NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

***Votes and Proceedings***
***Wednesday, 3 May 2000 - No. 102***

***Two o'clock***
**President : Mr. Jean-Pierre Charbonneau**

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*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 2.06 o'clock p.m.

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Moment of reflection

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### Introduction of Bills

Mr. Perreault, Minister of Relations with the Citizens and Immigration, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

113 An Act to establish a national identification card.

The motion was carried.

### Presenting Papers

Mrs. Harel, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Greater Montréal, tabled the following:

The annual report of the Agence métropolitaine de transport (AMT) for the fiscal year ended 31 December 1999.

(Sessional Paper No. 1080-20000503)

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Mrs. Goupil, Minister of Justice, Attorney General, Minister responsible for the Status of Women and for the administration of legislation respecting the professions, tabled the following:

The report from the follow-up committee on the Québec model for determining child support, as well as appendices (in two volumes).

(Sessional Paper No. 1081-20000503)

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Mrs. Marois, Minister of State for Health and Social Services, tabled the following:

> The report from the ministerial advisory working group on the incentive measures intended for the recruitment and reintegration of physicians in remote and isolated regions.
>
> (Sessional Paper No. 1082-20000503)

**Presenting Petitions**

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 62 to 64, Mr. Charest (Sherbrooke), Leader of the Official Opposition, tabled the following:

> The abstract of a petition requesting that the memory of Mr. Joseph-Armand Bombardier be honoured by giving his name to a highway in the Eastern Townships, and signed by 6902 citizens from that region.
>
> (Sessional Paper No. 1083-20000503)

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 64, Mrs. Bélanger (Mégantic-Compton) tabled the following:

> The abstract of a petition respecting the provincial gasoline taxes and signed by 497 citizens from the Lac Mégantic region.
>
> (Sessional Paper No. 1084-20000503)

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 62 and 63, Mr. Chagnon (Westmount–Saint-Louis) tabled the following:

> The abstract of a petition respecting the changes made in the loans and bursaries program in 1996, and signed by 1103 students registered in a university program of more than 90 credits.
>
> (Sessional Paper No. 1085-20000503)

## Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations

Mr. President rendered the following decision regarding the point of privilege raised yesterday by Mr. Cholette (Hull), involving the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Greater Montréal, in relation to the announcement of the passage of six bills in a document entitled "La Réorganisation municipale", which was released last 25 April.

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

The facts adduced by the Member for Hull do not allow us to conclude at first glance that contempt of Parliament occurred. The white paper published by the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Greater Montréal constitutes solely the position of the Government on municipal reorganization. By informing the population, in this white paper, on the bills that the Government intends to introduce with respect to municipal reorganization and by providing for a schedule with respect to the passage and coming into force of these bills, the Minister did not act as though the bills incidental to the municipal reorganization had force of law. In order to conclude at first glance that contempt of Parliament took place, there would have to be proof clearly indicating that the Minister acted as though the bills had force of law, and this, by knowingly availing herself of provisions contained in these bills.

However, the Chair wishes to remind the Government that advertisements and dissemination of information towards the public, made by a Ministry or a public agency and involving measures prescribed by legislative provisions that have yet to be passed, should mention the role of the Assembly and of its Members in the legislative process with respect to the passage of the said measure. In this case, even if the document on municipal reorganization states that bills shall be introduced in the Assembly, it could have contained more detailed information as to the roles that the Assembly and its Members shall play in the process leading to the passage of these bills.

## Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

## Motions Without Notice

Mr. Pelletier (Chapleau) moved a motion concerning the right of Quebeckers to decide freely on their future; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 59, Mr. Pelletier (Chapleau) tabled the following:

> The text of his motion entitled "La déclaration solennelle portant sur le droit des Québécois et des Québécoises de décider de leur avenir" (The solemn declaration respecting the right of Quebeckers to decide on their future), accompanied by a letter sent by Mr. Charest, Leader of the Official Opposition, to all of the Members of the National Assembly.
>
> (Sessional Paper No. 1086-20000503)

**Notices of Proceedings in Committees**

Mr. Boulerice, Deputy Government House Leader, convened the following Committees for the consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure:

X the Committee on Social Affairs, for those granted to the Status of Women, to Social Solidarity, and for those of the Ministère de la Famille et de l=Enfance;

X the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, for those granted to Greater Montréal, to Regions, and to the Development of the National Capital;

X the Committee on Institutions, for those granted to the Executive Council;

X the Committee on Labour and the Economy, for those granted to Tourism and for those of the Ministère de l'Industrie et du Commerce;

X the Committee on Culture, for those granted to the Conseil des aînés and the Secrétariat aux aînés, and to the Charter of the French Language.

At 3.29 o'clock p.m., in compliance with Standing Order 282, Mr. President adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 4 May 2000, at 2.00 o'clock p.m.

**JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU**

*President*