**179. Sources** — The proceedings of the Assembly shall be conducted in accordance with:

- (1) the statutes;
- (2) these Standing Orders and rules for the conduct of proceedings;

- (3) such other orders as the Assembly may from time to time make.

**180. Usages and precedents** — In deciding all questions of procedure not so provided for, resort shall be had to the usages and precedents of this Assembly.

**181. Applicable rules** — The Interpretation Act shall apply to these Standing Orders: Provided that where any section of the said act conflicts with these orders, the latter shall prevail.

## SECTION 2 EXCEPTIONAL PROCEDURE

**182. Motion to introduce an exceptional procedure** — The Government House leader may, without notice, move a motion to introduce an exceptional procedure for the consideration of some matter that may or may not stand on the Order Paper: Provided that each such motion may introduce an exceptional procedure with regard to but a single matter.

Such motion may be discussed in a limited debate, but it may be neither amended nor divided.

The motion having been carried, any provision of these Standing Orders that may be at variance with the procedure envisaged in the motion shall, for the purpose of the consideration of the matter stated therein, be deemed suspended, subject to the provisions set forth in the present section.

**183. Motion or bill to be distributed** — If the object of the motion to introduce an exceptional procedure is to allow to be carried some motion not yet standing on the Order Paper or to allow to be passed some bill not yet introduced before the Assembly, the terms of the said motion or bill shall be distributed when the motion to introduce an exceptional procedure is moved.

**184. Exceptional legislative procedure** — If the object of the motion to introduce an exceptional procedure is to allow the consideration of some bill, the exceptional legislative procedure set forth in Standing Orders 257.1 to 257.10 shall apply.

**184.1. Business having precedence; adjournment of debate** — The limited debate on a motion to introduce an exceptional procedure and every debate in the Assembly relating to the matter to which such motion may apply shall have precedence.

Notwithstanding Standing Order 100, no Member other than a minister or a deputy Government House leader may move a motion to adjourn any debate relating to the matter to which a motion to introduce an exceptional procedure may apply.

**251. Closure motion** — If no agreement has been reached, the Government House leader may thereupon make a motion appointing the time when the committee shall interrupt its proceedings on the bill and report to the Assembly. Such motion, which may be made without notice and cannot be amended, shall be debated on a future sitting day; and at the conclusion of this debate the Government House leader shall be permitted to speak for up to ten minutes in reply.

If the motion is carried, no motion to introduce an exceptional procedure may be made with respect to the bill to which it relates.

## SECTION 7 EXCEPTIONAL LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE

**257.1 Introduction; when moved** — Except as otherwise provided in Standing Order 251, the exceptional legislative procedure may be introduced with

regard to any bill at any stage in its consideration. This procedure fixes such limits as the motion may specify on the time allotted for debate at each stage that remains to be completed in the consideration of such bill. The motion having been carried, the bill shall be debated at each remaining stage during not less than the number of hours specified hereinafter:

- (1) five hours for the debate on passage in principle, including the debate on a motion to divide the bill, if there be any;
- (2) five hours for clause-by-clause consideration in committee;
- (3) one hour for the report stage;
- (4) one hour for the debate on the motion for the passage of the bill, except as otherwise provided in Standing Order 257.9.

All of these stages may be taken during one and the same sitting. Notwithstanding Standing Order 147, the appropriate committee may be convened immediately the bill has been committed for clause-by-clause consideration.

**257.2. Motion to divide bill** — If a motion to divide the bill is made during the debate on the passage in principle thereof and if such motion is declared receivable, the debate shall thereafter continue both on the motion to divide the bill and on its principle.

If the motion to divide the bill is carried, the bills issuing from the original bill, as divided, shall be again placed on the Order Paper at the introduction stage.

**257.3. Consideration of other business —**

Notwithstanding Standing Orders 87(4) and 184.1, while the bill is before a standing committee for clause-by-clause consideration and during the periods envisaged in Standing Orders 257.4, 257.6, and 257.8, the Assembly may take other business as provided in these Standing Orders, save those Orders relating to motions to introduce an exceptional procedure.

**257.4. Clause-by-clause consideration in committee; tabling of report —** Upon the expiry of the period for the clause-by-clause consideration of the bill in committee as provided in the motion, the committee shall immediately interrupt its proceedings.

When the bill has been considered clause by clause in a committee of the whole, the committee shall thereupon rise and report to the Assembly. Notwithstanding Standing Orders 53 and 54, when the bill has been considered clause by clause in a standing committee, the committee shall have not more than one hour after it has interrupted its proceedings in which to lay its report upon the Table of the Assembly:

Provided that if upon the expiry of this period the proceedings of the Assembly have been suspended or adjourned, the report shall be laid upon the Table immediately the proceedings of the Assembly are resumed.

**257.5. Contents of report —** The report from the committee shall consist of the terms of the bill at the stage it had reached when the committee interrupted its proceedings and, if the bill was considered clause by clause in a standing committee, the minutes of its proceedings with respect to the bill. The report shall state whether the committee completed its consideration of the bill.

**257.6. Amendments to report** — Not later than one hour after the report of the standing committee has been laid upon the Table or after a committee of the whole has reported to the Assembly, every Member may hand in to the office of the Secretary General a copy of any amendment or amendments he may wish to move thereto. No subamendment to any such amendment may be received.

The Secretary General shall immediately forward a copy thereof to the House leader of each parliamentary group and to every independent Member. The President shall decide whether such amendments may be received and shall select them so as to prevent repetition and overlapping.

The Assembly may enter upon the debate on the report stage of the bill not less than one hour thereafter.

**257.7. Amendments; putting the question** — Upon the expiry of the debate, each amendment shall be read from the chair before the question is put thereon; and the voting on every question shall be by a show of hands.

The question shall then be put severally on the sections of the bill, as amended, then on any sections thereof that the committee may not have carried, and thereafter on all remaining elements of the bill; but the terms thereof shall not be read from the chair before each question is put; and the voting on every question shall be by a show of hands.

Any amendments and sections so carried shall be incorporated in the report; and the question for concurrence in the report, as amended, shall thereupon be put.

**257.8. Amendments; putting the question; deferral** — At the request of the Government House leader the putting of the question on the amendments may be deferred until the Orders of the Day at a subsequent sitting. The question on any such amendments may be put not less than ten hours after the Secretary General shall have forwarded copies thereof as provided in the second paragraph of Standing Order 257.6.

The President shall convene the House leaders of the parliamentary groups in order to organize the putting of the question on such amendments as may have been proposed. If the House leaders reach no agreement thereon, the question on the amendments shall be put severally. Notwithstanding Standing Order 257.7, the terms thereof shall not be read from the chair before each question is put; and the voting on every question shall be by a show of hands.

The question shall next be put on the sections of the bill, as amended, then on any sections thereof that the committee may not have carried, and thereafter on all remaining elements of the bill, in the manner provided in the second paragraph of this Standing Order.

Any amendments and sections carried shall be incorporated in the report; and the question for concurrence in the report, as amended, shall thereupon be put.

**257.9. Passage; referral to committee of the whole** — During the debate on the motion for the passage of the bill the Member who introduced it may, without notice, move that it be referred to a committee of the whole for the consideration of one or more amendments that he shall specify. The question on this motion shall be put forthwith and decided without debate; and the vote thereon shall be by a show of hands. If the motion is carried, the said amendment or amendments may be considered in committee of the

whole for a period that shall not exceed thirty minutes, during which time the debate on the motion for the passage of the bill shall be suspended.

Each amendment shall be read from the chair before the question is put thereon; and the voting on every question shall be by a show of hands. Upon the expiry of the period envisaged in the first paragraph of this Standing Order the chairman of the committee shall in a like manner put the question on any amendments not otherwise disposed of.

The question on the report from the committee of the whole shall be put without debate; and the vote thereon shall be by a show of hands.

**257.10. Procedure** — The general rules pertaining to bills, save Standing Order 240, shall apply to the exceptional legislative procedure insofar as they are not at variance with the motion to introduce an exceptional procedure.

#### CHAPTER IV RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS RESPECTING PETITIONS

**42. Grounds for inadmissibility of petitions; content** — The President may rule a petition inadmissible for presentation before the Assembly on the following grounds:

- (1) It does not seek the redress of a grievance that lies within the competence of the public authorities of Québec;
- (2) The statement of the facts regarding the grievance for which the petitioners seek redress is not clear, concise, accurate, and temperate;

- (3) It refers to some matter that is awaiting or under adjudication before a court of law or a quasi-judicial body, or that is the subject of an inquiry, and the presentation of such petition may be prejudicial to the interests of some person or party.

**43. Grounds for inadmissibility of petitions; form** — The President may likewise rule a petition inadmissible for presentation before the Assembly, in particular, on the following grounds:

- (1) It is not a handwritten or typewritten original;
- (2) It is not printed on sheets of paper of the usual size;
- (3) It does not contain the signatures of all the petitioners;
- (4) The intervention prayed for does not appear on every sheet that bears signatures.

CHAPTER V  
**RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS  
RESPECTING THE ELECTION OF THE  
PRESIDENT  
BY SECRET BALLOT**

**44. List of candidates** — As soon as the period envisaged in Standing Order 8 for the declaration of candidacies has expired, the Secretary General shall prepare an alphabetical list of the candidates for the office of President and shall forward such list to the Members of the Assembly at not later than four o'clock p.m. the same day.  
(See S.O. 8 and 8.1)

**45. List of candidates** — Before any meeting held for the purpose of electing a new President is called to order, the Secretary General shall cause the list of candidates to be placed upon the Members' desks in the Assembly Chamber. He shall likewise make the said list available to the Members in each voting booth.  
(See S.O. 8.1)

**46. Communicating the list of candidates** — The presiding officer shall, before each ballot is proceeded with, communicate orally to the Assembly the names of the candidates standing in election for the office of President; and in so doing he shall indicate the name of any Member who may have withdrawn his candidacy.  
(See S.O. 8.1 and 8.13)

**47. Voting booths** — Two booths shall be provided for voting, one of which shall be situate on the west side of the Assembly Chamber and the other of which shall be situate on the east side thereof.  
(See S.O. 8.5)

**48. Voting procedure** — When any ballot is to be taken, the Members, having occupied their assigned places, shall be called two by two to cast their ballots, as follows: First shall be called a Member who occupies a place on the west side of the Assembly Chamber, and next shall be called a Member who occupies a place on the east side of the Chamber.

Subject to the provisions of the first paragraph of this Rule, the Members shall be called to vote in the like order as in a recorded division; and the presiding officer shall be the last to vote.  
(See S.O. 8.5)

**49. Urn** — The Members shall deposit their ballot papers in an urn placed upon the Table of the Assembly for that purpose.  
(See S.O. 8.5)

**50. Communicating the result** — Upon the resumption of the proceedings after the ballots have been counted, the Secretary General shall inform the presiding officer whether some candidate has received the requisite number of votes.  
(See S.O. 8.8)

**51. Subsequent ballot** — If no candidate has received the requisite number of votes, the presiding officer shall thereupon suspend the proceedings in order to allow the subsequent ballot to be prepared.

During such suspension the Secretary General shall cause a new list of candidates to be placed upon the Members' desks in the Assembly Chamber.  
(See S.O. 8.9 and 8.10)

The motion was carried.

### **Presenting Petitions**

Mr. Paquin (Saint-Jean) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the care and resources committed to school-age children, and signed by 79 citizens from the Saint-Jean region.  
(Sessional Paper No. 1219-20020605)

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Mrs. Normandeau (Bonaventure) tabled the following:

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The abstract of a petition respecting tax deductions for persons living in remote regions, and signed by 78 citizens of Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

(Sessional Paper No. 1220-20020605)

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

The abstract of a petition respecting the protection of animals, and signed by 3802 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 1221-20020605)

### **Oral Questions and Answers**

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

### **Deferred Divisions**

The Assembly took the division, which had been deferred at the sitting of 4 June 2002, on the motion moved by Mr. Dion (Saint-Hyacinthe) and Mrs. Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) during Motions Without Notice. This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly ask for the immediate and unconditional release of Ingrid Betancourt, senator and candidate in the Colombian presidential election last 26 May, who was abducted on 23 February 2002, and that it support the Groupe parlementaire québécois de soutien à Ingrid Betancourt.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. 101 in Appendix)

Yeas: **88**    Nays: **0**    Abstentions: **0**

**5 June 2002**

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**Motions Without Notice**

Mr. Landry, Premier, moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the 107<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Act of 5 June 1832, which was adopted unanimously, and which granted Jews equality and full political and religious emancipation.

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, Mr. Jean-François Simard, Minister for the Environment and Water, and Mr. Benoit (Orford) jointly moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark 5 June 2002, World Environment Day and Clean Air Day.

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

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

**Notices of Proceedings in Committees**

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

- the Committee on Institutions, to give clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 68, An Act to amend the Act respecting municipal courts, the Courts of Justice Act and other legislative provisions;
- the Committee on Social Affairs, to conclude its special consultations on Bill 96, An Act respecting pre-hospital emergency services and amending various legislative provisions;

**5 June 2002**

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- the Committee on Public Finance, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 76, An Act to amend the pension plans of the public and parapublic sectors.

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**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**Government Bills**

*Passage*

Resuming the debate, which had been adjourned on 4 June 2002, on the motion by Mr. Boisclair, Minister of the Environment, for the passage of Bill 103, An Act to impose restrictions on pig farming;

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried on division and, accordingly, Bill 103 was passed.

*Passage in Principle*

Mr. Jean-François Simard, Minister for the Environment and Water, moved, —That Bill 102, An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act and the Act respecting the Société québécoise de récupération et de recyclage, do now pass in principle.

And debate arising;

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At 1.00 o'clock p.m., Mr. Beaulne, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 3.00 o'clock p.m.

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**5 June 2002**

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The proceedings resumed at 3.18 o'clock p.m.

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*Passage in Principle*

And debate continuing of the motion by Mr. Jean-François Simard, Minister for the Environment and Water, —That Bill 102, An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act and the Act respecting the Société québécoise de récupération et de recyclage, do now pass in principle;

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried and Bill 102 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mrs. Vermette, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 102 be referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Transportation and the Environment.

The motion was carried.

*Report Stage*

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 94, An Act respecting Ville de Montréal.

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 Institutions on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 93, An Act to ensure the implementation of the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Between le Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec.

The report was concurred in.

5 June 2002

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*Passage*

Mr. Sylvain Simard, Minister of Education, moved the passage of Bill 79, An Act to amend the Education Act for Cree, Inuit and Naskapi Native Persons.

The motion was carried and, accordingly, Bill 79 was passed.

*Report Stage*

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Education on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 66, An Act to amend the Act respecting school elections.

The report was concurred in.

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The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Education on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 83, An Act to amend the Act respecting financial assistance for education expenses.

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 Labour and the Economy on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 87, An Act to amend the Act respecting Société Innovatech du sud du Québec and the Act respecting Société Innovatech Régions ressources.

After debate thereon, the report was concurred in.

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The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 99, An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act and other legislative provisions.

**5 June 2002**

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After debate thereon, the report was concurred in.

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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 91, An Act respecting the extension of certain collective agreements of the public and parapublic sectors.

After debate thereon, the report was concurred in.

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Mrs. Vermette, Deputy Government House Leader, moved the adjournment of the Assembly.

The motion was carried.

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Accordingly, at 5.47 o'clock p.m., Mr. Brouillet, First Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 6 June 2002, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

**LOUISE HAREL**

*President*

5 June 2002

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APPENDIX

Recorded Divisions

On the motion jointly moved by Mr. Dion (Saint-Hyacinthe) and Mrs. Houda-Pepin (La Pinière):

(Division No. 101)

YEAS - 88

Arseneau	Carrier-Perreault	Gobé	Pagé
Barbeau	Chagnon	Goupil	Paquin
Baril	Charbonneau	Julien	Paradis
(Arthabaska)	Charest	Jutras	Paré
Beaudoin	(Rimouski)	Kelley	Payne
Beaulne	Chenail	Kieffer	Pelletier
Beaumier	Corriveau	Labbé	(Chapleau)
Béchar	Côté	Lachance	Pelletier
Bédard	(Dubuc)	Lafrenière	(Abitibi-Est)
Bégin	Côté	Lamquin-Éthier	Rioux
Bélanger	(La Peltrie)	Landry	Robert
Benoit	Cousineau	Laporte	Rochon
Bergeron	Delisle	Laprise	Simard
Bergman	Désilets	Leblanc	(Montmorency)
Bertrand	Deslières	Legault	Simard
(Portneuf)	Després	Legendre	(Richelieu)
Bertrand	Dion	Léger	Sirros
(Charlevoix)	Dionne-Marsolais	Lelièvre	St-André
Blanchet	Doyer	Létourneau	Thériault
Boucher	Duguay	MacMillan	Tranchemontagne
Boulerice	Facal	Middlemiss	Trudel
Boulet	Gagnon-Tremblay	Morin	Vermette
Boulianne	Gautrin	Mulcair	Williams
Brouillet	Gendron	Normandeau	
Caron	Geoffrion	Ouimet	