



Votes and Proceedings
Tuesday, 16 October 2001 - No. 43

Ten o'clock
President : Mr. Jean-Pierre Charbonneau

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 10.00 o'clock a.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

At the request of Mrs. Carrier-Perreault, Deputy Government House Leader, and by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 20, at 10.03 o'clock a.m., Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 2.08 o'clock p.m.

Moment of reflection

Mr. President tabled the following:

Copy of a letter, dated 27 June 2001, that he received from Mrs. Céline Signori, informing him of her resignation as the Member for Blainville;
(Sessional Paper No. 481-20011016)

Copy of a letter, dated 16 September 2001, that he received from Mr. Gabriel-Yvan Gagnon, informing him of his resignation as the Member for Saguenay;
(Sessional Paper No. 482-20011016)

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Copy of a letter, dated 25 September 2001, that he received from Mr. Jean-Sébastien Lamoureux, informing him of his resignation as the Member for Anjou.

(Sessional Paper No. 483-20011016)

He then communicated to the Assembly and tabled the following:

Copy of a letter dated 9 October 2001 that the Secretary General of the National Assembly received from the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec regarding the by-elections held on 1 October 2001 in the Electoral Divisions of Blainville, Jonquière, and Laviolette, accompanied by a notice proclaiming Mr. Richard Legendre the candidate returned in the Electoral Division of Blainville, Mrs. Françoise Gauthier the candidate returned in the Electoral Division of Jonquière, and Mrs. Julie Boulet the candidate returned in the Electoral Division of Laviolette.

(Sessional Paper No. 484-20011016)

Copy of a letter dated 16 October 2001 that the Secretary General of the National Assembly received from the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec following the judicial recount that took place in the Electoral Division of Labelle after the by-election held on 1 October 2001, accompanied by a notice proclaiming Mr. Sylvain Pagé the candidate returned in the Electoral Division of Labelle.

(Sessional Paper No. 485-20011016)

At the invitation of Mr. President, Mr. Landry, Premier, welcomed the new Member for Blainville, Mr. Richard Legendre, and the new Member for Labelle, Mr. Sylvain Pagé.

Mr. Charest, Leader of the Official Opposition, then welcomed the new Member for Jonquière, Mrs. Françoise Gauthier, and the new Member for Laviolette, Mrs. Julie Boulet.

Mr. Legendre (Blainville), Mr. Pagé (Labelle), Mrs. Gauthier (Jonquière), and Mrs. Boulet (Laviolette) then took the floor. Mr. Landry, Premier, Mr. Charest, Leader of the Official Opposition, and Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup) made certain remarks.

Mr. President then welcomed the new Members.

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ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Presenting Papers

Mrs. Marois, Deputy Premier, tabled the following:

An information paper for public consultation regarding federal transfers to the provinces;

(Sessional Paper No. 486-20011016)

A preparatory paper for public consultation regarding the problems and stakes of the lack of fiscal equilibrium;

(Sessional Paper No. 487-20011016)

An information paper for public consultation entitled Effective Occupation of Taxation Fields in Québec;

(Sessional Paper No. 488-20011016)

The annual report of Financement-Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2001;

(Sessional Paper No. 489-20011016)

The 2000-2004 strategic plan of the Ministère des Finances.

(Sessional Paper No. 490-20011016)

Mr. Chevrette, Minister of Transport, tabled the following:

A notice from the Commission d'accès à l'information du Québec on the draft regulation concerning the regulation amending the regulation regarding the procedure of the Commission des transports du Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 491-20011016)

Mr. Trudel, Minister of State for Health and Social Services, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Conseil médical du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2001;

(Sessional Paper No. 492-20011016)

The annual report of the Institut national de santé publique for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2001;

(Sessional Paper No. 493-20011016)

The annual reports, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2001, on the examination of complaints by the following regional health and social services boards and establishments:

— Côte-Nord;

(Sessional Paper No. 494-20011016)

— Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean;

(Sessional Paper No. 495-20011016)

The annual reports, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2001, of the following regional health and social services boards:

— Chaudière-Appalaches;

(Sessional Paper No. 496-20011016)

— Côte-Nord;

(Sessional Paper No. 497-20011016)

— Des Laurentides;

(Sessional Paper No. 498-20011016)

— Estrie;

(Sessional Paper No. 499-20011016)

— Laval;

(Sessional Paper No. 500-20011016)

— Montérégie;

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(Sessional Paper No. 501-20011016)

- Québec; (Sessional Paper No. 502-20011016)
- Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean. (Sessional Paper No. 503-20011016)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 188, Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT, pursuant to section 392 of the *Act respecting health services and social services*, the annual reports for the year 2000-2001 of the following regional health and social services boards:

- Chaudière-Appalaches;
- Côte-Nord;
- Des Laurentides;
- Estrie;
- Laval;
- Montérégie;
- Québec;
- Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean;

be deferred to the Committee on Social Affairs for consideration;

THAT the Minister of State for Health and Social Services be a member of the said committee for the duration of this order of reference.

The motion was carried.

Mr. G. Baril, Minister of State for Regions, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Société du Parc industriel et portuaire de Bécancour for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2001;
(Sessional Paper No. 504-20011016)

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The annual report of the Société Innovatech Québec et Chaudière-Appalaches for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2001;

(Sessional Paper No. 505-20011016)

The annual report of the Société québécoise d'assainissement des eaux for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2001.

(Sessional Paper No. 506-20011016)

Mr. Bégin, Minister of Justice, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Conseil interprofessionnel du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2001.

(Sessional Paper No. 507-20011016)

Mr. Arseneau, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Régie des assurances agricoles du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2001.

(Sessional Paper No. 508-20011016)

Mr. Facal, Minister of Relations with the Citizens and Immigration, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Ministère des Relations avec les citoyens et de l'Immigration for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2000.

(Sessional Paper No. 509-20011016)

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

The answer to the written question by Mr. Fournier (Châteauguay) concerning the economic projects carried out or being considered under the Québec-Kahnawake partnership and the economic-financing agreement signed on 24 October 2000. Question No. 14, *Order Paper and Notices* for 23 May 2001;

(Sessional Paper No. 510-20011016)

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The answer to the written question by Mr. Benoit (Orford) concerning an amount cited in the document "Étude des crédits 2001-2001" and relating to the Conseil régional de l'Estrie. Question No. 16, *Order Paper and Notices* for 13 June 2001;
(Sessional Paper No. 511-20011016)

The answers to the written questions by Mr. Marsan (Robert-Baldwin) concerning the following subjects:

The granting of advertising contracts authorized by the Conseil du trésor. Question No. 18, *Order Paper and Notices* for 15 June 2001;
(Sessional Paper No. 512-20011016)

The employee recruitment campaign organized by the Conseil du trésor. Question No. 19, *Order Paper and Notices* for 15 June 2001;
(Sessional Paper No. 513-20011016)

The answer to the written question by Mr. Copeman (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) concerning the use of sums of money under family assistance programs. Question No. 20, *Order Paper and Notices* for 21 June 2001.
(Sessional Paper No. 514-20011016)

Mr. President tabled the following:

A copy of a letter dated 26 September 2001 from the Honourable Huguette St-Louis, Chief Justice of the Cour du Québec, informing him of the appointment of Justice Louis-Charles Fournier as a member of the Conseil du référendum;
(Sessional Paper No. 515-20011016)

The annual report of the Chief Electoral Officer for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2001, together with the report on the activities relating to the application of the *Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities* for the period ended 31 December 2000;
(Sessional Paper No. 516-20011016)

The annual report of the Commission de la représentation électorale du Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2001, together with the report on the activities relating to the application of the *Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities* for the period ended 31 December 2000;

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(Sessional Paper No. 517-20011016)

The report of the auditors who examined the statement of expenses and appropriations authorized for the Auditor General of Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2001;

(Sessional Paper No. 518-20011016)

The texts of three bills passed on 19 September 2001 by the members of the Parlement des sages, which was held at the National Assembly on 17 to 19 September.

(Sessional Paper No. 519-20011016)

Mr. President then tabled the following decisions dated 28 June 2001 by the Office of the National Assembly:

— Decision 1036 concerning the regulation amending the regulation respecting allowances to Members;

(Sessional Paper No. 520-20011016)

— Decision 1037 concerning the regulation respecting the reimbursement of a trip taken by the Member for the Electoral Division of Prévost.

(Sessional Paper No. 521-20011016)

Mr. President further tabled:

The new seating plan of the National Assembly, dated 16 October 2001.

(Sessional Paper No. 522-20011016)

Finally, Mr. President informed the Assembly that he had received, within the specified delay, notice of a motion to be placed on the *Order Paper and Notices* for 17 October 2001 in the name of the Member for Laurier-Dorion, which motion is to be debated under Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition on that same day.

He then tabled:

A copy of the text of the said motion.

(Sessional Paper No. 523-20011016)

Presenting Reports from Committees

Mr. President, as chairman of the committee, tabled the following:

The report of the Committee on the National Assembly, which met on 3 October 2001 to examine the preliminary report of the Commission de la représentation électorale du Québec and such draft modifications as it had proposed, pursuant to section 25 of the *Election Act*;

(Sessional Paper No. 524-20011016)

The report of the Committee on the National Assembly, which met on 30 August 2001 to consider, in particular, the parliamentary consequences of the *Act respecting the public administration* as well as certain proposals for parliamentary reform, and whose steering committee met on 27 August 2001 to fill a vacancy on the Committee on Public Finance.

(Sessional Paper No. 525-20011016)

On motion by Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, the report was concurred in.

Mrs. Dionne-Marsolais (Rosemont), as chairman of the committee, tabled the following:

The report of the Committee on Public Finance, which met on 28 August 2001 to elect its chairman;

(Sessional Paper No. 526-20011016)

The report of the Committee on Public Finance, which met on 21 August 2001 to hold public hearings in the context of special consultations on Bill 14, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu and other legislative provisions as regards the protection of confidential information.

(Sessional Paper No. 527-20011016)

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Mr. Rioux (Matane), as chairman of the committee, tabled the following:

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The report of the Committee on Labour and the Economy, which met on 21 and 28 August 2001 to hold public hearings in the context of special consultations on Bill 181, An Act to amend various legislative provisions relating to the building trade and the construction industry.

(Sessional Paper No. 528-20011016)

Mrs. Bélanger (Mégantic-Compton), as chairman of the committee, tabled the following:

The report of the Committee on Education, which met on 5 September 2001 to hear the Commission d'évaluation de l'enseignement collégial under an order of surveillance of a public agency;

(Sessional Paper No. 529-20011016)

The report of the Committee on Education, which met on 6 September 2001 to hear the Office de la protection du consommateur under an order of surveillance of a public agency.

(Sessional Paper No. 530-20011016)

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

The report of the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, which met on 5 and 6 September 2001 to hold public hearings in the context of special consultations on Bill 17, An Act to amend the Highway Safety Code and the Code of Penal Procedure as regards photographic speed-measuring devices.

(Sessional Paper No. 531-20011016)

Presenting Petitions

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

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The abstract of a petition, signed by 224 members of the Mouvement des femmes de la Gaspésie, concerning the government of Québec's answer to the demands by women.

(Sessional Paper No. 532-20011016)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

At 4.49 o'clock p.m., Mr. President suspended the proceedings.

The proceedings resumed at 5.03 o'clock p.m.

By leave of the Assembly and on motion by Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, it was ordered:

THAT Standing Order 20 be set aside so that the proceedings continue past 6.00 o'clock p.m., and the debates upon adjournment shall be held as soon as the Orders of the Day are entered upon.

Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Landry, Premier, Mr. Charest, Leader of the Official Opposition, and Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup) propose:

THAT the National Assembly of Québec express its condolences to the families and friends of all the victims, to the American people, and to their leaders in the wake of the tragic events of 11 September 2001;

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THAT it vigorously denounce the unspeakable acts of terrorism perpetrated on that day, those responsible for them, and those who support them, as well as every form of terrorism;

THAT it declare itself in favour of the adoption of such diplomatic, judicial, economic, and other measures to eliminate terrorism as are consistent with both the Charter of the United Nations Organization and international law;

THAT it manifest its solidarity and sympathy for the civilian population of Afghanistan;

THAT it condemn every and any act of intolerance and, mindful of the values that Quebeckers hold dear, reaffirm its commitment to promote understanding among citizens of all religions and ethnic origins.

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

During the debate Mr. President tabled the following:

Copies of six letters he sent to American political leaders in testimony of his dismay and to express his condolences as a result of the events that occurred in the United States on 11 September last.

(Sessional Paper No. 533-20011016)

And debate continuing;

The debate being concluded, the question was put on the motion; a recorded division was demanded.

At the request of Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, the vote was deferred until the Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day.

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Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, convened the following committees:

- the Committee on Education, to continue its special consultations on Bill 35, An Act to amend the Education Act;
- the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, to continue its general consultation on the reference document entitled *Le régime public d'assurance automobile au Québec* (the public automobile insurance plan in Québec).

Mr. President gave the following notice:

- the Committee on Public Administration will hold a deliberative meeting to prepare its hearing of the secretary general of the Conseil exécutif and the secretary of the secretariat of the Conseil du trésor concerning ethics in the administration of the Québec government.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. President informed the Assembly that on Wednesday, 17 October 2001, during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, a debate will be held on a motion by Mr. Sirros (Laurier-Dorion). This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly demand that the Parti Québécois government act immediately to counteract poverty, in particular by indexing last-resort assistance benefits to the cost of living annually, by recognizing the base-level benefit of a last-resort assistance program as a minimum support level, and by re-establishing no-cost medication for all recipients of social welfare as well as for senior citizens receiving the income supplement.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

Debates Upon Adjournment

The Assembly held three debates upon adjournment:

- the first, on a question by Mr. Fournier (Châteauguay) to Mr. Trudel, Minister of Health and Social Services, about the financing of the health-care system;
- the second, on a question by Mr. Bécharde (Kamouraska-Témiscouata) to Mr. Brassard, Minister of Natural Resources, about the Hydro-Québec power station in Melocheville;
- the third, on a question by Mr. MacMillan (Papineau) to Mr. G. Baril, Minister responsible for Recreation and Sport, about the roof of the Olympic Stadium.

At 7.31 o'clock p.m., Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 17 October 2001, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU

President