



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

Order Paper and Notices

of the Assembly

Friday, 7 December 2018 — No. 8

Nine forty a.m.

President of the National Assembly:
Mr. François Paradis

Part 1

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

- The Member for Masson on the following subject: *A Guignolée marked by generosity.*
- The Member for Fabre on the following subject: *Underline the 100th anniversary of Romania's national holiday.*
- The Member for Laviolette–Saint-Maurice on the following subject: *Tribute to Yvon Leclerc.*
- The Member for LaFontaine on the following subject: *The excellence of Club de soccer de Rivière-des-Prairies.*
- The Member for Louis-Hébert on the following subject: *Michel Juneau, a man of many talents.*
- The Member for Gaspé on the following subject: *Tribute to Festival de musique du bout du monde de Gaspé.*
- The Member for Soulanges on the following subject: *Underline an initiative of Centre de femmes La Moisson.*
- The Member for Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue on the following subject: *Christine Girard, Olympic weightlifter, receives two medals six and ten years later.*
- The Member for Chambly on the following subject: *The gift of reading.*
- The Member for Verdun on the following subject: *Tribute to Grands Verdunois 2018.*

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

PRESENTING (a) **Papers**
 (b) **Reports from committees**
 (c) **Petitions**

ORAL ANSWERS TO PETITIONS

COMPLAINTS OF BREACH OF PRIVILEGE OR CONTEMPT AND PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

ORAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DEFERRED DIVISIONS

Motions moved during the Opening Speech and the debate on the Opening Speech:

Motions stating a grievance moved by:

The Leader of the Official Opposition:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ Government for its lack of rigour and for calling into question the accounting principles used by the Ministère des Finances and validated by the Auditor General, thereby undermining citizens' confidence in our institutions and jeopardizing sound management of the State.

The Leader of the Second Opposition Group:

THAT the National Assembly censure the Government for its lack of concrete, detailed, quantified commitments to improve the services offered to Quebecers.

The Leader of the Third Opposition Group:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the Coalition avenir Québec Government for its weak environmental protection guidelines, particularly with regard to fighting climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Member for Rimouski:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the Government for its lack of concrete, detailed, quantified commitments to fight poverty in Québec.

The Member for Sherbrooke:

THAT the National Assembly censure the Coalition avenir Québec Government for its lack of an overall vision and coherence with regard to early education and early childhood educational services.

The Member for Saint-Laurent:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ Government, which refuses to listen to early childhood and education partners regarding the impact that kindergarten classes for all four-year-old children would have on the childcare services and education networks.

The Member for Pontiac:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ Government for choosing ideology over science and ignoring public health experts regarding the minimum age for the purchase and possession of cannabis.

The Member for Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ Government, which refuses to recognize that the number one issue for Québec's economic development is the human resources shortage.

The Member for Jonquière:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the Government for its refusal to commit to attaining the 2020 greenhouse gas reduction target.

The Member for Laurier-Dorion:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the Coalition avenir Québec Government for its intention to lower immigration targets over the coming years.

The Member for Marguerite-Bourgeoys:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ Government, which is completely abandoning the most vulnerable members of our society and ignoring the social services needs of citizens and community organizations at a time when it has major budgetary surpluses.

The Member for Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the Coalition avenir Québec Government for failing to announce measures supporting the ecological conversion of the agricultural sector.

The Member for René-Lévesque:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the Government for its lack of willingness to support our regions, in particular eastern Québec, and the lack of clear, tangible commitments to promote their development.

The Member for Verdun:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ Government, which has left Québec's cultural milieu with no response as to maintaining the sums linked to Québec's cultural policy launched by the previous government.

The Member for D'Arcy-McGee:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ Government and the Premier for lacking a humanist vision of the future of government relations with the First Nations and the Inuit, with whom we share Québec's territory.

The Member for Rosemont:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the Coalition avenir Québec Government for the absence of any concrete commitment to reinvest in public services.

The Member for Mercier:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the Coalition avenir Québec Government for its project to create a fixed third link between Lévis and Québec City.

The Member for La Pinière:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ Government for promising infrastructure projects without additional funding, suggesting to the population that they could be carried out without affecting current projects.

Motion by the Premier, –That this Assembly approves the general policy of the Government.

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

NOTICES OF PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEES

INFORMATION ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Part 2

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUSINESS HAVING PRECEDENCE

URGENT DEBATES

DEBATES ON REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

OTHER BUSINESS

I. Government Bills

Passage in Principle

(1) Bill 1

An Act to amend the rules governing the appointment and dismissal of the Anti-Corruption Commissioner, the Director General of the Sûreté du Québec and the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions
Introduced by the Minister of Public Security on **29 November 2018**

(2) Bill 2

An Act to tighten the regulation of cannabis
Introduced by the Minister for Health and Social Services on **5 December 2018**

(3) Bill 3

An Act to establish a single school tax rate
Introduced by the Minister of Finance on **6 December 2018**

Committee Stage

Report Stage

Passage

II. Private Members' Public Bills

Passage in Principle

(4) Bill 191

An Act to amend the Act respecting the National Assembly to prescribe the publication of information on the use of the amounts granted to Members in the performance of their duties

Introduced by the Member for Gouin on **6 December 2018**

Committee Stage

Report Stage

Passage

III. Private Bills

Hearings and Clause-by-Clause Consideration

Passage in Principle

Passage

IV. Government Motions

V. Estimates of Expenditure

VI. Statutory Debates

BUSINESS STANDING IN THE NAME OF MEMBERS IN OPPOSITION

Part 3

BILLS PASSED

(Bills awaiting Royal Assent)

Part 4

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEES

*The detailed calendar of the proceedings of each committee
is available on the Internet site of the Assembly*

COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN RELATIONS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Part 5

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Questions already placed on the Order Paper
are published each Wednesday

- (3) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **7 December 2018**
To the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity

For over 20 years now, the amounts related to child support payments haven't been taxable, but continue nonetheless to affect the amounts received by social assistance recipients. "The social assistance act provides that a person must exercise their rights and remedies as a condition to eligibility for benefits [...]. That same logic applies with respect to support payments." When a person receives benefits, the amount received as support is deducted from the amount to which a recipient is entitled. Unlike employment income, which is taken into account upwards of a certain amount, support payments for spouses or children are fully taken into account. This injustice affects more than 8,000 families in Québec.

During the consideration of Bill 173, An Act mainly to introduce a basic income for persons with a severely limited capacity for employment, the Parti Québécois moved an amendment aimed at no longer taking into account support payments for children when determining the benefits to be granted to a single adult or a family. That provision, which was rejected by the Quebec Liberal Party, was openly supported by the Coalition avenir Québec (CAQ). Its representative in employment and social solidarity matters, Sébastien Schneeberger, claimed "they wanted to correct this injustice once and for all". At that time, the CAQ and the Parti Québécois were in agreement to denounce the Liberal Government's decision, which turned its back on thousands of Quebecers, while a simple solution was being proposed.

Following the tabling of draft regulation last July, and now that the CAQ holds power as a majority government, they have neglected to follow-up on this issue. Bill 394, An Act to exclude child support payments from income calculation under various social laws, tabled by Mrs. Lisette Lapointe, Member for Crémazie (Parti Québécois) in 2008, has already been introduced. It proposed to amend section 55 of the *Individual and Family Assistance Act* by excluding support payments from the calculation of the social assistance benefits granted. The Leader of the CAQ had even voted in favour of this bill's introduction.

It seems as if everything is set for this injustice to be corrected. Therefore, when will the Government amend this provision?

(4) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **7 December 2018**

To the Minister Responsible for Seniors and Informal Caregivers

The Québec Seniors' Housing Group estimates that about 4000 seniors' residences have closed in less than 3 years. In recent weeks, we have observed that the number of such residences announcing that they will be closing soon continues to grow. The problem is that the owners demand that the residents leave almost immediately, giving them only days—sometimes, hours—to leave and find a new dwelling. For these individuals, who are vulnerable or coping with a loss of autonomy, the procedures associated with filing a complaint are considerable, and those associated with moving quickly even more so.

The existing rules are obviously not being enforced. According to section 346.0.17.1 of the *Act respecting health services and social services*, “The operator of a private seniors' residence who wishes to cease activities [...] must give at least six months' prior notice [...] to the agency concerned”, namely a Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux (CIUSSS). If this time frame is not respected, the operator commits an offence under the Act and is liable for a fine of up to \$9600. Such fines, however, are rarely imposed since the residence's closing necessarily results in the end of the private enterprise's existence. So, no one “pays the price”.

Last May, as an Opposition Member, the Member for Beauce-Sud spoke openly on this subject, saying he wished to “protect seniors from such savage closings and allow them to grow old with dignity”.

My question is as follows:

In light of this statement, does the Government intend to amend the law to clarify means that can protect the residents and hold the operators accountable for their actions?

- (5) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **7 December 2018**
To the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity

The “Government Action Plan to Foster Economic Inclusion and Social Participation 2017-2023” that was launched last May proposed 43 measures and actions, including lifting over 100,000 people out of poverty and increasing the incomes of people in poverty. With this plan, the previous government promised an investment of \$1.25 billion to introduce a basic income for Quebecers with a severely limited capacity for employment. The program offered the possibility, for those who are continuously fighting against poverty, to earn an annual income of about \$18,000.

In 2018, the *Act mainly to introduce a basic income for persons with a severely limited capacity for employment* was introduced, passed and then assented to. However, the regulatory intentions, tabled at the same time as the bill, seem to be inexistent. Today, almost a year after the plan was announced, no regulation has been enacted.

My questions are the following:

To fight poverty, will the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity promise to implement a basic income for persons with a severely limited capacity for employment and, do so, before the end of the year?

When will the regulation for that purpose be adopted?

- (6) Mr. Ouellet (René-Lévesque) – **7 December 2018**
To the Chair of the Conseil du trésor

In an article published on 28 August 2018 in *La Presse* newspaper, journalist Martin Croteau reported Coalition avenir Québec’s commitment to cut 5,000 jobs from the public service during its first term. The current Premier said at that time that those 5,000 government employees did not provide direct services to the public and that, therefore, their jobs were superfluous.

That same day, we could also read in an article penned by Caroline Plante of the *Presse canadienne*, that the General President of the SFPQ, Christian Daigle, stated that Coalition avenir Québec’s commitment would have repercussions on the quantity and quality of services to the public.

For its part, the Verification team at Radio-Canada reported on 29 August 2018 that, according to an assessment carried out by the Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor, 15,000 regular employees would need to be hired for the public service over the next 5 years.

My questions are the following:

- Does the Chair of the Conseil du trésor maintain his political party's commitment to cut 5,000 jobs from the public service during its current term?
- How many public service jobs will be cut for the 2019–2020 fiscal year? How many will be cut in the following years?
- How many public service jobs does the Chair of the Conseil du trésor intend to cut in each of the departments and secretariats during this term, and how many for each fiscal year of the term?
- Does the Chair of the Conseil du trésor call into question the assessment conducted by the Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor?

- (7) Mr. Ouellet (René-Lévesque) – **7 December 2018**
To the Minister for Government Digital Transformation

The Premier made a commitment to consolidate data processing centres.

My question is the following:

- Which centres will be consolidated, and according to what timetable?

- (8) Mr. Ouellet (René-Lévesque) – **7 December 2018**
To the Minister for Government Digital Transformation

The Premier has committed to reducing IT-related expenditures and improving IT management.

My questions are as follows:

- What are the Minister for Government Digital Transformation's targets for each government department and secretariat?
- Which programs and contracts will be revised for each government department and secretariat?

- (9) Mr. Ouellet (René-Lévesque) – **7 December 2018**
To the Chair of the Conseil du trésor

The Premier has promised to cut State procurement costs for goods and services by at least 10%.

My questions are the following:

- Does the Chair of the Conseil du trésor maintain his political party's commitment to reduce State procurement costs for goods and services by at least 10% during this term?
- What are the reduction targets for each government department and secretariat? What is the timeline for making the cuts?

- (10) Mr. Ouellet (René-Lévesque) – **7 December 2018**
To the Chair of the Conseil du trésor

The Premier has committed to transferring 5000 government jobs to the regions.

My questions are as follows:

- Will the Chair of the Conseil du trésor maintain his party's commitment to transfer 5000 government jobs to the regions during the current mandate?
- Which government departments will be affected?
- Which regions will receive these 5000 government jobs?
- How many government jobs does the Government intend to transfer to the regions for each government department and what is the timeline, by region and by fiscal year?

- (11) Mrs. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **7 December 2018**
To the Minister of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusiveness

In September 2016, without any consultation, the Minister of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusiveness (MIDI) decided to replace the evaluation of newcomers' level of French—done until then by teachers—by an online classification system.

This test works very poorly. Many immigrants are inaccurately evaluated and sent to francization classes that are not appropriate for their real level in French. This situation has created disparities among francization groups, which has resulted in teaching falling behind schedule and lower class success rates. Naturally, this has discouraged many students and made drop-out rates shoot up. Any reclassification must receive Québec's approval, which is rationed out sparingly for "administrative" reasons.

My questions are the following:

- Will the minister promise to suspend the online test, at least until this aberrant situation is corrected?
- Will the minister provide us with a status report: how many requests to repeat a class and for reclassification are rejected and how many are approved?

(12) Mrs. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **7 December 2018**

To the Minister of Transport

According to an article in the October 15, 2018 edition of the *Journal de Québec*, the Québec taxi mobile application could become inoperable as of 1 January 2019, due to a recent Superior Court decision suspending the merging of taxi territories.

The Ministère des Transports had given designers permission – through a pilot project that expires 31 December 2018 – to merge taxi territories virtually until the actual zone grouping came into effect, as promised by the Government of Québec. The Regroupement des intermédiaires de taxi de Québec (RITQ) considers this essential to reduce wait times and compete effectively with the multinational company Uber.

My questions are as follows:

- To allow the mobile application to remain in operation, will the Minister commit to extending the pilot project beyond the January 1, 2018 deadline?
- What measures will the Minister take to ensure the territorial merging sought by the RITQ endure beyond the pilot project period, which has already been in place for 3 years?

- (13) Mrs. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **7 December 2018**
To the Minister of Transport

According to an article posted on the Radio-Canada website on December 5, 2018, the Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ) Government refuses to publish a feasibility study on a tunnel between Québec and Île d'Orléans. However, while in opposition, the CAQ demanded the publication of all studies regarding a third link between Québec and Lévis.

The firm AECOM Consultants was hired in 2009 to perform that analysis, at a cost of \$159,883.

My questions are as follows:

- Will the Minister provide us with a copy of the study performed by the firm AECOM Consultants?
- If applicable, will the Minister provide us with a copy of any other feasibility study performed regarding a tunnel between Québec and Île d'Orléans?

- (14) Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière) – **7 December 2018**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services

The Municipality of Albanel, in Lac-Saint-Jean, has been without a physician since June 2018. As a consequence, over 2000 orphan patients must go to the neighbouring town, Dolbeau-Mistassini, to see a health care professional.

My question is the following:

When will the people of Albanel and the vicinity have access to a family physician in their municipality?

- (15) Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) – **7 December 2018**
To the Minister of Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change

Hydro Québec issued a call for tenders in 2015 for the purchase of a 6 MW block of electricity to be produced by coupling a wind farm to the Cap-aux-Meules power plant on the Îles-de-la-Madeleine. This project was to be carried out on public-domain lands, in a protected plant habitat, managed by the municipality of Îles-de-la-Madeleine, in the Dune-du-Nord sector. The wind farm's installation in this protected habitat underwent public consultation held by the BAPE in May 2017.

Since this consultation, the promoters have been awaiting the Government's decision before proceeding. The promoters have asked for various authorizations, in particular, in mid-September 2018, to build roads and work areas. A Government Order in Council in keeping with section 19 of the *Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species* (ATVS) was also requested.

In May 2018, Hydro-Québec (HQ) announced the project linking the archipelago by underwater cable to its integrated and complementary network, as well as development of a microgrid that still remains undefined. In addition to being financially advantageous, the connection, which HQ deems to be feasible by 2025, would apparently also be highly effective for reducing the Cap-aux-Meules power plant's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Moreover, around mid-November 2018, the media (*Le Journal, Hydro-Québec : 12 projets inutiles à 3,2 G\$, 15 November 2018*) reported that the Dune-du-Nord wind farm project was among the wind power development projects that the Government considered costly and useless.

On one hand the project promoters, the Régie intermunicipale de l'énergie Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine and the Communauté maritime are impatiently awaiting the Government's decision. On the other, environmental groups, including Nature Québec, are calling for the Government Order in Council to be rejected.

My question is as follows:

Will the Minister recommend adoption of an Order in Council in keeping with section 19 of the ATVS, as requested by the Dune-du-Nord wind farm promoters, and within which timeline will the decision be forthcoming?

- (16) Mr. Roy (Bonaventure) – **7 December 2018**
To the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Premier undertook to transfer the equivalent of one percent of the QST to municipalities.

My questions are as follows:

- When does the Government intend to give the equivalent of one percent of the QST to the municipalities?
- What will the transfer methods be?

(17) Mr. Roy (Bonaventure) – **7 December 2018**
To the Minister for Education and Higher Education

Over the last few weeks, we have learned, through the media, about a number of cuts in the Universités du Québec network, especially in regional institutions. The cuts result from the new funding system for universities, which deprives those in rural areas from funding allocated in recognition of their regional role.

My questions are the following:

- Does the Minister intend to increase the funding for regional universities by reinstating the budgetary envelope that recognized their regional importance, mission and role?
- If so, within what timeframe?

(18) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **7 December 2018**
To the Minister of Transport

On July 26, while visiting Rimouski, the CAQ leader explicitly promised to reintegrate the sector of Autoroute 20 between Trois-Pistoles and Le Bic into the Québec infrastructure plan (QIP) if a CAQ Government were elected.

“Yes, it [the Autoroute 20 project] will be reintegrated into the QIP, and soon (...). It’s time that it be carried out, that the 20 be doubled.”

– François Legault, 27 July 2018, on CFYX 93 radio

My question is as follows:

When does the Minister plan to re-enter the sector of Autoroute 20 between Trois-Pistoles and Le Bic (Rimouski) into the Québec infrastructure plan?

- (19) Mrs. Perry Mélançon (Gaspé) – **7 December 2018**
To the Premier

In 2000, during the Québec Youth Summit, chaired by the incumbent premier, the Québec State made a bold gesture and showed its confidence in its youth by confirming regular funding for youth forums in every region of Québec. The message to youth was unequivocal: we need your participation to advance as a society, and we would like you to create a vehicle for that purpose.

Hundreds of youths, buoyed up by the hope of effecting change, improving the conditions of other youths and contributing to the development of their region, went to work. Young forum volunteers and employees not only changed their community, they underwent a process of personal change; they became dedicated citizens, actors who had a major impact on their environment, their community and their region.

Fifteen years later, the previous Government abolished those organizations, thinking it would silence the voices of those politically-conscious youths, thinking that only the wardens and elected municipal officials could defend young persons' interests in the regions. However, it takes more than that to demotivate youths; still today, 10 forums and an advisory panel – now called Citoyenneté jeunesse – continue to be active and carry out various projects, despite unstable, at times inexistent, funding.

My questions are as follows:

- Will the Premier undertake to reinvest in the youth forums to support the mission of the existing 10 forums and the Citoyenneté jeunesse advisory panel?
- Will he commit financial support for the establishment of 7 new forums in the regions where there are currently none?

- (20) Mr. Roy (Bonaventure) – **7 December 2018**
To the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks

In an article the newspaper *Le Devoir* ran on September 25, the Premier of Québec informed us of his commitment to modify the forest regime to allow the State to award cutting rights that could span up to 10 years to the industry's giants.

Then, while recognizing that smaller players could find themselves disadvantaged if his Government took such action, he nevertheless persisted, going as far as to say that “the major forestry companies are forced to share forest resources with cooperatives”.

In the face of the uncertainty raised by the Premier’s comments, the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks must rule out this possibility immediately.

My questions are as follows:

- Will the Government sacrifice the future of forest cooperatives, which create and maintain thousands of jobs in all regions of Québec, to satisfy the multinationals?
- Can the Minister commit to protecting access to the forest economy for Québec cooperatives, which are key actors in all Québec regions?

Part 6
NOTICES

I. NOTICES PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

Government Bills

(a) 5 December 2018

An Act to ratify the Agreement relating to the concept of parliamentary group, to the conduct of proceedings in the Assembly and in parliamentary committees as well as to budgetary aspects for the duration of the 42nd Legislature – *Government House Leader and Minister of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusiveness, Official Opposition House Leader, Member for Rimouski, Member for Gouin.*

Private Members' Public Bills

(b) 5 December 2018

An Act to exclude child support payments from income calculation under various social laws – *Member for Sherbrooke.*

Private Bills

II. NOTICES APPEARING FOR THE FIRST TIME