



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Tuesday, 31 October 2017 — No. 286

**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

Mr. Merlini (La Prairie) made a statement to underline the 70th anniversary of the company Centre du pneu radial La Prairie.

Mrs. Hivon (Joliette) made a statement to underline the 30th anniversary of La Joujouthèque Farfouille.

Mr. Martel (Nicolet-Bécancour) made a statement to pay tribute to Mrs. Clairette Biron and Mr. Yvon Beaulieu, entrepreneurs, for their contribution to the community of Nicolet-Bécancour.

Mr. H. Plante (Maskinongé) made a statement to underline the 35th anniversary of Transport adapté du comté de Maskinongé.

Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Samuel Côté, shipwreck hunter and author.

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Mr. Giguère (Saint-Maurice) made a statement to congratulate Mr. Pierre Lampron on being appointed President of the Dairy Farmers of Canada.

Mr. D'Amour (Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata) made a statement to underline the 100th anniversary of the company Cinéma Princesse.

Mr. Fournier (Saint-Laurent) made a statement to underline the fifth National Francophone Immigration Week.

Mr. Villeneuve (Berthier) made a statement to welcome TransCanada's decision to abandon its Energy East pipeline project.

Mr. Iracà (Papineau) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Jacques Brodeur for his contribution to the community of Gatineau.

At 1.51 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.

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Moment of reflection

The President tabled the following:

A letter, dated 26 October 2017, he had received from Mrs. Filomena Rotiroti, Member for Jeanne-Mance–Viger and Chair of the Government Caucus, informing him that Mr. Guy Ouellette, Member for Chomedey, was no longer a member of the Government Caucus.

(Sessional Paper No. 3753-20171031)

Introduction of Bills

Mr. Leitão, Minister of Finance, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following bill:

150 An Act respecting mainly the implementation of certain provisions of the Budget Speeches of 17 March 2016 and 28 March 2017

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 150 was introduced in the Assembly.

Mrs. Tremblay, Minister for Transport, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following bill:

147 An Act concerning the prohibition against bringing certain actions related to the operation of off-highway vehicles on trails forming part of the interregional network

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 147 was introduced in the Assembly.

Presenting Papers

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

The Government's reply to a petition tabled on 8 June 2017 by Mrs. Roy (Montarville) on welcoming and sponsoring refugees;
(Sessional Paper No. 3754-20171031)

The Government's reply to a petition tabled on 9 June 2017 by Mrs. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) on assessment of the metropolitan electric network (REM) project and its impacts;
(Sessional Paper No. 3755-20171031)

The Government's reply to petitions tabled on 15 June 2017 by Mr. Morin (Côte-du-Sud) and Mr. Fortin (Pontiac) on increasing the minimum local content threshold for transportation infrastructure projects and reviewing the AMT's decision regarding the purchase of commuter train cars;
(Sessional Paper No. 3756-20171031)

The Government's reply to a petition tabled on 16 June 2017 by Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) on freezing Bombardier executives' salaries and benefits;
(Sessional Paper No. 3757-20171031)

The Government's reply to a petition tabled on 26 September 2017 by Mr. Therrien (Sanguinet) on the services offered on the Candiac Line of the Réseau de transport métropolitain;
(Sessional Paper No. 3758-20171031)

The Government's reply to a petition tabled on 4 October 2017 by Mrs. Poirier (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) on support for workers affected by cuts in the cultural sector;
(Sessional Paper No. 3759-20171031)

The Government's reply to a petition tabled on 4 October 2017 by Mr. Roberge (Chambly) on suspending implementation of a supervised injection centre on the organization Spectre de rue's premises and on introducing clear guidelines regarding the establishment of such centres;
(Sessional Paper No. 3760-20171031)

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The reply to a written question from Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) on offering financial compensation to Bas-Saint-Laurent farm producers – Question No. 258, *Order Paper and Notices* of 4 October 2017;

(Sessional Paper No. 3761-20171031)

The reply to a written question from Mrs. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) on implementing the Objectif Emploi program – Question No. 263, *Order Paper and Notices* of 5 October 2017.

(Sessional Paper No. 3762-20171031)

The President tabled the following:

The new seating plan of the National Assembly, dated 31 October 2017.

(Sessional Paper No. 3763-20171031)

The President then made the following statement concerning the events of 25 October 2017:

STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR

Under the circumstances, I feel an obligation to share my viewpoint on this matter.

In a free, democratic State, it is difficult to tolerate seeing a citizen arrested without charges being laid promptly.

An arrest is not a whim or a game. Its effect quickly takes on a public dimension and casts doubt on an individual's integrity.

Several years ago now, you chose me as your President, and you have unanimously expressed your confidence in me on two subsequent occasions.

Part of my role is to protect the rights and privileges of the Members of this Parliament. I am the guardian and defender of each Member's rights.

I, therefore, affirm that I find it intolerable that the police arrested a parliamentarian and, one week later, have brought no charges against him.

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To do their work, parliamentarians need their freedom, with no restrictions. Regardless of the subjects of concern to them, including police work, they must be able to perform their duties serenely and with unmitigated peace of mind.

Police forces and their units must be accountable to their political authorities and to Parliament. If not, the risk of totalitarian abuses escalates.

I will fight for any one of you who might fall victim to intimidation. I see States where such things exist, but not here in Québec. At least, I hope I am not mistaken.

Today, a Member lost an important office, and his reputation was sullied. I think we must demand that the situation be clarified immediately.

Let charges be brought or public apologies be proffered: either accuse or excuse. If not, this Assembly will have to take steps to defend the very foundations of its existence, that is, liberty, justice and democracy.

The President tabled the following:

A copy of the notice of motion moved by Mr. Bérubé, Official Opposition House Leader, to be placed on the *Order Paper and Notices* of Wednesday, 1 November 2017 under Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition.

(Sessional Paper No. 3764-20171031)

Presenting Reports from Committees

Mrs. de Santis (Bourassa-Sauvé), Committee Chair, tabled the following:

The report from the Committee on Culture and Education, which met on 3, 4, 5, 17, 18, 19, 24 and 25 October 2017 for clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 144, An Act to amend the Education Act and other legislative provisions concerning mainly free educational services and compulsory school attendance. The report contains amendments to the bill.

(Sessional Paper No. 3765-20171031)

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Mr. Picard (Chutes-de-la-Chaudière), Committee Chair, tabled the following:

The report from the Committee on Citizen Relations, which held public hearings on 24, 25 and 26 October 2017 within the framework of special consultations on Bill 143, An Act to improve the educational quality and foster the harmonious development of educational childcare services.

(Sessional Paper No. 3766-20171031)

Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations

The President informed the Assembly that he had, within the prescribed time, received a request from Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey), to give personal explanations with regard to the events of 25 October 2017 concerning him and which he deems tarnish his reputation.

The President ruled that this request was in order and, accordingly, gave the floor to Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey).

Mr. Bérubé, Official Opposition House Leader, requested rulings on parliamentarians' rights and privileges where police work is concerned.

Mr. Bonnardel, Second Opposition Group House Leader, requested a ruling on forwarding redacted documents to parliamentarians.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 53 and 59, Mr. Bonnardel, Second Opposition Group House Leader, tabled the following:

A copy of a preliminary report on improving the UPAC's audit service entitled "Rapport préliminaire sur la démarche d'amélioration au Service de la vérification de l'Unité permanente anticorruption".

(Sessional Paper No. 3767-20171031)

The President took the matters under advisement.

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Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Motions Without Notice

Mr. Bérubé, Official Opposition House Leader, together with Mr. Spénard (Beauce-Nord), Mr. Khadir (Mercier), Mr. Lelièvre (Gaspé) and Mrs. Ouellet (Vachon), moved a motion to hold a parliamentary committee on the events that occurred on 25 October 2017; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mr. Spénard (Beauce-Nord), together with Mr. Bérubé, Official Opposition House Leader, Mr. Khadir (Mercier), Mr. Lelièvre (Gaspé), Mr. Surprenant (Groulx) and Mrs. Ouellet (Vachon), moved a motion on appointing the Commissioner of the Unité permanente anticorruption; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mrs. Ouellet (Vachon), together with Mr. Bergeron (Verchères), Mrs. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) and Mr. Lelièvre (Gaspé), moved a motion on the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie and its President's call to support Catalan parliamentary institutions; 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 committee:

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- the Committee on Citizen Relations, to undertake clause-by-clause consideration of 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.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. Ouimet, First Vice-President, informed the Assembly that on Wednesday, 1 November 2017 during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, a debate would be held on the motion moved by Mr. Bérubé, Official Opposition House Leader.

This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly ask that appointment of the Anti-Corruption Commissioner henceforth require the approval of two-thirds of the Members.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

At 3.35 o'clock p.m., at the request of Mr. Tanguay, Deputy Government House Leader, Mr. Ouimet, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until the expiry of the time limit for receiving notices for debates upon adjournment.

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The proceedings resumed at 3.45 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Tanguay, Deputy Government House Leader, moved the adjournment of the Assembly until Wednesday, 1 November 2017 at 9.40 o'clock a.m.

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, at 3.46 o'clock p.m., Mr. Ouimet, First Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 1 November 2017 at 9.40 o'clock a.m.

JACQUES CHAGNON

President