



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 31 March 2021 — No. 175

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

The Assembly was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Members

Mr. Laframboise (Blainville) made a statement to underline the work of the organization Service d'aide Saint-Maurice.

Ms. Gaudreault (Hull) made a statement to underline the 40th anniversary of the Université du Québec en Outaouais.

Mr. Carmant (Taillon) made a statement to underline the 25th anniversary of the organization Action-services aux proches aidants de Longueuil.

Mr. Ciccone (Marquette) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of the Lac St-Louis Regional Soccer Association.

Ms. Laforest (Chicoutimi) made a statement to underline Ms. Dominique Jodoin's career at the Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Habitation.

Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) made a statement to express solidarity with and support for the Haitian people.

31 March 2021

Ms. IsaBelle (Huntingdon) made a statement to congratulate Ms. Nelleke Nieuwenhof for her initiative to promote French at Chateauguay Valley Regional High School.

Ms. Perry Mélançon (Gaspé) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Guy Lelièvre, former Member of the National Assembly.

Mr. Bussière (Gatineau) made a statement to pay tribute to the instigators of the green light initiative for volunteer firefighters.

Mr. Campeau (Bourget) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Bruno Lachance, former director of the Service de sécurité incendie de Montréal.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 54.1 and 54.3, Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) made a statement to pay tribute to former Member of Parliament Carole Lavallée.

At 9:54 a.m., Ms. Soucy, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 10:03 a.m.

31 March 2021

Moment of reflection

The President tabled the following:

A letter, dated 30 March 2021, he had received from Mr. Éric Lefebvre, Chief Government Whip, informing him that Mr. Louis-Charles Thouin, Member for Rousseau, is no longer a member of the Government Caucus as of 30 March 2021.
(Sessional Paper No. 2435-20210331)

Presenting Papers

The President tabled the following:

The 2021–2022 budgetary forecasts and 2020–2021 preliminary financial report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec and the Commission de la représentation électorale du Québec;

(Sessional Paper No. 2436-20210331)

The Chief Electoral Officer of Québec’s political financing report on the overview and outlook for 2020 entitled “Financement politique : Bilan et perspectives 2020”;

(Sessional Paper No. 2437-20210331)

The Chief Electoral Officer of Québec’s report on the implementation of section 90.5 of the *Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities* within the framework of the municipal by-elections held on 21 and 28 February 2021 in the municipality of Saint-Calixte and in Ville de Beauharnois.

(Sessional Paper No. 2438-20210331)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

31 March 2021

Motions Without Notice

Mr. Bérubé, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, together with Ms. St-Pierre (Acadie), Ms. Dorion (Taschereau), Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) and Mr. LeBel (Rimouski), moved a motion on the Saint-Sulpice library; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Charette, Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change, together with Ms. Melançon (Verdun), moved:

THAT the National Assembly recall the passage, in March 2017, of Bill 102, which provided Québec with an environmental authorization scheme that is clear, predictable, optimized and compliant with the highest environmental protection standards;

THAT it reiterate the importance of submitting projects that have environmental impacts—such as those for the McInnis cement factory or Énergie Saguenay—to the environmental impact assessment and review procedure, including the BAPE's analysis, as well as the environmental impact assessment and analysis by the MELCC;

THAT it underscore the importance of transparency in all established processes in order to promote society's acceptance with respect to the Government's upcoming decisions;

THAT, lastly, it recall the provisions of the *Environment Quality Act* that require that the Minister wait for a complete environmental analysis record before formulating a recommendation to the Government.

The question was put on this motion; in accordance with the motion carried by the Assembly on 9 March 2021, a vote was held in accordance with the procedure for recorded divisions.

31 March 2021

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **904** in Appendix)

Yeas: **117** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Ms. Melançon (Verdun), together with Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke) and Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin), moved:

Whereas the fight against sexual and domestic violence requires a comprehensive approach that includes, in particular, a necessary updating of the criminal offence definitions and sanctions under the *Criminal Code*;

Whereas the Committee on Institutions is currently considering Bill 84, An Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery, legislation aiming to help direct and indirect victims, as defined in Bill 84, of criminal offences under the *Criminal Code*;

THAT the National Assembly ask the Québec government to make all necessary representations to the federal government in order to initiate, as soon as possible, a legislative process aimed at strengthening and adding certain provisions and offences to the *Criminal Code*, in particular to cover cases of sexual harassment, sexual violence and domestic violence as broadly as possible.

The question was put on this motion; in accordance with the motion carried by the Assembly on 9 March 2021, a vote was held in accordance with the procedure for recorded divisions.

31 March 2021

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **905** in Appendix)

Yeas: **117** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Marissal (Rosemont), together with Ms. LeBel, Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, Mr. Barrette (La Pinière), Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière), Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) and Mr. LeBel (Rimouski), moved:

THAT the National Assembly acknowledge that it has been a year since the public sector collective agreements expired;

THAT it recognize that the negotiations between the Government and the unions are not advancing at a satisfactory pace;

THAT it recognize that the health crisis of the past year has demonstrated once again the crucial importance of public services for Québec society, and more specifically the essential role of the women and men working in the public sector;

THAT the National Assembly call for a rapid and satisfactory agreement, providing for an overall improvement in working conditions in the public sector.

The question was put on this motion; in accordance with the motion carried by the Assembly on 9 March 2021, a vote was held in accordance with the procedure for recorded divisions.

31 March 2021

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **906** in Appendix)

Yeas: **117** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

Pursuant to Standing Order 129, Mr. Lefebvre, Chief Government Whip, moved:

THAT the Member for Sainte-Rose be named a permanent member of the Committee on Public Finance;

THAT the Member for Beauce-Nord be named a permanent member of the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain;

THAT these changes take effect immediately.

The question was put on this motion; in accordance with the motion carried by the Assembly on 9 March 2021, a vote was held in accordance with the procedure for recorded divisions.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **907** in Appendix)

Yeas: **117** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 84.1, Mr. Caire, Deputy Government House Leader, moved:

THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 178, a select committee be established to examine the issues related to extending medical aid in dying to persons who are incapable of caring for themselves or who are suffering from a mental illness;

31 March 2021

THAT the name of this committee be “Select Committee on the Evolution of the Act respecting end-of-life care”;

THAT the Committee be composed of eleven members distributed as follows: six (6) Members from the parliamentary group forming the Government, including the Committee Chair; three (3) Members from the Official Opposition, including the Committee Vice-Chair; one (1) Member from the Second Opposition Group; one (1) Member from the Third Opposition Group;

THAT each parliamentary group forward to the Director of the Committees Service the list of its Committee members, including the name of the Chair and of the Vice-Chair, not later than seven days after this motion has been carried;

THAT the Committee allow any independent Member to take part in its proceedings according to the terms set out in Standing Order 132;

THAT the Committee’s steering committee be composed of the Chair, the Vice-Chair, the member from the Second Opposition Group, the member from the Third Opposition Group and the clerk;

THAT the Committee may hold deliberative meetings as soon as this motion is carried;

THAT the Committee may hold online consultations pursuant to Standing Order 173.1;

THAT the Committee may hold special consultations and public hearings for a period not exceeding 15 days, including special consultations with expert witnesses;

31 March 2021

THAT the Committee hold an initial phase of special consultations and public hearings to hear the expert witnesses to obtain an overview of the issues related to extending medical aid in dying to persons who are incapable of caring for themselves or who are suffering from a mental illness;

THAT, following the initial phase of consultations, the Committee publish a consultation document that is to be made available to the public before the beginning of the second phase of special consultations;

THAT, following the publication of this document, the Committee hold a second phase of special consultations and public hearings and that it hear all individuals whose testimony the steering committee deems relevant;

THAT the Committee may hold special consultations during deliberative meetings or in-camera meetings at the request of a witness;

THAT the Committee may use video conferencing within the framework of hearings;

THAT the Committee may hold virtual hearings and deliberative meetings, provided the decisions are made unanimously;

THAT the Committee may travel or meet in a place other than the precincts of the National Assembly;

THAT the steering committee determine the individuals and organizations that the Committee will hear;

THAT the steering committee may determine the total length of each hearing as well as the length of each witness's presentation and exchanges with members of the Committee;

31 March 2021

THAT the organization of proceedings be entrusted to the Committee's steering committee, including the preparation of the schedule according to any request for changes made by individuals and organizations;

THAT the Committee be convened by its Chair, pursuant to Standing Order 148 even if it is to consider an order of reference from the Assembly;

THAT during ordinary hours of meeting, the majority of the Committee's sittings be on Mondays and Fridays and that during extended hours of meeting, the majority of the Committee's sittings be on Mondays;

THAT the Committee not be limited to three clear days, following special consultations, in which to hold deliberative meetings for the purpose of agreeing upon any observations, conclusions or recommendations that it wishes to include in its report;

THAT the Committee table its report not later than 19 November 2021;

THAT the rules pertaining to standing committees be observed in the Committee insofar as they are consistent with the provisions of this motion;

THAT the Committees Service ensure the necessary support for the smooth functioning of the Committee;

THAT the Committee have the resources needed to fulfill its mandate, particularly in terms of support for research and publicity

THAT the National Assembly be responsible for providing research support to the Committee;

THAT the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux support the Committee's research officers at the Committee's request.

31 March 2021

The question was put on this motion; in accordance with the motion carried by the Assembly on 9 March 2021, a vote was held in accordance with the procedure for recorded divisions.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **908** in Appendix)

Yeas: **117** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

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

- the Committee on Institutions, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 64, An Act to modernize legislative provisions as regards the protection of personal information;
- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 59, An Act to modernize the occupational health and safety regime.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

At 11:05 a.m., the President suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 11:14 a.m.

31 March 2021

Business Having Precedence

Debate on the Budget Speech

The Assembly entered upon the debate on the motion moved by Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, that the Assembly approve the Government's budgetary policy.

Ms. Soucy, Second Vice-President, informed the Assembly of the allocation of speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this debate: 6 hours 30 minutes to the parliamentary group forming the Government, including the Budget Speech; 3 hours 57 minutes 23 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition, including the comments made by its representative on 25 March 2021 and his address during today's proceedings; 1 hour 24 minutes 47 seconds to the Second Opposition Group, including the comments made by its representative on 25 March 2021 and his address during today's proceedings; 1 hour 7 minutes 50 seconds to the Third Opposition Group, including the comments made by its representative on 25 March 2021; and 30 minutes to the independent Members, subject to a maximum of 7 minutes 30 seconds each. Within this framework, any time not used by an independent Member or by a parliamentary group shall be redistributed among the parliamentary groups in the proportions established above. Lastly, individual addresses shall not be limited.

At 1:00 p.m., Ms. Soucy, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 2:30 p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 2:30 p.m.

The Assembly resumed the debate on the motion moved by Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, that the Assembly approve the Government's budgetary policy.

31 March 2021

At the end of her address, Ms. Anglade (Leader of the Official Opposition) moved the following motion stating a grievance:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for its denial of the labour shortage and for not presenting the concrete solutions to which it has access to resolve this challenge now.

The debate continued on the motion moved by Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, and on the motion stating a grievance moved by Ms. Anglade (Leader of the Official Opposition), subject to the receivability of this motion.

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

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for the lack of vision toward a green and fair transition in this budget.

The debate continued on the motion moved by Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Ms. Anglade (Leader of the Official Opposition) and Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière), subject to the receivability of these motions.

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

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for its 2021–2022 budget, which does not alleviate underinvestment in education and early childcare sectors, thereby contributing to the perpetuation of inequalities, especially gender inequality.

31 March 2021

The debate continued on the motion moved by Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Ms. Anglade (Leader of the Official Opposition), Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière) and Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke), subject to the receivability of these motions.

At the end of her address, Ms. Perry Mélançon (Gaspé) moved the following motion stating a grievance:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for the lack of adequate funding for the network of shelters for abused women.

The debate continued on the motion moved by Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Ms. Anglade (Leader of the Official Opposition), Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière), Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke) and Ms. Perry Mélançon (Gaspé), subject to the receivability of these motions.

At the end of her address, Ms. Sauvé (Fabre) moved the following motion stating a grievance:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for having abolished the Caregiver Support Fund in the budget.

The debate continued on the motion moved by Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Ms. Anglade (Leader of the Official Opposition), Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière), Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke), Ms. Perry Mélançon (Gaspé) and Ms. Sauvé (Fabre), subject to the receivability of these motions.

31 March 2021

At 6:00 p.m., Ms. Gaudreault, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 1 April 2021 at 9:40 a.m.

FRANÇOIS PARADIS

President

31 March 2021

APPENDIX

Recorded Divisions

On the motion moved by Mr. Charette, Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change, together with Ms. Melançon (Verdun):

(Division No. 904)

YEAS - 117

Allaire (CAQ)	Dubé (CAQ)	Lamothe (CAQ)	Poulin (CAQ)
Anglade (QLP)	Dufour (CAQ)	Lavallée (CAQ)	Proulx (CAQ)
Arcand (QLP)	Émond (CAQ)	LeBel (CAQ)	(Côte-du-Sud)
Arseneau (PQ)	Fitzgibbon (CAQ)	(Champlain)	Proulx (CAQ)
Asselin (CAQ)	Fontecilla (QS)	Lecours (CAQ)	(Berthier)
Bachand (CAQ)	Fortin (QLP)	(Lotbinière-Frontenac)	Provençal (CAQ)
Barrette (QLP)	Foster (CAQ)	Lecours (CAQ)	Reid (CAQ)
Bélanger (CAQ)	Fournier (IND)	(Les Plaines)	Richard (PQ)
Benjamin (QLP)	Gaudreault (PQ)	Leduc (QS)	Rizqy (QLP)
Bérubé (PQ)	(Jonquière)	Lefebvre (CAQ)	Roberge (CAQ)
Birnbaum (QLP)	Ghazal (QS)	Legault (CAQ)	Robitaille (QLP)
Blais (CAQ)	Girard (CAQ)	Leitão (QLP)	Rotiroti (QLP)
(Prévost)	(Lac-Saint-Jean)	Lemay (CAQ)	Rouleau (CAQ)
Blais (CAQ)	Girard (CAQ)	Lemieux (CAQ)	Rousselle (QLP)
(Abitibi-Ouest)	(Groulx)	Lessard-Therrien (QS)	Roy (PQ)
Bonnardel (CAQ)	Girault (CAQ)	Lévesque (CAQ)	(Bonaventure)
Boulet (CAQ)	Grondin (CAQ)	(Chapleau)	Roy (CAQ)
Boutin (CAQ)	Guilbault (CAQ)	Lévesque (CAQ)	(Montarville)
Bussière (CAQ)	Guillemette (CAQ)	(Chauveau)	Samson (CAQ)
Caire (CAQ)	Hébert (CAQ)	Maccarone (QLP)	Sauvé (QLP)
Campeau (CAQ)	Hivon (PQ)	Marissal (QS)	Schneeberger (CAQ)
Carmant (CAQ)	Isabelle (CAQ)	Martel (CAQ)	Simard (CAQ)
Caron (CAQ)	Jacques (CAQ)	Massé (QS)	Skeete (CAQ)
Charbonneau (QLP)	Jeannotte (CAQ)	McCann (CAQ)	St-Pierre (QLP)
Charest (CAQ)	Jolin-Barrette (CAQ)	Melançon (QLP)	Tanguay (QLP)
Charette (CAQ)	Julien (CAQ)	Ménard (QLP)	Tardif (CAQ)
Chassé (CAQ)	Kelley (QLP)	Montpetit (QLP)	(Lavolette-Saint-Maurice)
Chassin (CAQ)	Labrie (QS)	Nadeau-Dubois (QS)	Thériault (QLP)
Ciccone (QLP)	Lachance (CAQ)	Nichols (QLP)	Tremblay (CAQ)
D'Amours (CAQ)	Lacombe (CAQ)	Ouellet (PQ)	Weil (QLP)
Dansereau (CAQ)	Laforest (CAQ)	Perry Melançon (PQ)	Zanetti (QS)
David (QLP)	Laframboise (CAQ)	Picard (CAQ)	
Derraji (QLP)	Lafrenière (CAQ)	(Soulanges)	
Dorion (QS)	Lamontagne (CAQ)	Polo (QLP)	

31 March 2021

On the motion moved by Ms. Melançon (Verdun), together with Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke) and Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin):

(Division No. 905)

(Identical to Division No. 904)

On the motion moved by Mr. Marissal (Rosemont), together with Ms. LeBel, Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, Mr. Barrette (La Pinière), Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière), Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) and Mr. LeBel (Rimouski):

(Division No. 906)

(Identical to Division No. 904)

On the motion moved by Mr. Lefebvre, Chief Government Whip:

(Division No. 907)

(Identical to Division No. 904)

On the motion moved by Mr. Caire, Deputy Government House Leader:

(Division No. 908)

(Identical to Division No. 904)
