



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Thursday, 29 November 2018 — No. 3

**President of the National Assembly:
Mr. François Paradis**

The Assembly was called to order at 9.40 o'clock a.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Members

Mr. Reid (Beauharnois) made a statement to congratulate the Broncos and Noir et Or football teams on their wins.

Mr. Kelley (Jacques-Cartier) made a statement to underline Remembrance Day.

Mrs. Foster (Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré) made a statement to underline the work of the organizers of the Festif! festival in Baie-Saint-Paul.

Mr. Ciccone (Marquette) made a statement to pay tribute to sports journalist Mr. Jean Pagé.

Mrs. LeBel (Champlain) made a statement to underline the 35th anniversary of the Association québécoise de défense des droits des personnes retraitées et préretraitées, section des Chenaux.

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Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) made a statement to pay tribute to the Thibault family of Le Bic for their contribution to protecting the Common Eider.

Mr. Lévesque (Chauveau) made a statement to congratulate Mr. Harold Ste-Marie for his contribution to his community's development.

Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) made a statement to applaud the initiative of the citizen group Mobilisation 6600.

Mrs. Blais (Prévost) made a statement to thank the voters of Prévost riding for their confidence in their MNA.

Mrs. Jeannotte (Labelle) made a statement to underline the career of skier Erik Guay.

At 9.53 o'clock a.m., Mr. Picard, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 10.03 o'clock a.m.

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At the request of the President, the Assembly observed a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Jean-Guy Bergeron, former Member for Deux-Montagnes, Mr. Paul Gérin-Lajoie, former Member for Vaudreuil-Soulanges, Mr. John Ciaccia, former Member for Mont-Royal, Mr. Jean-Joseph Turcotte, former Member for Roberval, Mrs. Lise Payette, former Member for Dorion, Mrs. Éline Zakaïb, former Member for Richelieu, Mr. Jean Bienvenue, former Member for Matane and then Crémazie, Mr. Louis O'Neill, former Member for Chauveau, Mrs. Yolande Dumoulin Legault, former Member for Deux-Montagnes, Mr. Richard Le Hir, former Member for Iberville, and Mr. Bernard Landry, former Member for Fabre, for Laval-des-Rapides and then Verchères.

Introduction of Bills

Mrs. Guilbault, Minister of Public Security, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following 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

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 1 was introduced in the Assembly.

Presenting Papers

Mr. Roberge, Minister of Education and Higher Education, tabled the following:

The 2017–2018 annual management report of the Institut national des mines.
(Sessional Paper No. 18-20181129)

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Mrs. McCann, Minister of Health and Social Services, tabled the following:

The 2017–2018 annual management reports of the following integrated university health and social services centres:

Est-de-l'Île-de-Montréal	(Sessional Paper No. 19-20181129)
Mauricie-et-du-Centre-du-Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 20-20181129)
Centre-Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal	(Sessional Paper No. 21-20181129)

The 2017–2018 annual reports on applying the complaint review procedure and improving service quality of the following integrated university health and social services centres:

Est-de-l'Île-de-Montréal	(Sessional Paper No. 22-20181129)
Mauricie-et-du-Centre-du-Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 23-20181129)

The 2017–2018 annual reports on applying the complaint review procedure and improving service quality of the following integrated health and social services centres:

Côte-Nord	(Sessional Paper No. 24-20181129)
Montréal-Centre	(Sessional Paper No. 25-20181129)

The 2017–2018 annual management report of the Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux de la Côte-Nord;

(Sessional Paper No. 26-20181129)

The 2017–2018 annual management report of the McGill University Health Centre;

(Sessional Paper No. 27-20181129)

The 2017–2018 annual report on applying the complaint review procedure and improving service quality of the McGill University Health Centre;

(Sessional Paper No. 28-20181129)

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The 2017–2018 annual report of the Montreal Heart Institute;
(Sessional Paper No. 29-20181129)

The 2017–2018 annual report on applying the complaint review procedure and improving service quality of the Montreal Heart Institute;
(Sessional Paper No. 30-20181129)

The 2017–2018 annual management report of the Institut universitaire de cardiologie et de pneumologie de Québec;
(Sessional Paper No. 31-20181129)

The 2017–2018 annual report on applying the complaint review procedure, user satisfaction and respect of user rights of the Institut universitaire de cardiologie et de pneumologie de Québec;
(Sessional Paper No. 32-20181129)

The 2017–2018 annual report on applying the complaint review procedure and improving service quality of the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM);
(Sessional Paper No. 33-20181129)

The 2017–2018 annual report of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay;
(Sessional Paper No. 34-20181129)

The 2017–2018 annual management report of the Centre hospitalier universitaire (CHU) de Québec-Université Laval;
(Sessional Paper No. 35-20181129)

The 2017–2018 annual report on applying the complaint review procedure and improving service quality of the Centre hospitalier universitaire (CHU) de Québec-Université Laval;
(Sessional Paper No. 36-20181129)

The 2017–2018 annual report of the local service quality and complaints commissioner of the Centre hospitalier universitaire (CHU) Sainte-Justine, including the Centre de réadaptation Marie-Enfant;
(Sessional Paper No. 37-20181129)

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The 2017–2018 annual management report of the Centre hospitalier universitaire (CHU) Sainte-Justine;

(Sessional Paper No. 38-20181129)

The 2017–2018 annual management report of Urgences-santé.

(Sessional Paper No. 39-20181129)

Mr. Fitzgibbon, Minister of Economy and Innovation, tabled the following:

The 2017–2018 annual report of Société Innovatech Régions ressources;

(Sessional Paper No. 40-20181129)

The 2017–2018 annual report of Société Innovatech du Grand Montréal;

(Sessional Paper No. 41-20181129)

The 2017–2018 annual report of Société Innovatech du Sud du Québec;

(Sessional Paper No. 42-20181129)

The 2017–2018 annual report of Société Innovatech Québec et Chaudière-Appalaches;

(Sessional Paper No. 43-20181129)

The 2017–2018 annual report of Société du parc industriel et portuaire de Bécancour.

(Sessional Paper No. 44-20181129)

Mrs. Chassé, Minister of Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change, tabled the following:

The 2017–2018 annual report of Recyc-Québec;

(Sessional Paper No. 45-20181129)

The 2017–2018 annual report of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee.

(Sessional Paper No. 46-20181129)

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Mr. Dufour, Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks, tabled the following:

The 2017–2018 annual report of the Fondation de la faune du Québec.
(Sessional Paper No. 47-20181129)

Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Government House Leader, tabled the following:

An agreement regarding the concept of parliamentary group, the conduct of proceedings in the Assembly and in parliamentary committees as well as budgetary aspects for the duration of the 42nd Legislature entitled “Entente relative à la notion de groupe parlementaire, au fonctionnement de l’Assemblée et des commissions parlementaires, ainsi qu’aux aspects budgétaires pour la durée de la 42^e législature”;

(Sessional Paper No. 48-20181129)

A document entitled “Proposed temporary amendments to the Standing Orders and the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings of the National Assembly regarding the concept of parliamentary group and the conduct of proceedings in the Assembly and in parliamentary committees for the duration of the 42nd Legislature” (French and English versions).

(Sessional Paper No. 49-20181129)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside the first paragraph of Standing Order 116 and Standing Order 185, Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Government House Leader, together with Mr. Proulx, Official Opposition House Leader, Mr. Ouellet (René-Lévesque) and Mr. Nadeau-Dubois (Gouin), moved:

THAT the Standing Orders and the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings of the National Assembly be amended by provisions contained in the document entitled “Proposed temporary amendments to the Standing Orders and the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings of the National Assembly regarding the concept of parliamentary group and the conduct of proceedings in the Assembly and in parliamentary committees for the duration of the 42nd Legislature”;

THAT the amendments made to the Standing Orders and the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings of the National Assembly remain in force for the duration of the 42nd Legislature, even if a session is prorogued;

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THAT the amendments contained therein be recorded in full in the Votes and Proceedings of this sitting.

The motion was carried.

STANDING ORDERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 2 PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS

13. Definition – Each political party represented in the National Assembly following the 1 October 2018 general election shall constitute a parliamentary group.

With the exception of the President, Members who do not belong to a group shall sit as independent Members.

16. House leaders – The leader of each parliamentary group shall designate a member of that group to be its House leader. The House leader of the parliamentary group forming the Government shall be known as the Government House Leader. The House leader of the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition shall be known as the Official Opposition House Leader. The House Leader of the Second Opposition Group shall be known by this title of office. The House Leader of the Third Opposition Group shall be known by this title of office.

CHAPTER III COMMITTEES

SECTION 1 COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

115. Members – The Committee on the National Assembly shall consist of:

- (1) the President of the National Assembly, who shall be its chairman;
- (2) the Vice-Presidents of the National Assembly;

- (3) the House leaders and whips of the parliamentary groups, if there be any; and
- (4) the chairmen of the standing committees, once they have been elected.

117. Subcommittee on parliamentary reform – The Committee on the National Assembly shall also have power to examine matters relating to parliamentary reform. To this end, it shall have a standing subcommittee consisting of:

- (1) the President of the National Assembly, who shall be its chairman;
- (2) the Vice-Presidents of the National Assembly, who may not vote;
- (3) the House leaders and whips of the parliamentary groups, if there be any; and
- (4) three committee chairmen, one of whom shall be a member of a parliamentary group sitting in opposition.

In the unavoidable absence of the President or whenever asked by him to do so, a Vice-President of the Assembly as the President may designate shall take the Chair.

A deputy House leader may substitute for the House leader of a parliamentary group.

The standing subcommittee may, on a motion by one of its members, consider any matter relating to the powers of the Assembly or its committees and the conduct of their proceedings. It shall make at least one report to the Committee on the National Assembly each year.

SECTION 1.1 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

117.1. Members – The Committee on Public Administration shall consist of:

(1) thirteen permanent members, who shall be apportioned as follows:

- (a) seven Members from the parliamentary group forming the Government;
- (b) four Members from the Official Opposition;
- (c) one Member from the Second Opposition Group;
- (d) one Member from the Third Opposition Group; and

(2) eight temporary members, who shall be apportioned as follows:

- (a) five Members from the parliamentary group forming the Government;
- (b) three Members from the Official Opposition.

117.1.1. Additional members – Notwithstanding Standing Order 117.1, any independent Member may serve as a member of the Committee on Public Administration. Such committee shall accordingly consist of fifteen permanent members, who shall be apportioned as follows:

- (1) eight Members from the parliamentary group forming the Government;
- (2) four Members from the Official Opposition;
- (3) one Member from the Second Opposition Group;
- (4) one Member from the Third Opposition Group; and
- (5) one independent Member.

117.4. Participation by independent Members – An independent Member may take part in the proceedings of the committee; but he may not vote or move any motion therein.

117.5. Chairman and vice-chairmen – The committee shall, at the opening of the first session of every Legislature and, as the necessity may arise, during the course of a Legislature, elect one of its permanent members to be chairman and two others to be vice-chairmen, who shall hold office for two years.

The chairman shall be chosen from among the Members of the Official Opposition, one of the vice-chairmen shall be chosen from among the Members of the parliamentary group forming the Government, and the other vice-chairman shall be chosen from among the Members of the Second Opposition Group.

117.7. Convocation at chairman's request – Unless it is to consider an order of reference from the Assembly, the committee shall meet upon notice that its clerk shall send to the committee members at the request of its chairman. Such notice shall state the purpose, the day, the time, and the place of the meeting, and a copy thereof shall be sent to the President of the Assembly, to the chairmen of the other committees, and to the House leaders and the whips of the parliamentary groups.
(See R.C.P. 3.1)

SECTION 3 MEMBERSHIP

121. Members – Each committee shall consist of thirteen Members, who shall be appointed for two years and shall be apportioned as follows:

- (1) seven Members from the parliamentary group forming the Government;
- (2) four Members from the Official Opposition;
- (3) one Member from the Second Opposition Group; and
- (4) one Member from the Third Opposition Group.

122. Additional members – Notwithstanding Standing Order 121, any independent Member may serve as a committee member. Such committee shall accordingly consist of fifteen members, who shall be apportioned as follows:

- (1) eight Members from the parliamentary group forming the Government;
- (2) four Members from the Official Opposition;

- (3) one Member from the Second Opposition Group;
- (4) one Member from the Third Opposition Group; and
- (5) one independent Member.

126. Allocation of chairmanships – Six committees shall be chaired by Members from the parliamentary group forming the Government and three shall be chaired by Members sitting in opposition.

128. Allocation of chairmanships failing consensus – Failing consensus on allocation of chairmanships of the committees, the parliamentary groups shall, in the following order, select the committees they wish to see chaired by one of their Members:

First choice: group forming the Government;

Second choice: group forming the Government;

Third choice: Official Opposition;

Fourth choice: group forming the Government;

Fifth choice: Official Opposition;

Sixth choice: group forming the Government;

Seventh choice: Official Opposition;

Eighth choice: group forming the Government; and

Ninth choice: group forming the Government.

132. Participation by other Members – A Member who has not been appointed to serve on a given committee of the

Assembly may take part in the proceedings of any of its committees; but he may not vote therein. However, this rule does not apply to a Member who belongs to a parliamentary group.

A Member who has been appointed to serve on a given committee of the Assembly may take part in the proceedings of any other committee, by its leave; but he may not vote or move any motion therein.

A Member who has not been appointed to serve on a given committee of the Assembly may take part in the proceedings of any of its committees examining the estimates of expenditure; but he may not vote therein. A Member who has been appointed to serve on a given committee of the Assembly may also take part in the proceedings of any other committee; but he may not vote or move any motion therein.

SECTION 4 CHAIRMEN, VICE-CHAIRMEN AND CLERKS

134. Elections – Each committee shall, at the opening of the first session of every Legislature and, as the necessity may arise, during the course of a Legislature, elect a chairman, a vice-chairman and a second vice-chairman, who shall hold office for two years.

The Committee on Labour and the Economy shall elect from among its members a second vice-chairman from the Second Opposition Group.

135. Organization – The committee chairman and vice-chairmen shall be elected by a majority of the committee members from each parliamentary group.

137. Election of vice-chairmen – Each committee chairman shall preside over the election of the vice-chairman or vice-chairmen of his committee. Committee members who belong to the same parliamentary group as the chairman shall not be eligible for the office of vice-chairman.

140. Vacancy – Whenever the office of committee chairman becomes vacant, a vice-chairman of that committee shall take the Chair, perform the duties of the chairman and exercise his authority. The committee shall, within thirty days, elect a new chairman.

141. Absence or inability to act – In the unavoidable absence of a committee chairman or whenever asked by him to do so, a vice-chairman of that committee shall take the Chair, perform the duties of the chairman and exercise his authority.

Whenever the chairman and the vice-chairman or both vice-chairmen are absent or unable to act, the clerk shall so inform the committee, which shall take the appropriate measures.

SECTION 5 CONVOCATION OF MEMBERS AND HOURS OF MEETING

148. Convocation at chairman's request – Unless it is to consider an order of reference from the Assembly, a committee shall meet upon notice that its clerk shall send to the members thereof at the request of its chairman. Such notice shall state the purpose, the day, the time, and the place of the meeting, and a copy thereof shall be sent to the President, the House leaders and the whips of the parliamentary groups.
(See R.C.P. 3.1)

SECTION 6 MEETINGS

157.1 Equality of numbers – At any time, if the number of votes is equal, if all Opposition Members are present and have voted, the Presiding Officer shall suspend committee proceedings for not more than ten minutes. Following the suspension, a Member belonging to the parliamentary group forming the Government who was absent when the question was put or a Member designated to replace him shall be entitled to vote. Notwithstanding Standing Orders 130 and 131, this replacement is announced by the clerk of the committee when the meeting continues. It is valid only for the current vote and may be repeated.

The suspension or rising of the Assembly provided for in Standing Orders 143, 143.1 and 143.2 shall accordingly be delayed.

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**RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS IN THE
ASSEMBLY**

**CHAPTER 1
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES**

**SECTION
GENERAL RULES**

3.1. Parliamentary group without a whip – When a parliamentary group has no whip, it shall designate a Member to exercise the powers invested in the whip under this section and to receive the notices set out in Standing Orders 117.7 and 148 and in section 23 of the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings.
(See S.O. 117.7 and 148 and R.C.P. 23)

4. Steering committees – A committee shall, at the request of its chairman, establish a steering committee consisting of the chairman, vice-chairman or vice-chairmen, and clerk.

The steering committee shall plan committee proceedings and submit this plan to the committee. The steering committee shall, between committee meetings, make any decisions it may deem necessary. Steering committee decisions must be unanimous.

6. Absence or inability to act – Whenever the chairman, vice-chairman or both vice-chairmen are absent or unable to act, another committee member may take the Chair.
(See S.O. 141)

11. Member absent when question put – No Member shall be entitled to vote unless he was present when the question was put. Standing Order 157.1 shall apply.
(See S.O. 157)

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23. Notice of convocation – The committee clerk shall, not less than fifteen days before the committee is to hold a meeting to examine financial commitments, forward to the committee members as well as to the House leaders, the whips and the research services of the parliamentary groups the notice of convocation, the order of business for the meeting, and the financial commitments to be examined. He shall also forward a copy of the notice of convocation to the chairmen of the other committees.

By leave of the committee, without any dissentient voice, the notice of convocation, the order of business and the financial commitments may be forwarded to the interested parties upon shorter notice.

(See S.O. 117.6 and R.C.P. 3.1)

The motion is carried.

The President tabled the following:

A letter, dated 23 November 2018, to Mr. Michel Bonsaint, Secretary General of the National Assembly, from Mr. Pascal Bérubé, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, informing him of his appointment to this office, effective 10 October 2018;

(Sessional Paper No. 50-20181129)

A letter, dated 23 November 2018, to Mr. Michel Bonsaint, Secretary General of the National Assembly, from Mr. Pascal Bérubé, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, informing him of the appointment of Mr. Martin Ouellet, Member for René-Lévesque, as House Leader of the Second Opposition Group, effective 22 October 2018;

(Sessional Paper No. 51-20181129)

A letter, dated 27 November 2018, he had received from Mrs. Manon Massé, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, informing him of her appointment to this office, effective 10 October 2018;

(Sessional Paper No. 52-20181129)

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A letter, dated 27 November 2018, he had received from Mrs. Manon Massé, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, informing him of the appointment of Mr. Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois, Member for Gouin, as House Leader of the Third Opposition Group, effective 10 October 2018;

(Sessional Paper No. 53-20181129)

The Pre-Election Report on the State of Québec's Public Finances – August 2018;

(Sessional Paper No. 54-20181129)

The report of the Auditor General of Québec on the 2018 Pre-Election Report entitled “Résultats détaillés des travaux du Vérificateur général du Québec sur le rapport préélectoral 2018”;

(Sessional Paper No. 55-20181129)

The 2017–2018 annual activity report of the Québec Ombudsman (French and English versions);

(Sessional Paper No. 56-20181129)

The 2017–2018 annual management report of the Québec Ombudsman;

(Sessional Paper No. 57-20181129)

The 2017–2018 annual management report of the Directeur général des élections du Québec and the Commission de la représentation électorale;

(Sessional Paper No. 58-20181129)

The 2017–2018 activity report of the Ethics Commissioner;

(Sessional Paper No. 59-20181129)

The 2017–2018 annual report of the Commission de la fonction publique;

(Sessional Paper No. 60-20181129)

The 2017–2018 activity and management report of the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse;

(Sessional Paper No. 61-20181129)

A letter, dated 29 November 2018, he had received from Me Tamara Thermitus, President of the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse, informing him of her resignation;

(Sessional Paper No. 62-20181129)

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A letter, dated 7 August 2018, to Mr. Jacques Chagnon, President of the National Assembly, from Me Christiane Constant, member of the Commission d'accès à l'information, informing the President of her resignation, effective 7 September 2018;

(Sessional Paper No. 63-20181129)

A letter, dated 28 November 2018, to Mr. Jacques Chagnon, President of the National Assembly, from Me Jean Chartier, Chair of the Commission d'accès à l'information, informing the President of his resignation, effective 31 December 2018;

(Sessional Paper No. 64-20181129)

A letter, dated 6 July 2018, to Mr. Jacques Chagnon, President of the National Assembly, from Mr. Marc Garneau, federal Minister of Transport, in response to the motion calling for a public inquiry commission on the circumstances surrounding the Lac-Mégantic railway disaster carried unanimously by the Assembly on 11 April 2018;

(Sessional Paper No. 65-20181129)

A letter to Mr. Jacques Chagnon, President of the National Assembly, from Mr. Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, in response to the motion on deepsea fishermen's safety carried by the Assembly on 19 April 2018;

(Sessional Paper No. 66-20181129)

The investigation report from the Ethics Commissioner to the President of the National Assembly concerning Mr. Gaétan Barrette, Minister of Health and Social Services and Member for La Pinière, dated 5 July 2018;

(Sessional Paper No. 67-20181129)

The investigation report from the Ethics Commissioner to the President of the National Assembly concerning Mr. André Lamontagne, Member for Johnson, dated 22 August 2018;

(Sessional Paper No. 68-20181129)

The investigation report from the Ethics Commissioner to the President of the National Assembly concerning Mr. François Bonnardel, House Leader of the Second Opposition Group and Member for Granby, dated 27 September 2018;

(Sessional Paper No. 69-20181129)

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The investigation report from the Ethics Commissioner to the President of the National Assembly concerning Mr. Éric Caire, Deputy House Leader of the Second Opposition Group and Member for La Peltre, dated 27 September 2018;
(Sessional Paper No. 70-20181129)

The investigation report from the Ethics Commissioner to the President of the National Assembly concerning Mrs. Nathalie Roy, Chair of the Second Opposition Group Caucus and Member for Montarville, dated 5 November 2018;
(Sessional Paper No. 71-20181129)

The list of papers required by law to be tabled in the Assembly (French and English versions).
(Sessional Paper No. 72-20181129)

The President then tabled a decision of the Office of the National Assembly, dated 12 October 2018:

Decision 1982 concerning the Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur la rémunération et les conditions de travail du personnel des cabinets de l'Assemblée nationale (regulation to amend the regulation respecting the remuneration and conditions of employment of the staff of House officers of the National Assembly).
(Sessional Paper No. 73-20181129)

Lastly, the President tabled the following:

The new seating plan of the National Assembly, dated 29 November 2018.
(Sessional Paper No. 74-20181129)

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. Proulx, Official Opposition House Leader, to be heard on a matter of breach of privilege or contempt.

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In his notice, the Official Opposition House Leader alleged that the Premier had acted in contempt of Parliament by forwarding his entire Opening Speech to journalists, whereas he had just begun to deliver it. The notice further mentions the Official Opposition House Leader's intention to move a motion under Standing Orders 315 and following.

The President informed the Assembly that he would hear arguments at a later sitting.

The President issued a directive on the management of Question Period and the allocation of measures and speaking times for the duration of the 42nd Legislature.

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

Determining the allocation of measures and speaking times is one of the very first duties that fall to the Chair at the beginning of a new legislature and whenever required by a change in the Assembly's composition. In conducting this exercise, the Chair must consider various principles inherent in legislative assemblies such as ours, including the preponderant role traditionally given to the Official Opposition and the number of parliamentary groups and independent Members that the Assembly comprises. In so doing, the Chair must keep one goal in mind, namely to treat the different parties represented in the Assembly and, if applicable, the independent Members fairly, so that each Member can perform his or her duties of office fully and effectively.

In this regard, negotiations involving the different parties represented in the Assembly took place in recent weeks and resulted in the parties agreeing that, for the duration of the 42nd Legislature, the Parti québécois and Québec solidaire would be recognized respectively as the Second Opposition Group and Third Opposition Group, despite the fact that the criteria stipulated in the National Assembly's Standing Orders—"twelve Members returned" or "20% of the popular vote in the most recent general election"—were not met. The Parti québécois and Québec solidaire each have 10 elected Members and obtained 17.06% and 16.10% of the votes, respectively. Because both parties have the same number of Members, their ranking as Second or Third Opposition Group was determined based on the percentage of votes obtained. This distinction will be useful, among other things, in determining speaking order during debates and in establishing the order in which they will be able to exercise their rights.

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Because both a Second Opposition Group and Third Opposition Group were recognized, the Assembly will, for the first time in its history, have four parliamentary groups. The conduct of proceedings will have to be adjusted to reflect this new parliamentary reality.

The parties represented in the Assembly also agreed on allocation of the various measures and speaking times, as shown in detail in the tables appended to the document entitled “Entente relative à la notion de groupe parlementaire, au fonctionnement de l’Assemblée et des commissions parlementaires, ainsi qu’aux aspects budgétaires pour la durée de la 42^e législature” (agreement regarding the concept of parliamentary group, the conduct of proceedings in the Assembly and in parliamentary committees as well as budgetary aspects for the duration of the 42nd Legislature) tabled in the Assembly.

The Chair acknowledges the agreement and commends the parties represented in the Assembly for the consensus they reached. Given that the agreement is in keeping with the principles established by parliamentary jurisprudence in such matters, the Chair intends to implement it.

The technical allocation-related details are contained in the tables appended to the above-mentioned agreement. These tables are also deemed part of this directive.

As regards Question Period, the Chair would like to recall the broad principles that are to govern its management: all Members may ask questions of the Government, including Government Members; most questions are assigned to Opposition Members; the concept of parliamentary group must be considered together with the first two principles; the Official Opposition must be given a preponderant role; and finally, the Chair must take into account the presence of any independent Members.

In keeping with these principles, this is how questions will be allocated in Oral Questions and Answers.

Questions will be allocated according to a 10-sitting cycle. Because of the preponderant role given to the Official Opposition, it will be entitled to the majority of questions, including the first three main questions each day there is a Question Period. The fourth and fifth main questions will be asked by the Second and Third Opposition Groups, alternately, depending on the sitting. The other questions will be assigned to reflect the presence of three parliamentary groups sitting in opposition, while maintaining the Official Opposition’s predominance. Members of the parliamentary group forming the Government will be entitled to ask questions according to the terms set out in the agreement.

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As was the case in previous legislatures, only the first main question asked by the Official Opposition House Leader may be followed by three supplementary questions. All other main questions may be followed by only two supplementary questions.

As in the past, because of the importance of their role, the Leader of the Official Opposition and the leaders of the other parliamentary opposition groups will have more time than other Members to ask their main questions. They will be entitled to 1 minute 30 seconds rather than 1 minute. Similarly, as First Minister, the Premier will also have more time than the other Ministers to answer the main questions. The duration of the Premier's answers to the main questions will be 1 minute 45 seconds rather than the 1 minute 15 seconds allotted for other Ministers' answers to main questions. Supplementary questions will be no more than 30 seconds in duration and the answers to them, no longer than 45 seconds for everyone.

With respect to Interpellations and Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, these measures will be allocated according to an 11-sitting cycle. The Official Opposition will be granted the majority of these—that is 7—including the first of each sessional period. The Second Opposition Group and Third Opposition Group will each be allowed to use two Business Standing in the Name of Opposition Members items and two Interpellations items per cycle.

As for Statements by Members, it is important to recall that these measures apply to all Members, including Ministers, so that everyone can speak for 1 minute on issues they feel strongly about. Each sitting includes 10 Statements by Members, which Members generally use to address their fellow citizens to congratulate them for certain achievements or to highlight important moments. Statements by Members also provide an opportunity for Members wishing to do so to express their opinions on any subject, usually of a non-partisan nature, that they consider important.

To be fair in allowing all Members who wish to express themselves by means of Statements by Members to do so, the latter are allocated according to the rule of proportionality, that is, according to the number of Members belonging to each parliamentary group.

To reflect this proportionality, Statements by Members have been allotted according to a 10-sitting cycle. The parliamentary group forming the Government will be entitled to the majority, that is, a total of 59 statements, the Official Opposition to 24 statements, and the Second Opposition and Third Opposition Group to 8 statements each. The independent Member will be entitled to 1 statement per cycle.

Regarding Debates upon Adjournment, the Chair wishes to recall that they serve, to some extent, to prolong discussions on issues raised during Question Period between a Member and a Minister. A maximum of three debates can be held per sitting at 6.00 o'clock p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays during ordinary hours of meeting. Should the Chair receive several requests for debates upon adjournment, it will grant the Official Opposition two debates for sittings in which such debates may be held. The Second Opposition Group and Third Opposition Group will each alternately be entitled to one debate per sitting. The independent Member will be allowed to request one debate upon adjournment per sessional period. Government Members will also be able to request a fixed number of these.

Concerning Motions Without Notice, the Standing Orders stipulate that each parliamentary group may move one motion per sitting; the order in which this occurs is at the President's discretion. As in the past, the order determined will allow each group to move a sitting's first motion on a rotating basis.

With respect to speaking times during limited debates, except for a speaking time that varies based on the length of the debate, which will be set aside for the independent Member, half of the remaining time will be allocated to the parliamentary group forming the Government and the other half will be divided among the three opposition groups in proportion to the number of seats they hold in the Assembly. Speaking times that are not used will be divided among the parliamentary groups based on this same principle.

This allocation will be adjusted during limited debates on a Wednesday motion moved by a Member belonging to the Second Opposition Group or Third Opposition Group, so that the group is entitled to an additional 10 minutes when its motion is debated.

This concludes the allocation of measures and speaking times for the duration of the 42nd Legislature. As in the past, however, the Chair may have to adjust this allocation in the course of the legislature, should the Assembly's composition change.

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Finally, the different parties represented in the Assembly have expressed their wish that a committee be struck without delay and mandated to reflect on how to facilitate setting up a new legislature and the adjustments, including budgetary aspects, required should the Assembly's composition change. The Chair intends to follow up on this wish and promises to work with the Members on this initiative, which is important in ensuring that our institution runs smoothly. The Chair intends to sit on this committee, which constitutes an ideal forum for addressing any other issue that might improve the Assembly's practices in order to ensure that our Parliament is an effective, modern, open institution.

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Lacombe, Minister of Families, together with Mrs. Maccarone (Westmount–Saint-Louis), Mrs. Hivon (Joliette), Mrs. Labrie (Sherbrooke) and Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey), moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark Universal Children's Day, which was celebrated on 20 November 2018;

THAT it take this opportunity to reaffirm the need to defend and guarantee children's rights, as stipulated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the United Nations;

THAT it commend the commitment of and essential work done on a daily basis by various stakeholders to ensure the respect of these rights and the well-being of children;

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THAT the Assembly also highlight the Grande semaine des tout-petits, which ran throughout Québec from 18 to 24 November 2018;

THAT it recognize the importance of acting in early childhood in order to give all children the opportunity to develop their full potential;

THAT, lastly, it acknowledge the need to take collective action in pursuing this objective.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mrs. Robitaille (Bourassa-Sauvé), together with Mrs. Girault, Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie, Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine), Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) and Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey), moved:

THAT the National Assembly of Québec condemn the attack perpetrated at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, killing 11 people on 27 October 2018;

THAT the Members of the National Assembly express their sincere condolences to the victims' families and relatives;

THAT the National Assembly condemn all acts of violence against any religious denomination;

THAT it reiterate the fundamental right to practice religion freely and safely, as specifically stated in our charters of human rights and freedoms;

THAT, lastly, the Members of the National Assembly observe a minute of silence in memory of the victims.

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By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

At the request of the President, the Assembly observed a minute of silence.

Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière), together with Mr. Marissal (Rosemont), moved a motion on the contract between the MUHC and the consortium headed by SNC-Lavalin; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mrs. Massé, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, together with Mrs. Montpetit (Maurice-Richard) and Mrs. Hivon (Joliette), moved a motion on the massive march for the environment held on 10 November 2018; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Opening Speech Debate

Mr. Arcand, Leader of the Official Opposition, opened the debate on the Opening Speech of the Session and on the motion moved Mr. Legault, Premier, that the Assembly approve the Government's general policy presented at the sitting of Wednesday, 28 November 2018.

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At the end of his speech, Mr. Arcand, Leader of the Official Opposition, moved the following motion stating a grievance:

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 debate continued on the Opening Speech of the Session, on the motion moved by Mr. Legault, Premier, and on the motion stating a grievance moved by Mr. Arcand, Leader of the Official Opposition, subject to the receivability of this motion.

At 1.00 o'clock p.m., the President suspended the proceedings until 3.00 o'clock p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 3.03 o'clock p.m.

The Assembly continued the debate on the Opening Speech of the Session, on the motion moved by Mr. Legault, Premier, and on the motion stating a grievance moved by Mr. Arcand, Leader of the Official Opposition, subject to the receivability of this motion.

At 3.32 o'clock p.m., Mr. Picard, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

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The proceedings resumed at 3.41 o'clock p.m.

Following a meeting with the House leaders, Mr. Picard, First Vice-President, informed the Assembly of the allocation of speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this debate: 60 minutes to the Government representative for his reply; 11 hours 55 minutes to the parliamentary group forming the Government, including the Premier's speech; 7 hours and 9 minutes to the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition, including its leader's speech; 2 hours and 23 minutes to the Second Opposition Group, including its leader's speech; 2 hours and 23 minutes to the Third Opposition Group, including its leader's speech; 10 minutes to the Member for Chomedey. Within this framework, any time not used by the Member for Chomedey or by a parliamentary group shall be redistributed among the parliamentary groups in proportion to their representation in the Assembly. Lastly, except for the above-mentioned instructions, individual addresses shall not be limited.

The debate continued.

At the end of his speech, Mr. Bérubé, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, moved the following motion stating a grievance:

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

The debate continued on the Opening Speech of the Session, on the motion moved by Mr. Legault, Premier, and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Mr. Arcand, Leader of the Official Opposition, and by Mr. Bérubé, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, subject to the receivability of these motions.

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At the end of her speech, Mrs. Massé, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, moved the following motion stating a grievance:

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 debate continued on the Opening Speech of the Session, on the motion moved by Mr. Legault, Premier, and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Mr. Arcand, Leader of the Official Opposition, by Mr. Bérubé, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, and by Mrs. Massé, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, subject to the receivability of these motions.

At the end of his speech, Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) moved the following motion stating a grievance:

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

The debate continued on the Opening Speech of the Session, on the motion moved by Mr. Legault, Premier, and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Mr. Arcand, Leader of the Official Opposition, by Mr. Bérubé, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, by Mrs. Massé, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, and by Mr. LeBel (Rimouski), subject to the receivability of these motions.

At the end of her speech, Mrs. Labrie (Sherbrooke) moved the following motion stating a grievance:

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 debate continued on the Opening Speech of the Session, on the motion moved by Mr. Legault, Premier, and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Mr. Arcand, Leader of the Official Opposition, by Mr. Bérubé, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, by Mrs. Massé, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, by Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) and by Mrs. Labrie (Sherbrooke), subject to the receivability of these motions.

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At the end of her speech, Mrs. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) moved the following motion stating a grievance:

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 debate continued on the Opening Speech of the Session, on the motion moved by Mr. Legault, Premier, and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Mr. Arcand, Leader of the Official Opposition, by Mr. Bérubé, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, by Mrs. Massé, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, by Mr. LeBel (Rimouski), by Mrs. Labrie (Sherbrooke) and by Mrs. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent), subject to the receivability of these motions.

At the end of his speech, Mr. Fortin (Pontiac) moved the following motion stating a grievance:

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 debate continued on the Opening Speech of the Session, on the motion moved by Mr. Legault, Premier, and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Mr. Arcand, Leader of the Official Opposition, by Mr. Bérubé, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, by Mrs. Massé, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, by Mr. LeBel (Rimouski), by Mrs. Labrie (Sherbrooke), by Mrs. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) and by Mr. Fortin (Pontiac), subject to the receivability of these motions.

At 6.00 o'clock p.m., Mr. Picard, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 7.30 o'clock p.m.

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The proceedings resumed at 7.32 o'clock p.m.

The Assembly continued the debate on the Opening Speech of the Session, on the motion moved by Mr. Legault, Premier, and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Mr. Arcand, Leader of the Official Opposition, by Mr. Bérubé, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, by Mrs. Massé, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, by Mr. LeBel (Rimouski), by Mrs. Labrie (Sherbrooke), by Mrs. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) and by Mr. Fortin (Pontiac), subject to the receivability of these motions.

At the end of her speech, Mrs. Anglade (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne) moved the following motion stating a grievance:

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 debate continued on the Opening Speech of the Session, on the motion moved by Mr. Legault, Premier, and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Mr. Arcand, Leader of the Official Opposition, by Mr. Bérubé, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, by Mrs. Massé, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, by Mr. LeBel (Rimouski), by Mrs. Labrie (Sherbrooke), by Mrs. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent), by Mr. Fortin (Pontiac) and by Mrs. Anglade (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne), subject to the receivability of these motions.

At the end of his speech, Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière) moved the following motion stating a grievance:

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

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The debate continued on the Opening Speech of the Session, on the motion moved by Mr. Legault, Premier, and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Mr. Arcand, Leader of the Official Opposition, by Mr. Bérubé, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, by Mrs. Massé, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, by Mr. LeBel (Rimouski), by Mrs. Labrie (Sherbrooke), by Mrs. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent), by Mr. Fortin (Pontiac), by Mrs. Anglade (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne) and by Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière), subject to the receivability of these motions.

At 10.28 o'clock p.m., Mrs. Gaudreault, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Friday, 30 November 2018 at 9.40 o'clock a.m.

FRANÇOIS PARADIS

President