



Votes and Proceedings
Tuesday, 16 April 2002 - No. 87

Two o'clock
President : Mrs. Louise Harel

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 2.03 o'clock p.m.

Moment of reflection

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Introduction of Bills

Mr. Bégin, Minister of Justice, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

80 Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Boisclair, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT the Committee on Public Finance hold a general consultation on Bill 80, Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act, beginning on 28 May 2002;

THAT all briefs be submitted to the Secretariat of Committees by 21 May 2002;

The Minister of Justice shall be a member of the said Committee during its proceedings with respect to this order of reference.

The motion was carried.

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Presenting Papers

Mrs. Marois, Minister of State for the Economy and Finance, tabled the following:

A document entitled "Profil économique et financier du Québec", spring 2002.
(Sessional Paper No. 1064-20020416)

The strategic plan 2002-2005 of the Institut de la statistique du Québec.
(Sessional Paper No. 1065-20020416)

The annual report of the Régie de l'assurance-dépôts du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2001.
(Sessional Paper No. 1066-20020416)

Mrs. Beaudoin, Minister of International Relations and Minister responsible for La Francophonie, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Office franco-québécois pour la jeunesse for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2000.
(Sessional Paper No. 1067-20020416)

Mrs. Goupil, Minister of Social Solidarity and Minister responsible for Seniors, tabled the following:

A document entitled "Un Québec pour tous les âges".
(Sessional Paper No. 1068-20020416)

The annual report of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board for the fiscal year ended 30 June 2001.
(Sessional Paper No. 1069-20020416)

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Presenting Petitions

Mr. Côté (La Peltrie) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the status of the Escarpement urban forest, and signed by 700 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 1070-20020416)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mr. Boisclair, Government House Leader, convened the following Committees for the consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure:

- the Committee on Education, for those of the Ministère de l'Éducation;
- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, for those of the Ministère de la Recherche, de la Science et de la Technologie;
- the Committee on Institutions, for those granted to Native Affairs, for those granted to Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, and for those of the Ministère des Relations internationales;
- the Committee on Social Affairs, for those of the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux and for those of the Ministère de la Famille et de l'Enfance and those granted to the Status of Women;
- the Committee on Public Finance, for those granted to the Conseil du trésor, Administration and the Public Service, and for those of the Ministère du Revenu;

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- the Committee on Culture, for those of the Ministère des Relations avec les citoyens et de l'Immigration.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

The Official Opposition House Leader raised a point of order concerning the refusal by the Chairman of the Conseil du trésor to answer a question during today's Oral Questions and Answers without referring to the provisions in Standing Order 82. He asked the Chair to demand an answer from the Minister.

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

A Minister's answer may be deemed unsatisfactory by a Member, but Standing Order 81 stipulates that this cannot be raised as a point of order. Furthermore, a Minister may always decline to answer a question and it is not permitted to insist on obtaining an answer. Standing Order 82 states certain criteria that a Minister may set forth when declining to answer a question. This statement is not exhaustive since it is preceded by the words "in particular". A Minister may decline to answer without providing a reason, or he may provide a reason or simply say nothing. The President cannot oblige anyone to answer a question.

At 3.15 o'clock p.m., in compliance with Standing Order 282, Madam President adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 17 April 2002, at 2.00 o'clock p.m.

LOUISE HAREL

President