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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

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FIRST SESSION

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

## **Votes and Proceedings**

**of the Assembly**

**Thursday, 20 February 2020 — No. 104**

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

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

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**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**Statements by Members**

Ms. Chassé (Châteauguay) made a statement to underline the participation of Ms. Myriam Verret and Ms. Amélie Couture in the Great Wall of China Trek Challenge for the benefit of the Courir pour la vie foundation.

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Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) made a statement to underline the 100th birthday of the late Mr. Paul Gérin-Lajoie, former Minister of Education.

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Mr. Lemieux (Saint-Jean) made a statement to underline the 160th anniversary of the Le Canada Français newspaper.

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Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) made a statement to highlight Hooked on School Days.

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Mr. Reid (Beauharnois) made a statement to pay tribute to author Ms. Mélanie Calvé.

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Mr. Roy (Bonaventure) made a statement to underline the remarkable work of four nurses at the Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux de la Gaspésie.

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Mr. Tardif (Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata) made a statement to congratulate the entrepreneurs in the Rivière-du-Loup region for creating jobs.

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Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke) made a statement in the context of Hooked on School Days to express dismay over teachers quitting the profession.

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Ms. Proulx (Côte-du-Sud) made a statement to congratulate Maison des jeunes L'Incontournable in Montmagny for the support provided to youth.

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Mr. Rousselle (Vimont) made a statement to underline Mr. Alain Brisebois' courage during his fight against cancer.

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At 9.51 o'clock a.m., Mr. Picard, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

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The proceedings resumed at 10.02 o'clock a.m.

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Moment of reflection

The President informed the Assembly that he had, within the prescribed time, received a request for an urgent debate from Mr. Tanguay, Official Opposition House Leader, and then received a request for an urgent debate from Mr. Bérubé, Leader of the Third Opposition Group. These requests concern the consequences for Québec of the blockade of rail lines by demonstrators opposing the Coastal GasLink pipeline project.

**RULING FROM THE CHAIR**

For a request for an urgent debate to be receivable, the request must concern a specific, particularly important matter that falls under the Assembly's jurisdiction. In addition, the matter must concern a sudden, acute crisis or the worsening of such a crisis. The Chair must also take into consideration whether the matter has been discussed in other circumstances and whether there will be upcoming opportunities to do so.

The requests now before the Chair do concern a specific, particularly important matter. The impact of the rail line blockade has been raised by numerous stakeholders in the business community. Among other things, it is already having major consequences for the Port of Montréal and Québec companies. Many layoffs have occurred or are envisaged in coming days. There has also been talk of food shortages and price increases. Members of the Government have noted the urgent need to take action and the possibility of police intervention has also been mentioned.

It is therefore a situation that has become significantly more serious. Moreover, the fact that the rail line blockade has lasted for many days could further aggravate the consequences for companies and lead to shortages in Québec of many essential products and raw materials. The longer this crisis continues, the worse the impact will be.

With respect to the Assembly's jurisdiction, it must be noted that although the rail line blockade is a Canada-wide crisis, tangible consequences are being felt in Québec. The blockade is preventing deliveries of goods by rail and has led to the temporary layoff of many workers, which has necessarily had a major impact on Québec's economy.

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The Assembly did touch on the subject during a motion without notice moved on 18 February 2020. Although no debate was held at that time, the motion shows the parliamentarians' marked interest in this issue and its importance for Québec society. Since the Assembly will adjourn its proceedings for the two weeks set aside for riding work, there will be no opportunities to discuss the matter in the near future. Moreover, as the Assembly is at the beginning of a sessional period, there will be ample time for the Government's legislative agenda.

The main receivability criterion consists in determining the urgency of holding such a debate. The Chair considers that this is such a situation.

Therefore, the requests for an urgent debate are receivable.

### **Statements by Ministers**

Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Minister Responsible for Laicity and Parliamentary Reform, made a statement about proposals for parliamentary reform.

At the end of his address, by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Minister Responsible for Laicity and Parliamentary Reform, tabled the following:

A document entitled "Réforme parlementaire – Cahier de propositions".  
(Sessional Paper No. 1408-20200220)

Mr. Tanguay, Official Opposition House Leader, commented on behalf of the Official Opposition.

Mr. Nadeau-Dubois, House Leader of the Second Opposition Group, commented on behalf of the Second Opposition Group.

Mr. Ouellet, House Leader of the Third Opposition Group, commented on behalf of the Third Opposition Group.

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### Introduction of Bills

Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) moved that leave be granted to introduce the following bill:

398 An Act to proclaim Québec Democracy Day

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 398 was introduced in the Assembly.

### Presenting Papers

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

The 2015–2019 report on the implementation of the Act respecting end-of-life care;

(Sessional Paper No. 1409-20200220)

The 2017–2018, 2018–2019 and 2019–2020 health care accounts.

(Sessional Paper No. 1410-20200220)

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Mr. Julien, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, tabled the following:

The 2019 annual report of Hydro-Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 1411-20200220)

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Ms. Roy, Minister of Culture and Communications, tabled the following:

The 2018–2019 annual report of the Société de télédiffusion du Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 1412-20200220)

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Mr. Carmant, Minister for Health and Social Services, tabled the following:

The report on the implementation of the Youth Protection Act.  
(Sessional Paper No. 1413-20200220)

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The President tabled the following:

The report of the Office of the National Assembly, adopted on 19 February 2020 following a motion carried on 6 December 2019 conferring on the Office the mandate to continue its work on the independent process for determining Members' conditions of employment with a view to tabling a report no later than 20 February 2020.

(Sessional Paper No. 1414-20200220)

### **Presenting Petitions**

Mr. Bussière (Gatineau) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on building a new elementary school in Gatineau, signed by 1,077 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 1415-20200220)

### **Oral Questions and Answers**

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) tabled the following:

A copy of an extract from the *Journal des débats* (Hansard), dated 8 February 2018.

(Sessional Paper No. 1416-20200220)



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### Deferred Divisions

The Assembly took the division, which had been deferred on 19 February 2020, on the motion moved by Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition.

The motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly reiterate the status of French as the only common and official language of Québec;

THAT the National Assembly reaffirm the fundamental right of all Quebecers to live and work in French in their territory;

THAT the National Assembly express its deep concern about the erosion of French in Québec, particularly in the metropolitan area;

THAT it recognize the need to reopen the Charter of the French language in order to reinforce the safeguards Québec has put in place, in particular to ensure the status of French as the language of the workplace;

THAT it call for businesses under federal jurisdiction to be subject to the Charter of the French language;

THAT, lastly, it ask the Government to table a bill ensuring that businesses with 25 to 49 employees also be subject to the requirements of the Charter.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **300** in Appendix)

Yeas: **87** Nays: **22** Abstentions: **0**

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**Motions Without Notice**

Mr. Bonnardel, Minister of Transport, together with Mr. Barrette (La Pinière), Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) and Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey), moved a motion concerning the rail line blockades in Canada; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

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Ms. Mélançon (Verdun), together with Ms. Dorion (Taschereau), Ms. Perry Mélançon (Gaspé), Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey) and Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin), moved a motion concerning subscriptions to cable services in Québec; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage), together with Ms. Girault, Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie, Mr. Benjamin (Viau), Ms. Perry Mélançon (Gaspé), Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey) and Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin), moved:

THAT the National Assembly recognize the presence of persons of African descent in Québec since the beginning of the seventeenth century, with the arrival of Olivier Le Jeune in 1629;

THAT it recognize that Indigenous and Black persons were enslaved under the French and English regimes from 1629 until the early 1800s;

THAT it officially recognize the United Nations (UN) International Decade for People of African Descent;

THAT the National Assembly commit to fighting against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance that harm people of African descent.

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By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Ouellet (René-Lévesque), together with Mr. Dubé, Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, Mr. Barrette (La Pinière), Ms. Ghazal (Mercier), Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey) and Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin), moved:

THAT the National Assembly ask the Government to  
commit to requiring that all train, subway and tramway projects  
in Québec contain 25% Québec content.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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

Mr. Schneeberger, Deputy Government House Leader, convened the following committees:

- the Committee on Citizen Relations, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 18, An Act to amend the Civil Code, the Code of Civil Procedure, the Public Curator Act and various provisions as regards the protection of persons;
- the Committee on Public Finance, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 23, An Act respecting the names and responsibilities of certain ministers and government departments and to enact the Act respecting the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs;
- the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 48, An Act mainly to control the cost of the farm property tax and to simplify access to the farm property tax credit;

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- the Committee on Health and Social Services, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 52, An Act to strengthen the complaint examination process of the health and social services network, in particular for users receiving services from private institutions;
- the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, to hear the interested parties and give clause-by-clause consideration to Private Bill 209, An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Tite.

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Mr. Picard, First Vice-President, gave the following notices:

- the Committee on Health and Social Services shall hold a deliberative meeting to discuss the possibility of examining a petition concerning the establishment of a shingles vaccination program;
- the Select Committee on the Sexual Exploitation of Minors shall hold a deliberative meeting to organize its proceedings.

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

Mr. Picard, First Vice-President, informed the Assembly that on Friday, 13 March 2020, Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) would question Ms. Proulx, Minister for Regional Economic Development, during an interpellation on the Government's lack of vision and obsession with centralization that is hampering the economic development of our regions.

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## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### Urgent Debates

Before entering upon the urgent debate on the consequences for Québec of the rail line blockades by demonstrators opposed to the Coastal GasLink pipeline project, Mr. Picard, First Vice-President, informed the Assembly of the allocation of speaking time for the proceedings during this debate: 58 minutes 30 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Government; 34 minutes 51 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition; 12 minutes 27 seconds to the Second Opposition Group; 11 minutes 12 seconds to the Third Opposition Group; and 1 minute 30 seconds to each independent Member. However, if only one independent Member takes part in the debate, that Member's speaking time is 2 minutes. Within this framework, any time not used by the independent Members or by a parliamentary group shall be redistributed among the parliamentary groups in the proportions established above. Lastly, individual addresses shall not be limited.

The urgent debate arose thereon.

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At 1.00 o'clock p.m., Mr. Picard, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 3.00 o'clock p.m.

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The proceedings resumed at 3.00 o'clock p.m.

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The Assembly continued the urgent debate on the consequences for Québec of the rail line blockades by demonstrators opposed to the Coastal GasLink pipeline project.

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The debate expired and, pursuant to Standing Order 91, no question was put.

### **Government Motions**

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been adjourned on 19 February 2020, on the motion moved by Ms. LeBel, Minister of Justice:

THAT the National Assembly concur in the position and justifications given by the Government in its reply, tabled in the National Assembly on 18 February 2020, to the report from the Committee on the Remuneration of Criminal and Penal Prosecuting Attorneys for the period 2019–2023, tabled in the National Assembly on 8 October 2019;

Amend Recommendation 1 so that the salary rates and ranges be increased as follows:

- an increase of 3.5% as at 1 April 2019 (salary ranges in effect on 31 March 2019);
- an increase of 2.5% as at 1 April 2020 (salary ranges in effect on 31 March 2020);
- an increase of 2.0% as at 1 April 2021 (salary ranges in effect on 31 March 2021);
- an increase of 2.0% as at 1 April 2022 (salary ranges in effect on 31 March 2022);

Approve Recommendations 2 to 6.

The debate being concluded, the question was put on the motion, and a recorded division was thereupon demanded.

At the request of Mr. Caire, Deputy Government House Leader, the division was deferred until Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day.

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## Government Bills

### *Passage*

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been adjourned on 19 February 2020, on the motion moved by Mr. Dubé, Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, for the passage of Bill 37, An Act mainly to establish the Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales and Infrastructures technologiques Québec.

The debate being concluded, the question was put on the motion, and a recorded division was thereupon demanded.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **301** in Appendix)

Yeas: **72** Nays: **11** Abstentions: **0**

Accordingly, Bill 37 was passed.

### *Report Stage*

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 15, An Act respecting the Société de développement et de mise en valeur du Parc olympique.

A debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the report was concurred in.

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At 5.08 o'clock p.m., at the request of Mr. Caire, Deputy Government House Leader, Ms. Gaudreault, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 6.00 o'clock p.m.

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**Debates upon Adjournment**

At 5.16 o'clock p.m., by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 309, the Assembly held a debate upon adjournment on a question from Mr. Barrette (La Pinière) to Mr. Bonnardel, Minister of Transport, on exploratory drilling for the third link project.

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At 5.26 o'clock p.m., Ms. Gaudreault, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Tuesday, 10 March 2020 at 1.40 o'clock p.m.

**FRANÇOIS PARADIS**

*President*



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## APPENDIX

### Recorded Divisions

On the motion moved by Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition:

#### (Division No. 300)

#### YEAS - 87

Allaire (CAQ)	Foster (CAQ)	LeBel (PQ)	Proulx (CAQ)
Arseneau (PQ)	Fournier (IND)	(Rimouski)	(Berthier)
Asselin (CAQ)	Gaudreault (PQ)	Lecours (CAQ)	Provençal (CAQ)
Bachand (CAQ)	(Jonquière)	(Les Plaines)	Reid (CAQ)
Bélanger (CAQ)	Ghazal (QS)	Lecours (CAQ)	Roberge (CAQ)
Bérubé (PQ)	Girard (CAQ)	(Lotbinière-Frontenac)	Rouleau (CAQ)
Blais (CAQ)	(Lac-Saint-Jean)	Leduc (QS)	Roy (CAQ)
(Prévost)	Girard (CAQ)	Lefebvre (CAQ)	(Montarville)
Bonnardel (CAQ)	(Groulx)	Legault (CAQ)	Roy (PQ)
Boulet (CAQ)	Girault (CAQ)	Lemay (CAQ)	(Bonaventure)
Boutin (CAQ)	Grondin (CAQ)	Lemieux (CAQ)	Samson (CAQ)
Bussière (CAQ)	Guillemette (CAQ)	Lessard-Therrien (QS)	Schneeberger (CAQ)
Caire (CAQ)	Hivon (PQ)	Lévesque (CAQ)	Simard (CAQ)
Campeau (CAQ)	Isabelle (CAQ)	(Chauveau)	Skeete (CAQ)
Carmant (CAQ)	Jacques (CAQ)	Marissal (QS)	Tardif (CAQ)
Caron (CAQ)	Jeannotte (CAQ)	Martel (CAQ)	(Lavolette-Saint-Maurice)
Charest (CAQ)	Jolin-Barrette (CAQ)	Massé (QS)	Tardif (CAQ)
Charette (CAQ)	Julien (CAQ)	McCann (CAQ)	(Rivière-du-Loup-Témiscouata)
Chassé (CAQ)	Labrie (QS)	Nadeau-Dubois (QS)	Thouin (CAQ)
Chassin (CAQ)	Lachance (CAQ)	Ouellet (PQ)	Tremblay (CAQ)
D'Amours (CAQ)	Lacombe (CAQ)	Ouellette (IND)	Zanetti (QS)
Dansereau (CAQ)	Laforest (CAQ)	Perry Mélançon (PQ)	
Dorion (QS)	Laframboise (CAQ)	Picard (CAQ)	
Dubé (CAQ)	Lafrenière (CAQ)	(Soulanges)	
Dufour (CAQ)	Lamontagne (CAQ)	Poulin (CAQ)	
Émond (CAQ)	Lamothe (CAQ)	Proulx (CAQ)	
Fitzgibbon (CAQ)	LeBel (CAQ)	(Côte-du-Sud)	
	(Champlain)		

#### NAYS - 22

Arcand (PLQ)	Fortin (PLQ)	Nichols (PLQ)	Thériault (PLQ)
Barrette (PLQ)	Kelley (PLQ)	Rizqy (PLQ)	
Benjamin (PLQ)	Leitão (PLQ)	Robitaille (PLQ)	
Birnbaum (PLQ)	Maccarone (PLQ)	Rousselle (PLQ)	
Charbonneau (PLQ)	Mélançon (PLQ)	Sauvé (PLQ)	
Ciccone (PLQ)	Ménard (PLQ)	St-Pierre (PLQ)	
Derraji (PLQ)	Montpetit (PLQ)	Tanguay (PLQ)	

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On the motion moved by Mr. Dubé, Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, for the passage of Bill 37, An Act mainly to establish the Centre d'acquisitions gouvernementales and Infrastructures technologiques Québec:

**(Division No. 301)**

**YEAS - 72**

Allaire (CAQ)	Derraji (PLQ)	Laframboise (CAQ)	Provençal (CAQ)
Asselin (CAQ)	Dubé (CAQ)	Lafrenière (CAQ)	Reid (CAQ)
Bachand (CAQ)	Dufour (CAQ)	Lamontagne (CAQ)	Rizqy (PLQ)
Barrette (PLQ)	Émond (CAQ)	Lecours (CAQ)	Robitaille (PLQ)
Bélanger (CAQ)	Fortin (PLQ)	(Lotbinière-Frontenac)	Rouleau (CAQ)
Benjamin (PLQ)	Foster (CAQ)	Lefebvre (CAQ)	Rousselle (PLQ)
Birnbaum (PLQ)	Girard (CAQ)	Leitão (PLQ)	Roy (CAQ)
Blais (CAQ)	(Lac-Saint-Jean)	Lemay (CAQ)	(Montarville)
(Prévost)	Girard (CAQ)	Lemieux (CAQ)	Sauvé (PLQ)
Bonnardel (CAQ)	(Groulx)	Lévesque (CAQ)	Simard (CAQ)
Boutin (CAQ)	Groncin (CAQ)	(Chauveau)	Skeete (CAQ)
Bussière (CAQ)	Guillemette (CAQ)	Maccarone (PLQ)	St-Pierre (PLQ)
Caire (CAQ)	Isabelle (CAQ)	McCann (CAQ)	Tanguay (PLQ)
Campeau (CAQ)	Jacques (CAQ)	Melançon (PLQ)	Tardif (CAQ)
Charbonneau (PLQ)	Jeannotte (CAQ)	Ménard (PLQ)	(Lavolette-Saint-Maurice)
Charest (CAQ)	Jolin-Barrette (CAQ)	Montpetit (PLQ)	Tardif (CAQ)
Charette (CAQ)	Julien (CAQ)	Nichols (PLQ)	(Rivière-du-Loup-Témiscouata)
Chassé (CAQ)	Kelley (PLQ)	Picard (CAQ)	Thouin (CAQ)
Chassin (CAQ)	Lachance (CAQ)	(Soulanges)	Tremblay (CAQ)
Ciccone (PLQ)	Lacombe (CAQ)	Proulx (CAQ)	
Dansereau (CAQ)	Laforest (CAQ)	(Côte-du-Sud)	

**NAYS - 11**

Arseneau (PQ)	LeBel (PQ)	Ouellet (PQ)	Zanetti (QS)
Dorion (QS)	(Rimouski)	Perry Mélançon (PQ)	
Ghazal (QS)	Lessard-Therrien (QS)	Roy (PQ)	
Hivon (PQ)	Nadeau-Dubois (QS)	(Bonaventure)	