



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Tuesday, 2 May 2017 — No. 251

**President of the National Assembly:
Mr. Jacques Chagnon**

QUÉBEC

The Assembly was called to order at 1.40 o'clock p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Members

Mrs. Simard (Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré) made a statement to underline the Corporation de la réserve mondiale de la biosphère de Charlevoix's unveiling of the "Terre" collection.

Mr. Cousineau (Bertrand) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of Théâtre Le Patriote.

Mrs. de Santis (Bourassa-Sauvé) made a statement to underline the success of the Association de karaté JKA du Québec's annual provincial competition.

Mr. Charette (Deux-Montagnes) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of the "Compagnie du 2^e Bataillon du Régiment de LaSarre".

Mr. Arcand (Mont-Royal) made a statement to underline the 35th anniversary of Centre de bénévolat SARPAD.

2 May 2017

Mr. Kotto (Bourget) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of the organization Âge d'or Notre-Dame-des-Victoires.

Mr. Billette (Huntingdon) made a statement to congratulate Mr. Jacques Larochelle on his 40-year career in professional journalism.

Mrs. Roy (Montarville) made a statement to underline the fact that historical figures Pierre Boucher and Jeanne Crevier will be present for the 350th anniversary of the municipality of Boucherville.

Mr. Iracà (Papineau) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Jacques "Ti-Nomme" Lanthier for his commitment to people with spina bifida.

Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey) made a statement to congratulate Laval's Centre de spécialistes dentaires et implantologie for its commitment to the community.

At 1.52 o'clock p.m., Mr. Ouimet, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 2.00 o'clock p.m.

2 May 2017

Moment of reflection

The President tabled the following:

A letter, dated 27 April 2017, he had received from Mr. Sam Hamad, Member for Louis-Hébert, informing the President of his resignation.

(Sessional Paper No. 3181-20170502)

Introduction of Bills

Mrs. Vallée, Minister of Justice, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following bill:

134 An Act mainly to modernize rules relating to consumer credit and to regulate debt settlement service contracts, high-cost credit contracts and loyalty programs

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 134 was introduced in the Assembly.

Presenting Papers

Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, tabled the following:

The reply to a written question from Mrs. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) on the park on a slab (“dalle-parc”) planned for in the Turcot project — Question No. 231, *Order Paper and Notices* of 23 March 2017.

(Sessional Paper No. 3182-20170502)

2 May 2017

The President tabled three decisions of the Office of the National Assembly, dated 13 April 2017:

Decision 1899 concerning the Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur la rémunération et les conditions de travail du personnel d'un député et d'autres dispositions réglementaires (regulation to amend the regulation respecting the remuneration and conditions of employment of the staff of Members and other regulatory provisions);

(Sessional Paper No. 3183-20170502)

Decision 1906 concerning the Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur les contrats de l'Assemblée nationale (regulation to amend the regulation respecting National Assembly contracts);

(Sessional Paper No. 3184-20170502)

Decision 1907 concerning the Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur le Plan d'organisation administrative de l'Assemblée nationale et d'autres dispositions réglementaires (regulation to amend the regulation respecting the administrative organization plan of the National Assembly and other regulatory provisions).

(Sessional Paper No. 3185-20170502)

He then tabled the following:

The new seating plan of the National Assembly, dated 2 May 2017.

(Sessional Paper No. 3186-20170502)

Presenting Petitions

Mr. Bergeron (Verchères) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on maintaining the existing regulation on live baitfish fishing, signed by 3,005 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 3187-20170502)

2 May 2017

Mr. Roy (Bonaventure) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on maintaining the regulation on using baitfish for summer sport fishing, signed by 875 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 3188-20170502)

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

The abstract of a petition on maintaining the existing regulation on live baitfish fishing, signed by 4,222 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 3189-20170502)

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

The abstract of a petition on maintaining the regulation on using baitfish for summer sport fishing, signed by 323 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 3190-20170502)

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

The abstract of a petition on widening Highway 337 between Rodrigue and Philippe-Chartrand streets in Terrebonne's La Plaine sector, signed by 1,550 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 3191-20170502)

2 May 2017

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

At the request of the President, Mr. Legault, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Mr. Blanchette, Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks, tabled the following:

A copy of an article from the Le Devoir newspaper, dated 23 March 2017, on banning livebait fish entitled “Interdire les poissons appâts vivants, une décision difficile mais nécessaire”, accompanied by a table showing the species used as bait.

(Sessional Paper No. 3192-20170502)

Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Blais, Minister responsible for the Capitale-Nationale region, together with Mrs. Thériault, Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Mrs. Jean (Chicoutimi), Mrs. Maltais (Taschereau), Mr. Roberge (Chambly), Mrs. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques), Mr. Surprenant (Groulx), Mr. Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion) and Mrs. Ouellet (Vachon), moved:

THAT the National Assembly highlight the fact that Mrs. Sophie D'Amours was elected rector of Université Laval on March 22, making her the first woman to head this prestigious institution located in the Capitale-Nationale region.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

2 May 2017

Mr. Cloutier (Lac-Saint-Jean), together with Mr. Roberge (Chambly), Mrs. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques), Mr. Surprenant (Groulx) and Mrs. Ouellet (Vachon), moved a motion on the practice of altering grades in some Québec schools; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mr. Bonnardel (Granby), together with Mrs. Hivon (Joliette), Mr. Khadir (Mercier), Mr. Surprenant (Groulx) and Mrs. Ouellet (Vachon), moved a motion on the appointment of the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mr. Khadir (Mercier), together with Mrs. Ouellet (Vachon), moved a motion on using the Lean method in the health and social services sector; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mr. Tanguay, Deputy Government House Leader, convened the following committees:

- the Committee on Public Finance, to continue its examination of the “Finances” component of the 2017–2018 estimates of expenditure of the “Finances” portfolio;
- the Committee on Health and Social Services, to continue its examination of the “Health and Access to Care” component of the 2017–2018 estimates of expenditure of the “Santé et Services sociaux” portfolio;
- the Committee on Culture and Education, to undertake examination of the “Vocational Training” component of the 2017–2018 estimates of expenditure of the “Éducation et Enseignement supérieur” portfolio;

2 May 2017

- the Committee on Citizen Relations, to undertake examination of the “Status of Women” component of the 2017–2018 estimates of expenditure of the “Économie, Science et Innovation” portfolio;
- the Committee on Institutions, to conclude its examination of the 2017–2018 estimates of expenditure of the “Justice” portfolio by examining the “Consumer Protection” component;
- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to undertake examination of the “Regulatory Streamlining” component of the 2017–2018 estimates of expenditure of the “Économie, Science et Innovation” portfolio.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. Ouimet, First Vice-President, gave a directive in response to a question raised by the Official Opposition House Leader on 27 April 2017, concerning the updated calendar for examination of the estimates of expenditure tabled that same day by the Government House Leader.

The Official Opposition House Leader and the Second Opposition Group House Leader informed the Chair that they did not agree with the Government House Leader’s unilateral modification of the calendar for examination of the estimates of expenditure. Moreover, this modification would derogate from Standing Order 282, which states that examination of the estimates lasts ten consecutive sitting days, from Monday to Friday, at the hours when committees may meet pursuant to the provisions for extended hours of meeting.

DIRECTIVE FROM THE CHAIR

The initial timetable for examination of the 2017–2018 estimates of expenditure was tabled on 6 April 2017 by the President of the Assembly, following a meeting with the House leaders pursuant to Standing Order 285. Examination in parliamentary committee was to total 200 hours over nine consecutive sitting days, from Monday, 24 April to Thursday, 4 May 2017.

2 May 2017

Due to a delay in its proceedings, the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain was unable to complete its examination of the “Recreation and Sport” component of the estimates of expenditure of the Ministère de l’Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport. The Government House Leader tabled an updated calendar, adding a sitting of the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain on Tuesday, 9 May 2017 to allow the Committee to complete its examination of these estimates.

Analysis of precedents showed that, on occasion, during the period allotted for examination of the estimates, the initial timetable was modified through an updated calendar tabled by the Government House Leader. However, the Chair never had to rule formally on this procedure in the past, as it was never questioned. In fact, the Government has some leeway to make changes to the estimates examination calendar. The Chair does not systematically intervene, especially when it notes that the Members agree to proceed in this manner.

In the case at hand, the Chair notes that the change to the estimates examination calendar tabled by the Government House Leader departs from Standing Order 282 because the 10 committee sittings needed to complete the examination would not be consecutive, from Monday to Friday. Further, unlike past cases, when this request for a directive was raised, the Official Opposition House Leader and Second Opposition Group House Leader formally notified the Chair that they disagreed with this manner of proceeding, which differs from the procedure set out in the Standing Orders.

As a result, the Chair invites the parliamentary groups to agree on a time when the Committee can complete its examination of the component of the estimates of expenditure of the Ministère de l’Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport. The Chair also points out that, despite the importance of this exercise in accountability, examination of estimates cannot go on indefinitely. During this time, priority must indeed be given to examination of the estimates, preventing parliamentary committees from carrying out other mandates. This is why interpellations are not allowed during estimate examination. Moreover, the Standing Orders stipulate that the Assembly may only take Routine Proceedings during this period, thus precluding other important oversight measures, for example, Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition.

2 May 2017

The Chair therefore convenes the House leaders of the parliamentary groups to a meeting the morning of Wednesday, 3 May 2017, before Routine Proceedings, in the Flag Room. Should the parliamentary groups come to an agreement, it will be formalized by the Chair. Otherwise, the Chair will have no choice but to apply the Standing Orders and determine when examination of the estimates can be completed. In accordance with the Standing Orders, this must be no later than the 10th consecutive sitting allotted for examination of the estimates, namely, Friday, 5 May 2017.

At 3.18 o'clock p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 282, Mr. Ouimet, First Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 3 May 2017 at 9.40 o'clock a.m.

JACQUES CHAGNON

President