



*Votes and Proceedings*  
*Tuesday, 16 November 1999 - No. 63*

*Ten 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 10.05 o'clock a.m.

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## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### Government Motions

Mr. Facal, Minister for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, on behalf of Mr. Landry, Minister of State for the Economy and Finance, moved:

THAT the National Assembly demand that the Federal Government adjust the tax disparity between the provinces and the Federal Government, by reducing its tax level, by re-establishing, within the framework of the Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST), the financial transfers to the provinces at the level at which they were prior to the 1994-1995 cutbacks, and by proposing a new tax apportionment, particularly by means of a transfer of tax points, which will respect the responsibilities held by the provinces under the Canadian Constitution.

And debate arising on the motion by Mr. Landry;

At the end of his speech, Mr. Charest, Leader of the Official Opposition, moved:

THAT the motion under discussion be amended:

- 1° by replacing the two first lines of the motion as well as the words "Federal Government, by reducing its tax level," in the third line by the words "THAT the National Assembly demand that the Federal Government and the Provincial Government adjust the tax disparity between them, by reducing their tax levels now";
- 2° by adding to the eighth line, after the word "provinces", the words "and the Federal".

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The motion, as amended, reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly demand the Federal Government and the Provincial Government adjust the tax disparity between them, by reducing their tax levels now, by re-establishing, within the framework of the Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST), the financial transfers to the provinces at the level at which they were prior to the 1994-1995 cutbacks, and by proposing a new tax apportionment, particularly by means of a transfer of tax points, which will respect the responsibilities held by the provinces and the Federal under the Canadian Constitution.

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At 11.36 o'clock a.m., Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, took the matter of the receivability of the amendment under advisement and suspended the proceedings.

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At 11.55 o'clock a.m., Mr. Brouillet rendered the following decision:

**RULING FROM THE CHAIR**

The amendment by Mr. Charest, Leader of the Official Opposition, is in order.

On motion by Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, the debate was adjourned.

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At 11.59 o'clock a.m., Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 2.00 o'clock p.m.

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The proceedings resumed at 2.01 o'clock p.m.

Moment of reflection

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### Introduction of Bills

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

- 221 An Act to amend the charter of the City of Laval X This Bill may be introduced in the Assembly and it may receive final passage before the twenty-first day of December 1999, except as Standing Order 22 may otherwise provide.

(Sessional Paper No. 710-19991116)

Mrs. Leduc (Mille-Îles) then moved that leave be granted to introduce Private Bill 221, An Act to amend the charter of the City of Laval.

This motion was carried.

On motion by Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, Private Bill 221 was referred for consultations and clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, of which the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Greater Montréal shall be a member during its deliberations in respect of the said Bill.

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

- 223 An Act to authorize National Bank Financial Corp. to continue under Part IA of the Companies Act of Québec X This Bill may be introduced in the Assembly and it may receive final passage before the twenty-first day of December 1999, except as Standing Order 22 may otherwise provide.

(Sessional Paper No. 711-19991116)

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Mr. Beaulne (Marguerite-D'Youville) then moved that leave be granted to introduce Private Bill 223, An Act to authorize National Bank Financial Corp. to continue under Part IA of the Companies Act of Québec.

This motion was carried.

On motion by Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, Private Bill 223 was referred for consultations and clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Public Finance, of which the Minister of State for the Economy and Finance shall be a member during its deliberations in respect of the said Bill.

### **Presenting Papers**

Mr. Landry, Minister of State for the Economy and Finance, tabled the following:

The action plan of the Inspector General of Financial Institutions with regard to Alternative insurance company.

(Sessional Paper No. 712-19991116)

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

Copy of an addenda to the 1998-1999 annual report of the Abitibi-Témiscamingue Regional Health and Social Services Board. (See *Votes and Proceedings* of 19 October 1999, Sessional Paper No. 534).

(Sessional Paper No. 713-19991116)

The annual report, for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1999, of the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean Regional Health and Social Services Board.

(Sessional Paper No. 714-19991116)

Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT, pursuant to section 392 of the *Act respecting health services and social services*, the 1998-99 annual report of the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean Regional Health and Social Services Board be referred to the Committee on Social Affairs for consideration;

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The Minister of Health and Social Services shall be a member of the said Committee during its proceedings with respect to this order of reference.

This motion was carried.

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

The annual report of the Ministère des Transports for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1999.

(Sessional Paper No. 715-19991116)

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

The annual report of the Ministère des Ressources naturelles for the fiscal year ended 31 March 1999.

(Sessional Paper No. 716-19991116)

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Mr. Boulerice (Sainte-Marie—Saint-Jacques) tabled the following:

The mission report on the meeting of the Commission politique et de l'administration générale of the l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF), which was held in Cairo, Egypt, from 23 to 25 February 1999.

(Sessional Paper No. 717-19991116)

The mission report on the meeting of the XVI<sup>th</sup> session of the Assemblée régionale Amérique of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF), which was held in Ottawa, Canada, from 8 to 10 July 1999.

(Sessional Paper No. 718-19991116)

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Pursuant to Standing Order 97.1, Mr. President tabled the following:

Copy of the notice of a motion by Mrs. Lamquin-Éthier (Bourassa) to be placed on the Order Paper and Notices of Wednesday, 17 November 1999, under Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition.

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(Sessional Paper No. 719-19991116)

### **Oral Questions and Answers**

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

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

A copy of a weekly waiting list regarding youth protection, indicating the state of the situation in the various youth centres as at 29 October 1999.

(Sessional Paper No. 720-19991116)

### **Notices of Proceedings in Committees**

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, convened the following Committees:

- the Committee on Public Finance, to continue its public hearings within the framework of a general consultation on the reduction of personal income tax;
- the Committee on Education, to continue its public hearings within the framework of a general consultation on the place of religion in schools.

### **Motions Without Notice**

Mr. Chevrette, Minister responsible for Electoral Reform, moved:

THAT the National Assembly congratulate the Chief Electoral Officer for having been awarded the Prix d'excellence de l'administration publique in the public service category, which was awarded yesterday by the École nationale d'administration publique for the realization of the permanent electoral list.

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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Mr. G. Baril, Minister for Health, Social Services and Youth Protection, moved:

THAT the Québec National Assembly mark National Addiction Prevention Week, which is being held this year from 14 to 20 November 1999.

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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Mr. Bégin, Minister of the Environment, moved:

THAT the Québec National Assembly acknowledge the work, the effort and the determination of the young people, who, thanks to their exceptional talent, were awarded honours at the Dunsmore Cup, which was held last weekend at Laval University;

THAT the National Assembly congratulate each of the participants of the Rouge et Or of Laval University.

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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Mr. Boisclair, Deputy Government House Leader, moved:

THAT, pursuant to section 530.80 of the *Act respecting health services and social services*, the 1998-99 annual activities report of the James Bay Regional Health and Social Services Centre be referred to the Committee on Social Affairs for consideration;

The Minister of Health and Social Services shall be a member of the said Committee during its proceedings with respect to this order of reference.

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This motion was carried.

Mr. Boisclair, Deputy Government House Leader, moved:

THAT, pursuant to section 9 of the *Act to amend the Labour Code*, chapter 30 of the 1996 Revised Statutes of Québec, the report on the application of Division II of Chapter IV of the Labour Code be referred to the Committee on Labour and the Economy for consideration;

The Minister of State for Labour and Employment shall be a member of the said Committee during its proceedings with respect to this order of reference.

This motion was carried.

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Mrs. Lamquin-Éthier (Bourassa) moved:

THAT the National Assembly congratulate the elected officials sitting on the boards of directors of public health and social services establishments.

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

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

### **Notices of Proceedings in Committees**

Mr. Boisclair, Deputy Government House Leader, convened the following Committee for 23 November 1999:

- the Committee on Public Finance shall hear the interested parties and give clause-by-clause consideration to Private Bill 222, An Act respecting Industrial-Alliance, Life Insurance Company, and to Private Bill 206, An Act to again amend the charter of Les Filles de Jésus (Trois-Rivières).

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Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, gave the following notices:

- the Committee on Public Administration shall continue its hearings with the Deputy Minister of Social Solidarity on the management of the Fonds de lutte contre la pauvreté;
- the Committee on Culture shall hold a deliberative meeting for the purpose of discussing its order of initiative on globalization and cultural diversity;

And, by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 143:

- the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food shall hear the representatives of the Société de financement agricole and the Régie des assurances agricoles du Québec within the framework of an order of surveillance of these agencies.

#### **Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly**

Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, informed the Assembly that on Wednesday, 17 November 1999, during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, a debate will be held on the motion by Mrs. Lamquin-Éthier (Bourassa). This motion reads as follows:

THAT the Québec National Assembly make the Minister of Health and Social Services responsible for the deterioration of accessibility and quality of health care in Québec.

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#### **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

##### **Government Bills**

*Passage in Principle*

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Mrs. Lemieux, Minister of Labour, moved, —That Bill 67, An Act to amend the Act respecting labour standards as regards differences in treatment, do now pass in principle.

And debate arising;

On the motion by Mr. Boisclair, Deputy Government House Leader, the debate was adjourned.

### **Debates Upon Adjournment**

The Assembly held three debates upon adjournment:

- the first, on a question by Mr. Williams (Nelligan) to Mr. G. Baril, Minister for Health, Social Services and Youth Protection, about the waiting lists for young people with problems;
- the second, on a question by Mrs. Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) to Mrs. Harel, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Greater Montréal, about the compensation programme for victims of pyrite;
- the third, on a question by Mrs. Bélanger (Mégantic-Compton) to Mr. Perreault, Minister of Relations with the Citizens and Immigration, on behalf of Mr. Bouchard, Prime Minister, about the Duplessis orphans.

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At 6.35 o'clock p.m., Mr. Bissonnet, Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 17 November 1999, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.

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**JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU**

*President*