



Votes and Proceedings
Tuesday, 12 March 2002 - No. 75

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.

The Assembly was called to order at 2.03 o'clock p.m.

Moment of reflection

The Secretary General, Mr. François Côté, informed the Assembly that the office of President of the National Assembly had become vacant.

He then tabled:

Copy of a letter, dated 30 January 2002, he had received from Mr. Jean-Pierre Charbonneau, Member for Borduas, informing him of his resignation as President of the National Assembly.

(Sessional Paper No. 928-20020312)

Mr. Secretary General also informed the Assembly that the office of second Vice-President of the National Assembly had become vacant.

He then tabled:

Copy of a letter, dated 11 March 2002, he had received from Mr. Claude Pinard, Member for Saint-Maurice, informing him of his resignation as second Vice-President of the National Assembly.

(Sessional Paper No. 929-20020312)

Copy of a letter, dated 29 January 2002, he had received from Mr. Guy Chevrette informing him of his resignation as Member for Joliette.

(Sessional Paper No. 930-20020312)

Copy of a letter, dated 29 January 2002, he had received from Mr. Jacques Brassard informing him of his resignation as Member for Lac-Saint-Jean.

(Sessional Paper No. 931-20020312)

Copy of a letter, dated 30 January 2002, he had received from Mr. David Cliche informing him of his resignation as Member for Vimont.

(Sessional Paper No. 932-20020312)

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Copy of a letter, dated 31 January 2002, he had received from Mr. Landry, Premier, informing him of the appointment of Mr. André Boisclair, Member for Gouin, as Government House Leader, effective 30 January 2002.

(Sessional Paper No. 933-20020312)

Mr. Secretary General invited the longest-serving Member of the Assembly, Mr. Middlemiss, Member for Pontiac, to preside at the election of a President of the National Assembly.

The senior Member obtained the consent of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 7 and 8 respecting the election of the President of the National Assembly, in order to proceed in compliance with the rules specified in a document that he tabled, entitled:

"Standing Orders and Rules of Procedure respecting the Election of the President of the National Assembly by Secret Ballot".

(Sessional Paper No. 934-20020312)

He then communicated to the Assembly and tabled the list of candidates in election for the office of President:

(Sessional Paper No. 935-20020312)

LIST OF MEMBERS STANDING AS CANDIDATES FOR THE
OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

- Mr. Michel Bissonnet (Jeanne-Mance)
- Mrs. Louise Harel (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve)

The presiding officer explained the balloting procedure and, at 2.11 o'clock p.m., suspended the meeting for a few minutes.

At 2.16 o'clock p.m., the Members took their seats and proceeded to cast their ballots.

At 3.04 o'clock p.m., the voting was concluded and the meeting was suspended for the counting of the votes by Mr. Secretary General and Mr. Claude Bisson, jurisconsult.

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At 3.27 o'clock p.m., the Members once again took their seats.

The presiding officer informed the Assembly that Mrs. Harel was elected President of the National Assembly, having received a number of votes equivalent to the majority of Members of the Assembly.

Accordingly, the presiding officer left the Chair.

Mr. Landry and Mr. Charest then accompanied Mrs. Harel to the Chair.

Mrs. Harel then delivered a speech.

The Mace was then laid upon the Table and, consequently, the sitting opened.

By leave of the Assembly, Mr. Boisclair, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT the National Assembly ratify the special procedure for the election of the President contained in the document entitled "Standing Orders and Rules of Procedure respecting the Election of the President of the National Assembly by Secret Ballot" that was tabled earlier by the longest-serving Member of the Assembly, the Member for Pontiac, and, accordingly, that the Assembly give effect to the results of the vote held in pursuance of this procedure.

The motion was carried.

Madam President invited the Assembly to elect the Second Vice-President, thus replacing Mr. Pinard (Saint-Maurice).

Mr. Landry, Premier, moved:

THAT Mr. François Beaulne, Member for the Electoral Division of Marguerite-D'Youville, be elected Second Vice-President of the National Assembly.

The motion was carried nemine contradicente.

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Mr. Beaulne (Marguerite-D'Youville) was declared elected as Second Vice-President of the Assembly.

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

Madam President informed the Assembly that she had received, within the specified delay, notice of a motion to be placed on the Order Paper and Notices for 13 March 2002 in the name of the Member for Saint-Laurent, which motion is to be debated under Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition on that same day. This motion reads as follows:

THAT the Government of Québec take the necessary action without delay in order that a competent public authority be issued an order to investigate and determine whether a preferential relationship between Oxygène 9 and Members of the Government of Québec, or persons under their authority, provided anyone with an undue advantage as regards public funds.

She thereupon tabled the following:

A copy of the text of the said motion.

(Sessional Paper No. 936-20020312)

Mr. Boisclair, Government House Leader, moved that the Assembly adjourn its proceedings.

The motion was carried.

At 4.11 o'clock p.m., the Assembly adjourned until Wednesday, 13 March 2002, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

LOUISE HAREL

President