



Votes and Proceedings
Tuesday, 27 March 2001 - No. 2

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 10.06 o'clock a.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Having Precedence

Opening Speech Debate of the Session

Mr. Charest, Leader of the Official Opposition, commenced the debate on the Opening Speech of the Session delivered by Mr. Landry, Premier, at the sitting of Monday, 22 March 2001.

At the end of his speech, Mr. Charest moved the following want of confidence motion:

THAT the National Assembly of Québec condemn the Government of the Parti Québécois, and more particularly the Premier, who is insufficiently attentive to Québec's population and who clearly lacks respect for them by choosing to devote time, energy and public funds to promoting his sovereignist option and by concerning himself with satisfying partisan interests rather than the higher interests of Québec.

Following a meeting with the House leaders, Mr. President announced the allocation of speaking time for the proceedings with respect to the Opening Speech Debate: sixty minutes shall be allotted for a reply by the Government delegate and twenty minutes shall be set aside for the independent Member the two parliamentary groups shall share equally the rest of the time allotted for this debate. Within this framework, any time not used by a parliamentary group shall be added to that of the other group while any time not used by the independent Member may be redistributed amongst the parliamentary groups, and individual addresses shall not otherwise be limited.

And debate continuing on the Opening Speech Debate;

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Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, gave the following notice:

- the Committee on the National Assembly shall meet in order to select the members of the standing committees.

At 12.00 o'clock p.m., Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 2.06 o'clock p.m.

Moment of reflection

Mr. President tabled the following:

Copy of a letter he had received from Mr. Lucien Bouchard, dated 8 March 2001, announcing his resignation as Premier of Québec and as Member for Jonquière.
(Sessional Paper No. 1-20010327)

Copy of a letter he had received from Mr. Jacques Léonard, dated 8 March 2001, announcing his resignation as Member for Labelle.
(Sessional Paper No. 2-20010327)

Copy of a letter he had received from Mr. Jean-Pierre Jolivet, dated 7 March 2001, announcing his resignation as Member for Laviolette.
(Sessional Paper No. 3-20010327)

Copy of a letter he had received from Mr. Bernard Landry, Premier, dated 12 March 2001, announcing the appointment of Mr. Michel Morin, Member for Nicolet-Yamaska, as Chief Government Whip.
(Sessional Paper No. 4-20010327)

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ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Introduction of Bills

Mr. Chevrette, Minister responsible for Electoral Reform, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

- 1 An Act to amend the Election Act and other legislative provisions.

The motion was carried on division.

Mr. President communicated to the Assembly and then laid upon the Table the report from the Law Clerk on the following Private Bill:

- 203 An Act respecting Ville de Sept-Îles X This Bill may be introduced in the Assembly and it may receive final passage before the twenty-third day of June 2001.

(Sessional Paper No. 5-20010327)

Mr. Duguay (Duplessis) then moved that leave be granted to introduce Private Bill 203, An Act respecting Ville de Sept-Îles.

This motion was carried.

On motion by Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, Private Bill 203 was referred for consultations and clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, of which the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Greater Montréal shall be a member during its deliberations in respect of the said Bill.

Presenting Papers

Mr. Brassard, Minister of Natural Resources, tabled the following:

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The annual report of Hydro-Québec for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2000.
(Sessional Paper No. 6-20010327)

The annual report of the Ministère des Ressources naturelles for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2000.
(Sessional Paper No. 7-20010327)

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

The 1999-2000 annual report with regard to the complaints examination procedure of the Québec Regional Health and Social Services Board, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2000.
(Sessional Paper No. 8-20010327)

The 1999-2000 report on the implementation of the complaints examination procedure of the Mauricie et Centre-du-Québec Regional Health and Social Services Board, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2000.
(Sessional Paper No. 9-20010327)

The 1999-2000 report on complaints from users of the Montréal-Centre Regional Health and Social Services Board.
(Sessional Paper No. 10-20010327)

Copy of an agreement, dated 30 November 2000, between the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux and the Régie de l'assurance-maladie du Québec, along with a notice, dated October 2000, by the Commission d'accès à l'information on the draft agreement, concerning the exchange of personal information.
(Sessional Paper No. 11-20010327)

Mrs. Goupil, Minister of State for Child and Family Welfare, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Conseil des aînés for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2000.
(Sessional Paper No. 12-20010327)

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

The annual report of the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2000.

(Sessional Paper No. 13-20010327)

Copy of an agreement, dated 26 January 2001, between the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation and the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec, along with a notice by the Commission d'accès à l'information, dated December 2000, concerning the exchange of personal information.

(Sessional Paper No. 14-20010327)

Mr. President tabled the following:

The Message from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in honour of Commonwealth Day, entitled "A New Generation".

(Sessional Paper No. 15-20010327)

He then tabled the following, pursuant to section 91 of the *Act respecting the National Assembly*:

The list of the Members designated as members and substitute members of the Office of the National Assembly:

By the Parti Québécois:

- Mr. Michel Morin (Nicolet-Yamaska), Mrs. Céline Signori (Blainville), Mr. Jacques Côté (Dubuc), Mr. Rémy Désilets (Maskinongé) and Mr. Roger Paquin (Saint-Jean) as members; Mr. Marc Boulianne (Frontenac), Mr. Normand Duguay (Duplessis) and Mr. Gilles Labbé (Masson) as substitute members.

By the Québec Liberal Party:

- Mr. Russell Copeman (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce), Mr. Jacques Dupuis (Saint-Laurent) and Mr. François Ouimet (Marquette) as members; Mr. Jean-Marc Fournier (Châteauguay), Mr. Norman MacMillan (Papineau) and Mr. Lawrence S. Bergman (D'Arcy-McGee) as substitute members.

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By Action Démocratique du Québec:

- Mr. Mario Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup).

(Sessional Paper No. 16-20010327)

The list was adopted.

He then tabled the following Decisions from the Office of the National Assembly, dated 15 February 2001:

- X Decision 1018 concerning the regulation to amend various regulatory provisions (Règlement modifiant diverses dispositions réglementaires).

(Sessional Paper No. 17-20010327)

- X Decision 1019 concerning the regulation relating to the granting of a special allowance to the Member for Gatineau (Règlement relatif à l'octroi d'une allocation spéciale au député de Gatineau).

(Sessional Paper No. 18-20001018)

Finally, he tabled:

The list of papers required by law to be tabled in the Assembly.

(Sessional Paper No. 19-20010327)

The new seating plan of the National Assembly, dated 27 March 2001.

(Sessional Paper No. 20-20010327)

Presenting Reports from Committees

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 47, Mr. President tabled:

The report from the Committee on the National Assembly, which, on 20 December 2000, examined and concurred in the election regulations drafted by the Chief Electoral Officer, pursuant to section 550 of the *Election Act*.

(Sessional Paper No. 21-20010327)

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The report from the Committee on Culture, which, on 13, 14, 15 and 28 February, and on 1 March 2001, held public hearings within the framework of a general consultation on the effects of property movement in the media and telecommunications industry on quality, diversity, flow of information and Québec culture.

(Sessional Paper No. 22-20010327)

He then tabled the following:

The report from the Committee on the National Assembly, which met on 27 March 2001 to select the members of the Standing Committees and to update the list of temporary chairmen.

(Sessional Paper No. 23-20010327)

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

Presenting Petitions

Mr. Gauthrin (Verdun) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the *Act respecting hours and days of admission to commercial establishments* and signed by 2104 customers of the Louise Ménard food markets of Saint-Lambert, Candiac and Île-des-Soeurs.

(Sessional Paper No. 24-20010327)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 63 and 64, Mr. Gobé (LaFontaine) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the action plan for the application of Bill 76 on the \$2 tax per night of lodging, and signed by 125 members of the Mouvement touristique de la Petite-Nation.

(Sessional Paper No. 25-20010327)

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 64, Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the modified loans and bursaries system and signed by 264 students from the Outaouais region.

(Sessional Paper No. 26-20010327)

Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations

Mr. President informed the Assembly that he had received, within the prescribed time, a notice from the Member for Shefford indicating his intention to rise on a matter concerning a breach of privilege or contempt allegedly committed by the Minister of Transport. The latter issued a press release announcing a decree adopted by the Cabinet whose effect was to suspend the obligation for holders of taxi permits to pay an annual fee to the taxi owners' association of their region. The Member for Shefford also indicated his intention to move a motion in order that measures be taken, pursuant to Standing Orders 70, 315 et seq.

Mr. President took this matter under advisement.

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Motions Without Notice

Mr. Facal, Minister for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, moved a motion concerning the Commission on the Political and Constitutional Future of Québec; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mrs. Delisle (Jean-Talon) moved:

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THAT the National Assembly mark the Semaine de la Francophonie 2001 (French-speaking peoples week), which was held in Québec last 11 to 25 March, as well as the Journée internationale de la Francophonie (International day of French-speaking peoples), celebrated each year on 20 March.

THAT it recall that this great concerted effort surrounding the French language and culture is the opportunity for it to show its devotion to the institutions of the Francophonie, its relations with the French-speaking communities of Canada, and express its solidarity toward peoples who, throughout the world, share the French language.

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

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Mrs. Beaudoin, Minister of International Relations, moved a motion concerning the Summit of the Americas; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mr. Gauthrin (Verdun) moved:

THAT the National Assembly congratulate the winners of the "Innovation technologique québécoise du XXe siècle" contest organized by the Ordre des technologues du Québec, namely:

- Hydro-Québec for the 735 kV power line;
- the Canadian Space Agency and its Québec partners for the "Canadarm".

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

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The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Mr. Facal, Minister for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, moved:

THAT the National Assembly of Québec mark
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

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

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Mrs. Beauchamp (Sauvé) moved:

THAT the National Assembly of Québec mark World
Theater Day.

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

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Mr. Béchard (Kamouraska-Témiscouata) moved:

THAT the National Assembly congratulate Mrs. Jamie
Sale, from Red Deer, Alberta, and Mr. David Pelletier, from
Sayabec, in the Matapedia Valley, for their spectacular
performance at the World Figure Skating Championships held in
Vancouver, last Wednesday, 21 March, a performance which
enabled them to take home the gold medal in couples skating.

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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Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, notified the Assembly that the following standing committees shall meet for the purpose of electing their chairmen and vice-chairmen:

- the Committee on Public Finance;
- the Committee on Social Affairs;
- the Committee on Labour and the Economy;
- the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food;
- the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain;
- the Committee on Education;
- the Committee on Culture;
- the Committee on Transportation and the Environment;
- the Committee on Public Administration;
- the Committee on Institutions.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Having Precedence

Opening Speech Debate of the Session

27 March 2001

The Assembly resumed the debate on the Opening Speech of the Session delivered by Mr. Landry, Premier, at the sitting of Monday, 22 March 2001, and on the want of confidence motion by Mr. Charest, Leader of the Official Opposition.

At the end of her speech, Mrs. Normandeau (Bonaventure) moved the following want of confidence motion:

THAT the National Assembly condemn the Government of the Parti Québécois for having abandoned the regions of Québec, for its indifference with regard to the numerous requests for help made by citizens from all regions of Québec, for its lack of foresight regarding regional development, and for its inability to respect its own commitments to provide Québec with a true rurality policy.

And debate continuing on the Opening Speech debate and on the want of confidence motions;

Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, interrupted the debate and requested the Assembly's permission to allow Mr. Charest, Leader of the Official Opposition, to replace the text of the want of confidence motion he moved this morning by a new text. By leave of the Assembly, the want of confidence motion by Mr. Charest, Leader of the Official Opposition, now reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly of Québec condemn the Government of the Parti Québécois, and more particularly the Premier, who is insufficiently attentive to Québec's population, who clearly lacks respect for them, who devotes time, energy and public funds to promoting his sovereignist option, and who concerns himself with satisfying partisan interests rather than the higher interests of Québec.

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And debate continuing on the Opening Speech debate and on the want of confidence motions;

At the end of his speech, Mr. Sirros (Laurier-Dorion) moved the following want of confidence motion:

THAT this Assembly condemn the Government for having, during the past seven years, forced welfare recipients to choose between their basic food, clothing and housing needs and the purchase of medication, while having to reduce their buying power by the equivalent of more than one monthly cheque per year.

And debate continuing on the Opening Speech debate and on the want of confidence motions;

Debates Upon Adjournment

The Assembly held a debate upon adjournment between Mr. Fournier (Châteauguay) and Mr. Trudel, Minister of Health and Social Services, concerning the lack of action, foresight and solutions on the part of the Parti Québécois Government with regard to health services in Québec.

Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, then took under advisement a point of order made by Mr. Paradis, Official Opposition House Leader, who asked whether a Secretary of State and parliamentary assistant may replace a Minister during a debate upon adjournment.

Then, leave was granted by the Assembly to defer to a later date a debate upon adjournment between Mrs. Normandeau (Bonaventure) and Mr. G. Baril, Minister of Regions, concerning the Government's laxity with regard to regional development and job creation in the regions.

Finally, the Assembly held a second debate upon adjournment between Mr. Béchard (Kamouraska-Témiscouata) and Mr. Brassard, Minister of Natural Resources, about the end of the timber agreement with the United States and its consequences on the unmanufactured timber industry.

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At 6.33 o'clock p.m., Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 28 March 2001, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU

President