

Date: Tuesday, 2 March 1999 – No. 1  
Heure: Two o'clock  
Président: Mr. Jean-Pierre Charbonneau

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The Assembly was called to order at 2.06 o'clock p.m.

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Moment of reflection

Today being the day appointed for the opening of the First Session of the Thirty-sixth Legislature of the Province of Québec for the despatch of business, the Members attending, having taken and subscribed the oaths required by law, took their seats in the National Assembly.

The Secretary General, Mr. Pierre Duchesne, laid upon the Table the list of Members declared duly elected following the general election held on 30 November 1998 and the election held in the Electoral Division of Masson. These documents, received on 9, 11, 16 and 21 December 1998, had been forwarded to him by Mr. Jacques Girard, Chief Electoral Officer, pursuant to section 380 of the *Election Act* (R.S.Q., c. E-3.3).

(Sessional Paper No. 1-19990302)

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
THIRTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

| <i>Electoral Divisions</i> | <i>Members Elected</i>   | <i>Party Affiliations</i> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Abitibi-Est</b>         | André Pelletier          | Parti Québécois           |
| <b>Abitibi-Ouest</b>       | François Gendron         | Parti Québécois           |
| <b>Acadie</b>              | Yvan Bordeleau           | Québec Liberal Party      |
| <b>Anjou</b>               | Jean-Sébastien Lamoureux | Québec Liberal Party      |
| <b>Argenteuil</b>          | David Whissell           | Québec Liberal Party      |
| <b>Arthabaska</b>          | Jacques Baril            | Parti Québécois           |

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|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Beauce-Nord</b>            | Normand Poulin           | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Beauce-Sud</b>             | Diane Leblanc            | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Beauharnois-Huntingdon</b> | André Chenail            | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Bellechasse</b>            | Claude Lachance          | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Berthier</b>               | Gilles Baril             | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Bertrand</b>               | Claude Cousineau         | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Blainville</b>             | Céline Signori           | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Bonaventure</b>            | Nathalie Normandeau      | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Borduas</b>                | Jean-Pierre Charbonneau  | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Bourassa</b>               | Michèle Lamquin-Ethier   | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Bourget</b>                | Diane Lemieux            | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Brome-Missisquoi</b>       | Pierre Paradis           | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Chambly</b>                | Louise Beaudoin          | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Champlain</b>              | Yves Beaumier            | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Chapleau</b>               | Benoît Pelletier         | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Charlesbourg</b>           | Jean Rochon              | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Charlevoix</b>             | Rosaire Bertrand         | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Châteauguay</b>            | Jean-Marc Fournier       | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Chauveau</b>               | Raymond Brouillet        | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Chicoutimi</b>             | Stéphane Bédard          | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Chomedey</b>               | Thomas J. Mulcair        | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Chutes-de-la-Chaudière</b> | Denise Carrier-Perreault | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Crémazie</b>               | Manon Blanchet           | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>D=Arcy-McGee</b>           | Lawrence S. Bergman      | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Deux-Montagnes</b>         | Hélène Robert            | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Drummond</b>               | Normand Jutras           | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Dubuc</b>                  | Jacques Côté             | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Duplessis</b>              | Normand Duguay           | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Fabre</b>                  | Joseph Facal             | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Frontenac</b>              | Marc Boulianne           | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Gaspé</b>                  | Guy Lelièvre             | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Gatineau</b>               | Réjean Lafrenière        | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Gouin</b>                  | André Boisclair          | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Groulx</b>                 | Robert Kieffer           | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Hochelaga-Maisonneuve</b>  | Louise Harel             | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Hull</b>                   | Roch Cholette            | Québec Liberal Party |

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|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Iberville</b>             | Jean-Paul Bergeron      | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Îles-de-la-Madeleine</b>  | Maxime Arseneau         | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Jacques-Cartier</b>       | Geoffrey Kelley         | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Jeanne-Mance</b>          | Michel Bissonnet        | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Jean-Talon</b>            | Margaret F. Delisle     | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Johnson</b>               | Claude Boucher          | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Joliette</b>              | Guy Chevrete            | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Jonquière</b>             | Lucien Bouchard         | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Kamouraska-</b>           |                         |                      |
| <b>Témiscouata</b>           | Claude Béchard          | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Labelle</b>               | Jacques Léonard         | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Lac-Saint-Jean</b>        | Jacques Brassard        | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>LaFontaine</b>            | Jean-Claude Gobé        | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>La Peltrie</b>            | Michel Côté             | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>La Pinière</b>            | Fatima Houda-Pepin      | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Laporte</b>               | André Bourbeau          | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>La Prairie</b>            | Serge Geoffrion         | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>L=Assomption</b>          | Jean-Claude Saint-André | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Laurier-Dorion</b>        | Christos Sirros         | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Laval-des-Rapides</b>     | Serge Ménard            | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Laviolette</b>            | Jean-Pierre Jolivet     | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Lévis</b>                 | Linda Goupil            | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Limoilou</b>              | Michel Després          | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Lotbinière</b>            | Jean-Guy Paré           | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Louis-Hébert</b>          | Paul Bégin              | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Marguerite-Bourgeoys</b>  | Monique Jérôme-Forget   | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Marguerite-D=Youville</b> | François Beaulne        | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Marie-Victorin</b>        | Cécile Vermette         | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Marquette</b>             | François Ouimet         | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Maskinongé</b>            | Rémy Désilets           | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Masson</b>                | Gilles Labbé            | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Matane</b>                | Matthias Rioux          | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Matapédia</b>             | Danielle Doyer          | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Mégantic-Compton</b>      | Madeleine Bélanger      | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Mercier</b>               | Robert Perreault        | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Mille-Îles</b>            | Lyse Leduc              | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Montmagny-L=Islet</b>     | Réal Gauvin             | Québec Liberal Party |

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|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Montmorency</b>             | Jean-François Simard   | Parti Québécois                                     |
| <b>Mont-Royal</b>              | André Tranchemontagne  | Québec Liberal Party                                |
| <b>Nelligan</b>                | Russell Williams       | Québec Liberal Party                                |
| <b>Nicolet-Yamaska</b>         | Michel Morin           | Parti Québécois                                     |
| <b>Notre-Dame-de-Grâce</b>     | Russell Copeman        | Québec Liberal Party                                |
| <b>Orford</b>                  | Robert Benoit          | Québec Liberal Party                                |
| <b>Outremont</b>               | Pierre-Étienne Laporte | Québec Liberal Party                                |
| <b>Papineau</b>                | Norman MacMillan       | Québec Liberal Party                                |
| <b>Pointe-aux-Trembles</b>     | Nicole Léger           | Parti Québécois                                     |
| <b>Pontiac</b>                 | Robert Middlemiss      | Québec Liberal Party                                |
| <b>Portneuf</b>                | Roger Bertrand         | Parti Québécois                                     |
| <b>Prévost</b>                 | Lucie Papineau         | Parti Québécois                                     |
| <b>Richelieu</b>               | Sylvain Simard         | Parti Québécois                                     |
| <b>Richmond</b>                | Yvon Vallières         | Québec Liberal Party                                |
| <b>Rimouski</b>                | Solange Charest        | Parti Québécois                                     |
| <b>Rivière-du-Loup</b>         | Mario Dumont           | Action démocratique du Québec / Équipe Mario Dumont |
| <b>Robert-Baldwin</b>          | Pierre Marsan          | Québec Liberal Party                                |
| <b>Roberval</b>                | Benoît Laprise         | Parti Québécois                                     |
| <b>Rosemont</b>                | Rita Dionne-Marsolais  | Parti Québécois                                     |
| <b>Rousseau</b>                | François Legault       | Parti Québécois                                     |
| <b>Rouyn-NorandaB</b>          | Rémy Trudel            | Parti Québécois                                     |
| <b>Témiscamingue</b>           |                        |                                                     |
| <b>Saguenay</b>                | Gabriel-Yvan Gagnon    | Parti Québécois                                     |
| <b>Saint-François</b>          | Monique Gagnon-        | Québec Liberal Party                                |
| <b>Saint-HenriBSainte-Anne</b> | Tremblay               | Québec Liberal Party                                |
| <b>Saint-Hyacinthe</b>         | Nicole Loiselle        | Parti Québécois                                     |
| <b>Saint-Jean</b>              | Léandre Dion           | Parti Québécois                                     |
| <b>Saint-Laurent</b>           | Roger Paquin           | Québec Liberal Party                                |
| <b>Sainte-MarieB</b>           | Jacques Dupuis         | Parti Québécois                                     |
| <b>Saint-Jacques</b>           | André Boulerice        |                                                     |
| <b>Saint-Maurice</b>           |                        | Parti Québécois                                     |
| <b>Salaberry-Soulanges</b>     | Claude Pinard          | Parti Québécois                                     |
| <b>Sauvé</b>                   | Serge Deslières        | Québec Liberal Party                                |
| <b>Shefford</b>                | Line Beauchamp         | Québec Liberal Party                                |
| <b>Sherbrooke</b>              | Bernard Brodeur        | Québec Liberal Party                                |

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|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
|                       | Jean J. Charest        |                      |
| <b>Taillon</b>        | Pauline Marois         | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Taschereau</b>     | Agnès Maltais          | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Terrebonne</b>     | Jocelyne Caron         | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Trois-Rivières</b> | Guy Julien             | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Ungava</b>         | Michel Létourneau      | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Vachon</b>         | David Payne            | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Vanier</b>         | Diane Barbeau          | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Vaudreuil</b>      | Yvon Marcoux           | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Verchères</b>      | Bernard Landry         | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Verdun</b>         | Henri-François Gautrin | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Viau</b>           | William Cusano         | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Viger</b>          | Cosmo Maciocia         | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Vimont</b>         | David Cliche           | Parti Québécois      |
| <b>Westmount</b>      | Jacques Chagnon        | Québec Liberal Party |
| <b>Saint-Louis</b>    |                        |                      |

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Mr. Bouchard, Prime Minister, informed the Secretary General that the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor requested the Members of the National Assembly to elect a President.

The Secretary General then invited the longest-serving Member of the Assembly, Mr. Gendron, Member for Abitibi-Ouest, to preside at the election of a President of the National Assembly.

The senior Member obtained the consent of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 7 and 8 respecting the election of the President of the National Assembly and tabled a document entitled:

"Standing Orders and Rules of Procedure respecting the Election of the President of the National Assembly by Secret Ballot".

(Sessional Paper No. 2-19990302)

He then communicated to the Assembly and tabled the list of candidates in election for the office of President.

(Sessional Paper No. 3-19990302)

#### LIST OF MEMBERS STANDING AS CANDIDATES FOR THE

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

- Michel Bissonnet (Jeanne-Mance)
- Jean-Pierre Charbonneau (Borduas)

The presiding officer explained the balloting procedure and, at 2.22 o'clock p.m., suspended the meeting.

At 2.35 o'clock p.m., the Members took their seats and proceeded to cast their ballots.

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At 3.24 o'clock p.m., the voting was concluded and the meeting was suspended for the counting of the votes by the Secretary General and Mr. Claude Bisson, jurisconsult.

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At 3.50 o'clock p.m., the Members once again took their seats.

The presiding officer informed the Assembly that Mr. Charbonneau was elected President.

Accordingly, the presiding officer left the Chair.

Mr. Bouchard and Mr. Charest then accompanied Mr. Charbonneau to the Chair.

Mr. Charbonneau delivered an acceptance speech.

The Mace was then laid upon the Table and, consequently, the sitting opened.

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By leave of the Assembly, Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT the National Assembly ratify the special procedure for the election of the President contained in the document entitled "Standing Orders and Rules of Procedure respecting the Election of the President of the National Assembly by Secret Ballot" that was tabled earlier by the longest-serving Member of the Assembly, the Member for Abitibi-Ouest, and, accordingly, that the Assembly give effect to the results of the vote held in pursuance of this procedure.

## 2 March 1999

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By leave of the Assembly under Standing Order 84, the motion was carried.

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By leave of the Assembly, Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, then moved:

THAT today, following the election of the vice-presidents, the Assembly adjourn its proceedings until tomorrow, Wednesday, 3 March 1999, at 2.00 o'clock p.m.;

THAT the sitting of 3 March open with the Lieutenant-Governor=s speech followed by the Opening Speech of the Session delivered by the Prime Minister;

THAT the Assembly then stand adjourned until Thursday, 4 March 1999, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.;

THAT Orders of the Day at the sitting of 4 March be set aside for the debate on the Opening Speech and begin at 10.00 o'clock a.m. with the speech by the Leader of the Official Opposition;

THAT the sitting of 4 March be suspended from 12.00 o'clock p.m. to 2.00 o'clock p.m.;

THAT upon resumption of proceedings, at 2.00 o'clock p.m., the Assembly take Routine Proceedings;

THAT after Routine Proceedings until 6.00 o'clock p.m., the Assembly continue the debate on the Opening Speech of the Session;

THAT at 6.00 o'clock p.m., the President shall adjourn the proceedings until Tuesday, 9 March 1999, at 10.00 o'clock a.m.;

THAT, subject to the foregoing, the provisions of the Standing Orders shall continue to apply.

By leave of the Assembly under Standing Order 84, the motion was carried.

**2 March 1999**

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At 4.07 o'clock p.m., by leave of the Assembly, the Assembly suspended its proceedings.

The proceedings resumed at 4.39 o'clock p.m.

### **Government Bills**

#### *Introduction of Bills*

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 53, 54 and 232, Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader and Minister responsible for Parliamentary Reform, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

10 An Act to amend the Act respecting the National Assembly.

The motion was carried.

#### *Passage in Principle*

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 230, Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader and Minister responsible for Parliamentary Reform, moved, —That Bill 10, An Act to amend the Act respecting the National Assembly, do now pass in principle and informed the Assembly that the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor recommended this bill to its consideration.

The motion was carried and Bill 10 was accordingly passed in principle.

On motion by Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, Bill 10 was referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee of the Whole

#### *Committee of the Whole*

**2 March 1999**

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On motion by Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader, the Assembly resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole for the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 10.

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Bill 10 was considered in Committee of the Whole and thereupon reported.

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The report was concurred in.

*Passage*

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 230, Mr. Brassard, Government House Leader and Minister responsible for Parliamentary Reform, moved the passage of Bill 10, An Act to again amend the Act respecting the National Assembly.

The motion was carried and, accordingly, Bill 10 was passed.

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Mr. Bouchard, Prime Minister, moved:

THAT Mr. Raymond Brouillet, Member for the Electoral Division of Chauveau, be elected first Vice-President of the National Assembly.

The motion was carried nemine contradicente.

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Mr. Bouchard, Prime Minister, then moved:

**2 March 1999**

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THAT Mr. Claude Pinard, Member for the Electoral Division of Saint-Maurice, be elected second Vice-President of the National Assembly.

The motion was carried nemine contradicente.

Mr. Charest, Leader of the Official Opposition, moved:

THAT Mr. Michel Bissonnet, Member for the Electoral Division of Jeanne-Mance, be elected third Vice-President of the National Assembly.

The motion was carried nemine contradicente.

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At 5.03 o'clock p.m., in compliance with the motion carried earlier, Mr. President adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 3 March 1999, at 2.00 o'clock p.m.

**JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU**

*President*