



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

Order Paper and Notices **of the Assembly**

Wednesday, 14 April 2021 — No. 178
Nine forty a.m.

President of the National Assembly:
Mr. François Paradis

Part 1

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

- The Member for Brome-Missisquoi on the following subject: *Tribute to Mr. Roger Laguë.*
- The Member for Verdun on the following subject: *Tribute to Ms. Jeannine Bourbonnais and Mr. Maurice Couturier.*
- The Member for Pointe-aux-Trembles on the following subject: *Service Impôt bénévole de la Pointe de L'Île.*
- The Member for Nelligan on the following subject: *Celebrate the 25th anniversary of Middle East Radio.*
- The Member for Chicoutimi on the following subject: *Tribute to Mr. Robert Hakim.*
- The Member for Taschereau on the following subject: *Pay tribute to Mr. Alix Renaud, poet and novelist.*
- The Member for Beauce-Sud on the following subject: *20 years of the Association régionale de loisir des personnes handicapées de la Chaudière-Appalaches.*
- The Member for Chauveau on the following subject: *Mr. Michel Beaulieu, outgoing mayor of Lac-Beauport.*

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

PRESENTING a) Papers
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ORAL ANSWERS TO PETITIONS

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Part 2

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUSINESS HAVING PRECEDENCE

- (1) Pursuant to Standing Orders 275 and 276, continuation of the debate on the motion by the Minister of Finance – That this Assembly approves the budgetary policy of the Government,

And on the motions stating a grievance moved by:

The Leader of the Official Opposition

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 Member for Jonquière:

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

The Member for Sherbrooke:

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.

The Member for Gaspé:

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

The Member for Fabre:

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

The Member for Mercier:

THAT the National Assembly censure the CAQ government for its 2021–2022 budget, which does not provide the resources or necessary means to meet the requirements of protecting the environment and fighting against climate change.

The Member for Verdun:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for its lack of budget investments in shelters for women who are victims of domestic violence.

The Member for Jean-Lesage:

THAT the National Assembly denounce, in the context of the 2021–2022 budget, the CAQ government’s submission to the Canadian system that deprives Québec of crucial levers to deal with the pandemic and carry out a green and fair recovery.

The Leader of the Second Opposition Group

THAT the National Assembly censure the CAQ government for its 2021–2022 Budget, “Québec is Resilient and Confident”, due to its lack of ambition when it comes to the economic and ecological transition, and for promising a resilient Québec society but does not provide the measures necessary to attain this and also fails to acknowledge the inadequate level of preparedness of our industries, cities, institutions and communities for the inevitable impacts of climate change.

The Member for Joliette

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for:

The significant increase in the number of children waiting for a space in an educational childcare service;

The decline, for a third consecutive year, in investments provided for in the Québec Infrastructure Plan to ensure the development of new subsidized childcare spaces;

The fact that many parents are now forced to delay returning to the workforce due to lack of access to a childcare space for their child;

The lack of means, vision and proactivity to deal with the unprecedented shortage of educators and the serious lack of spaces in educational childcare services.

The Member for Maurice-Richard

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for its budget, which does not offer a sustainable solution to the labour shortage in Québec's health services, nor a concrete plan to catch up on the surgeries delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Member for LaFontaine

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for having presented a budget that does not include a comprehensive plan to address the childcare services crisis and meet the needs of the 51,000 families waiting for a space for their child.

URGENT DEBATES

DEBATES ON REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

OTHER BUSINESS

I. Government Bills

Passage in Principle

(2) Bill 30

An Act to recover amounts owed to the State

Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor on **14 June 2019**

(3) Bill 49

An Act to amend the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities, the Municipal Ethics and Good Conduct Act and various legislative provisions

Introduced by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing on **13 November 2019**

(4) Bill 61

An Act to restart Québec's economy and to mitigate the consequences of the public health emergency declared on 13 March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic

Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor on 3 June 2020

Report from the Committee on Public Finance (consultations) tabled on 11 June 2020

Resuming the debate adjourned in the name of the Member for La Pinière on **12 June 2020**

(5) Bill 78

An Act mainly to improve the transparency of enterprises

Introduced by the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity on 8 December 2020

Report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy (consultations) tabled on **9 March 2021**

(6) Bill 79

An Act to authorize the communication of personal information to the families of Indigenous children who went missing or died after being admitted to an institution

Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs on 9 December 2020

Report from the Committee on Citizen Relations (consultations) tabled on **13 April 2021**

(7) Bill 83

An Act respecting mainly the health insurance plan and prescription drug insurance plan eligibility of certain children whose parents' migratory status is precarious

Introduced by the Minister of Health and Social Services on **10 December 2020**

(8) Bill 86

An Act respecting the demise of the Crown

Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Canadian Relations and the Canadian Francophonie on **11 March 2021**

(9) Bill 88

An Act to amend the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife and other legislative provisions

Introduced by the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks on **11 March 2021**

Committee Stage

(10) 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

Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor on 18 April 2019

Passed in principle on **19 September 2019**, and

Referred to the Committee on Public Finance

(11) Bill 39

An Act to establish a new electoral system

Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Democratic Institutions, Electoral Reform and Access to Information on 25 September 2019

Report from the Committee on Institutions (consultations) tabled on 11 February 2020

Passed in principle on **8 October 2020**, and

Referred to the Committee on Institutions

(12) Bill 59

An Act to modernize the occupational health and safety regime

Introduced by the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity on 27 October 2020

Report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy (consultations) tabled on 2 February 2021

Passed in principle on **16 February 2021**, and

Referred to the Committee on Labour and the Economy

(13) Bill 64

An Act to modernize legislative provisions as regards the protection of personal information

Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Democratic Institutions, Electoral Reform and Access to Information on 12 June 2020, and

Report from the Committee on Institutions (consultations) tabled on 30 September 2020

Passed in principle on **20 October 2020**, and

Referred to the Committee on Institutions

(14) Bill 74

An Act to give effect to fiscal measures announced in the Budget Speech delivered on 10 March 2020 and to certain other measures

Introduced by the Minister of Finance on 2 December 2020

Passed in principle on **2 February 2021**, and

Referred to the Committee on Public Finance

(15) Bill 82

An Act respecting mainly the implementation of certain provisions of the Budget Speech of 10 March 2020
Introduced by the Minister of Finance on 11 December 2020
Passed in principle on **17 February 2021**, and
Referred to the Committee on Public Finance

(16) Bill 84*

An Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery
Introduced by the Minister of Justice on 10 December 2020
Report from the Committee on Institutions (consultations) tabled on 2 February 2021
Passed in principle on **4 February 2021**, and
Referred to the Committee on Institutions

*** Recommendation of the Lieutenant-Governor**

Report Stage

(17) Bill 60

An Act to amend the Public Service Act and other provisions
Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor on 12 June 2020
Report from the Committee on Public Finance (consultations) tabled on 17 February 2021
Passed in principle on 9 March 2021
Report from the Committee on Public Finance tabled on **13 April 2021**

Passage

II. Private Members' Public Bills

Passage in Principle

(18) Bill 190

An Act to exclude child support payments from income calculation under various social laws
Introduced by the Member for Sherbrooke on **7 December 2018**

(19) Bill 191

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

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

(20) Bill 192

An Act to recognize the Members' oath to the people of Québec as the sole oath required for Members to take office

Introduced by the Member for Jean-Lesage on **28 February 2019**

(21) Bill 193

An Act to establish a budgetary shield to protect education, child and youth protection services

Introduced by the Member for Joliette on **7 February 2019**

(22) Bill 194

An Act to ensure compliance with Québec's climate change-related obligations

Introduced by the Member for Jonquière on **21 February 2019**

(23) Bill 195

An Act to amend the Act respecting the National Assembly to extend the scope of the right to payment of expenses for counsel

Introduced by the Member for Chomedey on **11 April 2019**

(24) Bill 196

An Act to amend the Act respecting safety in sports to establish a Passe-Sports register to collect data on the state of health of persons under 18 years of age following a concussion

Introduced by the Member for Marquette on **11 April 2019**

(25) Bill 198

An Act to facilitate disclosure of wrongdoings

Introduced by the Member for Rosemont on **9 May 2019**

(26) Bill 199

An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act to establish a right of citizen initiative in environmental matters and reinforce the powers and independence of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement
Introduced by the Member for Mercier on **25 September 2019**

(27) Bill 391

An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act in order to assert the primacy of Québec's jurisdiction in this area
Introduced by the Member for Jonquière on **30 May 2019**

(28) Bill 392

An Act respecting the selection of Québec senators
Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **9 May 2019**

(29) Bill 393

An Act to affirm Québec's participation in the appointment process for Québec Supreme Court of Canada judges
Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **16 May 2019**

(30) Bill 396

An Act to amend the Civil Code to provide that an action for damages for bodily injury resulting from a sexual aggression, from childhood violence or from the violent behaviour of a spouse or former spouse cannot be prescribed during the lifetime of the author of the act
Introduced by the Member for Sherbrooke on **12 June 2019**

(31) Bill 397

An Act to reinforce oversight of the processes to select, renew a term of or dismiss directors of municipal police forces
Introduced by the Member for Vaudreuil on **14 November 2019**

(32) Bill 398

An Act to proclaim Québec Democracy Day
Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **20 February 2020**

- (33) Bill 399
An Act to establish a presumption of consent to organ or tissue donation after death
Introduced by the Member for Pontiac on **5 November 2019**
- (34) Bill 490
An Act to establish the gradual electrification of Québec's vehicle fleet
Introduced by the Member for Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques on
26 September 2019
- (35) Bill 491
An Act to combat food waste
Introduced by the Member for Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue on
12 November 2020
- (36) Bill 492
Right-to-Disconnect Act
Introduced by the Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve on **3 June 2020**
- (37) Bill 493
Interculturalism Act
Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **30 October 2019**
- (38) Bill 495
An Act to authorize the recording of sound and images during the public sittings of a municipal council or the public meetings of a council of a metropolitan community
Introduced by the Member for Verdun on **20 November 2019**
- (39) Bill 496
Parliamentary Budget Officer Act
Introduced by the Member for Rosemont on **14 November 2019**
- (40) Bill 497
An Act to amend the Charter of human rights and freedoms in order to strengthen the protection of seniors' rights and create the office of Seniors Ombudsperson
Introduced by the Member for Rimouski on **4 December 2019**

(41) Bill 590

An Act to amend the Charter of the French language to establish free French instruction services for every person who resides in Québec
Introduced by the Member for Jacques-Cartier on **4 December 2019**

(42) Bill 591

An Act to amend the Charter of the French language to define the circumstances under which an employer may make knowledge of a language other than the official language a requirement for access to employment or a position
Introduced by the Member for Matane-Matapédia on **12 February 2020**

(43) Bill 594

An Act to improve the quality of care through the setting of ratios in certain institutions governed by the Act respecting health services and social services
Introduced by the Member for Pontiac on **26 May 2020**

(44) Bill 595

An Act to create the Rent Register
Introduced by the Member for Laurier-Dorion on **4 June 2020**

(45) Bill 596

An Act to establish Pharma-Québec
Introduced by the Member for Jean-Lesage on **15 September 2020**

(46) Bill 597

An Act to improve support offered to entrepreneurs and farmers in relation to mental health
Introduced by the Member for Nelligan on **10 June 2020**

(47) Bill 598

An Act to authorize the holder of a restaurant sales liquor permit to sell, for takeout or delivery, spirit-based alcoholic beverages
Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **12 June 2020**

(48) Bill 599

An Act to respect sexual orientation and gender identity
Introduced by the Member for Westmount–Saint-Louis on **22 September 2020**

(49) Bill 690

An Act to amend the Charter of the French language to specify that it applies to private enterprises operating in an area of federal jurisdiction
Introduced by the Member for Jean-Lesage on **24 September 2020**

(50) Bill 691

An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère des Transports to maintain air transportation services in certain regions of Québec
Introduced by the Member for Mont-Royal–Outremont on
30 September 2020

(51) Bill 692

An Act to amend the Act respecting safety in sports to prohibit fighting in sports activities in which persons under 18 years of age participate
Introduced by the Member for Marquette on **21 October 2020**

(52) Bill 693

An Act to amend the Election Act to prevent and fight sexual violence in the context of political activities
Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **22 October 2020**

(53) Bill 695

An Act to set a standard for the maximum concentration of manganese in drinking water
Introduced by the Member for Vaudreuil on **9 December 2020**

(54) Bill 696

An Act providing for the temporary suspension of the right to increase the rent for a lease of a dwelling
Introduced by the Member for Laurier-Dorion on **10 February 2021**

(55) Bill 697

An Act to promote the disclosure of wrongdoings and strengthen the protection of whistleblowers
Introduced by the Member for Jonquière on **17 March 2021**

(56) Bill 698

An Act to temporarily limit the charges that restaurateurs may be required to pay for online order services and meal delivery services
Introduced by the Member for Nelligan on **18 February 2021**

(57) Bill 699

Act to promote integration of immigrants by organizing welcome ceremonies for newcomers – Introduced by the Member for Marie-Victorin on **1 April 2021**

Committee Stage

(58) Bill 197

An Act to amend the Consumer Protection Act to fight planned obsolescence and assert the right to repair goods
Introduced by the Member for Chomedey on 9 April 2019
Passed in principle on **13 April 2021**, and
Referred to the Committee on Citizen Relations

Report Stage

Passage

III. Private Bills

Hearings and Clause-by-Clause Consideration

(59) Bill 209

An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Tite
Introduced by the Member for Maskinongé on **4 December 2019**, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

(60) Bill 214

An Act respecting Ville de Sutton
Introduced by the Member for Richmond on **12 November 2020**, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

(61) Bill 215

An Act respecting Municipalité de Nominingue
Introduced by the Member for Labelle on **12 November 2020**, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

(62) Bill 216

An Act to amend the Act respecting the establishment of a special taxation scheme for the Corporation de gestion du port de Baie-Comeau
Introduced by the Member for René-Lévesque on **21 October 2020**, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

(63) Bill 217

An Act respecting the objects and powers of the Roman Catholic Archiepiscopal corporation of Montreal
Introduced by the Member for Westmount–Saint-Louis on **11 November 2020**, and
Referred to the Committee on Labour and the Economy

(64) Bill 219

An Act respecting an immovable located on Rue University in Montréal
Introduced by the Member for Westmount–Saint-Louis on **11 November 2020**, and
Referred to the Committee on Public Finance

Passage in Principle

Passage

IV. Government Motions

V. Estimates of Expenditure

(65) Estimates of Expenditure for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2022 tabled by the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor on 25 March 2021 and referred for consideration to the standing committees on **30 March 2021**

VI. Statutory Debates

BUSINESS STANDING IN THE NAME OF MEMBERS IN OPPOSITION

(66) 13 April 2021

Motion by the Member for LaFontaine

THAT the National Assembly recognize that Québec is currently experiencing an unprecedented crisis in the number of available spaces its educational childcare services can offer;

THAT it acknowledge that the waiting list has drastically increased, with over 51,000 children from across Québec now waiting for a space;

THAT it emphasize that the difficulty of obtaining a childcare space leads parents, mainly women, to make the tough choice of taking unpaid leave;

THAT it recognize that this crisis in childcare spaces accentuates the inequity gap between women and men;

THAT it note that many essential service jobs are female-dominated professions and that Québec depends on the work these woman perform, especially during these pandemic times;

THAT it emphasize that it is almost exclusively women who hold early childcare educator positions and that the childcare service network currently needs several thousand more qualified educators in order for it to be able to operate properly;

THAT it recall that recent negotiations with the providers of home educational services were arduous and resulted in several closures of these childcare facilities;

THAT it acknowledge that the CAQ government's third budget does not contain a plan nor the sums necessary to get Québec families out of this childcare space predicament;

THAT it demand that the CAQ government recognize the gravity of this childcare space crisis;

THAT, lastly, it demand that the CAQ government mobilize all government departments and agencies in order to implement an emergency plan as quickly as possible.

Part 3

BILLS PASSED

(Bills awaiting Royal Assent)

Part 4

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEES

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

COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Order in compliance with the Standing Orders

- Hearing of the Auditor General of Québec on her 2018–2019 annual management report and financial commitments.
- Hearing of the Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor on the Report on the application of the *Public Administration Act*.
- Hearing of the Public Curator on Chapter 6 of the Auditor General of Québec's November 2019 report entitled "Protection of Incapacitated Persons Under Public Protective Supervision".
- Hearing of the Société d'habitation du Québec on Chapter 4 of the Auditor General of Québec's October 2020 report on housing projects entitled "AccèsLogis Québec Programme: Réalisation des projets d'habitation" as a follow-up to recommendation 2.1 of the 41st report from the Committee on Public Administration.
- Hearing of the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques on Chapter 2 of the Sustainable Development Commissioner's June 2020 report entitled "Eco-Taxation, Cross-Compliance and Eco-Responsibility for a Green and Responsible Economy".
- Hearing of the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques and the Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Habitation on Chapter 3 of the Sustainable Development Commissioner's June 2020 report entitled "Conservation of Water Resources".
- Hearing of the Ministère de la Famille on its administrative management and financial commitments, as well as on Chapter 2 of the Auditor General of Québec's October 2020 report entitled "Access to Educational Childcare Services".
- Hearing of the Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation on its administrative management and financial commitments.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Order of reference

- Examination of Hydro-Québec's Strategic Plan 2020-2024 (Order of reference given on 5 December 2019).

Order in compliance with the Standing Orders

Surveillance of public bodies and accountability:

- Examination of the policy directions, activities and management of the Régie de l'énergie.

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Order of reference

Special Consultations:

- **Bill 49**, An Act to amend the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities, the Municipal Ethics and Good Conduct Act and various legislative provisions (Order of reference given on 13 April 2021).

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 209**, An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Tite (Order of reference given on 4 December 2019).
- **Bill 214**, An Act respecting Ville de Sutton (Order of reference given on 12 November 2020).
- **Bill 215**, An Act respecting Municipalité de Nominingue (Order of reference given on 12 November 2020).
- **Bill 216**, An Act to amend the Act respecting the establishment of a special taxation scheme for the Corporation de gestion du port de Baie-Comeau (Order of reference given on 21 October 2020).

Order in compliance with the Standing Orders

Surveillance of public bodies and accountability:

- Hearing the Commission municipale du Québec.

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

Statutory order

- Hearing the heads of educational institutions at the university level.

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 59**, An Act to modernize the occupational health and safety regime (Order of reference given on 16 February 2021).
- **Bill 217**, An Act respecting the objects and powers of the Roman Catholic Archiepiscopal corporation of Montreal (Order of reference given on 11 November 2020).

Order in compliance with the Standing Orders

Interpellation :

- by the Member for Nelligan to the Minister of Finance on the following subject: *The CAQ government's difficulties in delivering services, particularly health care and the lack of effective measures to address the labour shortage in the 2021–2022 budget* (notice given on 1 April 2021).

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **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 (Order of reference given on 19 September 2019).
- **Bill 74**, An Act to give effect to fiscal measures announced in the Budget Speech delivered on 10 March 2020 and to certain other measures (Order of reference given on 2 February 2021).
- **Bill 82**, An Act respecting mainly the implementation of certain provisions of the Budget Speech of 10 March 2020 (Order of reference given on 17 February 2021).
- **Bill 219**, An Act respecting an immovable located on Rue University in Montréal (Order of reference given on 11 November 2020).

Order in compliance with the Standing Orders

- Quarterly examination of the Government's budgetary policy and of the evolution of public finance.
- Continuation of the debate on the budget speech.

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 39**, An Act to establish a new electoral system (Order of reference given on 8 October 2020).
- **Bill 64**, An Act to modernize legislative provisions as regards the protection of personal information (Order of reference given on 20 October 2020).
- **Bill 84**, An Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery (Order of reference given on 4 February 2021).

COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN RELATIONS

Order of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 197**, An Act to amend the Consumer Protection Act to fight planned obsolescence and assert the right to repair goods (Order of reference given on 13 April 2021).

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Order of reference

Special Consultations:

- **Bill 83**, An Act respecting mainly the health insurance plan and prescription drug insurance plan eligibility of certain children whose parents' migratory status is precarious (Order of reference given on 25 March 2021).

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Order of reference

Special Consultations:

- **Bill 88**, An Act to amend the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife and other legislative provisions (Order of reference given on 30 March 2021).

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE ACT RESPECTING END-OF-LIFE CARE

Order of reference

Special Consultations:

- 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.

Part 5

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Questions already placed on the Order Paper
are published each Wednesday

(189) Mr. Marissal (Rosemont) – **9 February 2021**
To the Minister of Finance

On 10 November 2017, Québec's Minister of Finance made public the Tax Fairness Action Plan. This action plan was a follow-up to the National Assembly's Committee on Public Finance (CPF) report on the tax havens phenomenon, published in March of the same year.

Two recommendations in the CPF report were not retained by the Québec government in the Minister of Finance's Action Plan (recommendations 5 and 6):

“5. Tax dividends received in Québec that have been subject to foreign deductions.

6. Grant a tax credit equal to the foreign income tax paid rather than allowing the income to be brought back into Québec tax-free.”

The Action Plan states that “In 2017, 29 of the 35 OECD member countries had a tax system allowing the repatriation of earnings through tax-exempt dividends or provided some exemption for such dividends.” (Action Plan, p. 157)

My questions to the Minister of Finance with respect to Measure 5 of the action plan are as follows:

- What is the assessment of losses Québec will incur by refusing to adopt these two recommendations?
- What is the assessment of the impacts of collecting the tax on dividends imposed by six of the 35 OECD member countries?
- Has Québec entered into discussions with the federal government and the other provinces in order to form a united front with respect to the taxation of these dividends?

(190) Mr. Marissal (Rosemont) – **9 February 2021**
To the Minister of Finance

On 10 November 2017, Québec’s Minister of Finance made public the Tax Fairness Action Plan. This action plan was a follow-up to the National Assembly’s Committee on Public Finance (CPF) report on the tax havens phenomenon, published in March of the same year.

Measure 2 of the Action Plan states that “Québec asks the federal government to send it the information obtained under bilateral tax treaties with other countries.”

In February 2018, the Minister of Finance testified before the CPF members that under the current tax agreements, only information obtained from France and the United States could be transmitted to Québec by the Canada Revenue Agency. However, these tax agreements would allow Québec to obtain information on Québec companies conducting business abroad.

Measure 3 of the Action Plan states that “In order to make full use of the information obtained through measures 1 and 2, Québec is setting up the Intervention Group specializing in international tax planning to use the financial and tax data”.

My questions to the Minister of Finance with respect to Measure 2 of the action plan are as follows:

- To what extent does the government of Québec currently obtain from the federal government the information obtained by the latter under,
 - the tax agreements Canada is a party to?
 - the country-by-country reporting implemented in the context of the OECD BEPS initiative, which Canada has been receiving since 2017?
- Does the information provided to Québec by the federal government make it possible, on the one hand, to determine the volume of business and profits being made by transnational corporations in Québec and, on the other hand, to determine the profits diverted to jurisdictions elsewhere for lower tax rates?

- Given its sovereignty in fiscal matters, how does Québec intend to address the situation if it has not received information to ensure tax fairness for Québec companies compared to transnational companies?

My questions to the Minister of Finance with respect to Measure 3 of the action plan are as follows:

- For each year since the publication of the Action Plan, how many people have been part of the intervention group specializing in international tax planning (full-time equivalent employees – FTEs)?
- What is the actual amount of money spent by Revenu Québec for this specialized intervention group?
- What objectives have been set for hiring personnel for this group, particularly for professionals specializing in international tax planning?
- Have those objectives been achieved for each of the years since the publication of the Action Plan?
- Is a progress report on this group's work available and if so has it been tabled before the Committee?
- What is the proportion of the personnel assigned to work on businesses compared to personnel assigned to work on individuals, keeping in mind that only 5% of the funds that transit through tax havens belongs to individuals?
- Considering this proportion (the 5% mentioned above), should the focus be more on tax planning for businesses than for individuals?

(191) Mr. Marissal (Rosemont) – **9 February 2021**
To the Minister of Finance

On 10 November 2017, Québec's Minister of Finance made public the Tax Fairness Action Plan. This action plan was a follow-up to the National Assembly's Committee on Public Finance (CPF) report on the tax havens phenomenon, published in March of the same year.

Measure 5 of the Action Plan states that "Québec will support the Canada Border Services Agency to ensure collection of Québec sales tax on tangible properties from abroad and sold by companies without a physical or significant presence in Québec".

We know that Measure 5 has not yielded the expected results. However, a pilot project on border tax collection will be established in 2021 in accordance with what was announced in the context of the presentation of the 2020 budget: “Given the shared determination of both governments, Québec will work with the federal government to implement in 2021 harmonized rules for the collection of the QST and the GST/HST by foreign suppliers”. (Source: Budget 2020–2021, Additional Information, p. B.4)

My questions to the Minister of Finance regarding Measure 5 of the action plan are as follows:

- What is the status of discussions with the federal government regarding this pilot project and what are the main issues?
- Has the Ministère des Finances updated its 2017 estimate for Québec sales tax revenue losses on tangible properties from abroad sold by companies without a physical or significant presence in Québec? If so, what are the estimated losses for 2020?
- Has the Ministère des Finances studied the negative impacts of this privilege for local stores and businesses? If so, what are the conclusions?

(192) Mr. Marissal (Rosemont) – **9 February 2021**
To the Minister of Finance

In 2013, member governments of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the G20 initiated a major overhaul of international tax rules, which resulted in the creation of the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) project. The objective of this project was to revise the rules in force so that they would be better adapted to the world economy and in harmony with it. The goal was therefore to ensure that profits are taxed in the countries where economic activities are carried out. One of the main issues identified as being at the root of the BEPS phenomenon is the lack of coordination between national rules. In addition, the constantly changing global economic environment often leads to gaps in international rules. Lastly, significant widespread gaps in data and information knowledge were also found.

The 2013 Action Plan on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting identified 15 actions, along three fundamental pillars: “introducing coherence in the domestic rules that affect cross-border activities, reinforcing substance requirements in the existing international standards and improving transparency, as well as certainty for businesses that do not take aggressive positions”.

In October 2020, the Inclusive Framework on BEPS (grouping of over 125 countries and jurisdictions collaborating on the implementation of measures arising from the BEPS project) released the work programmes of the two pillars resulting from the BEPS project, namely:

1. Solutions to better allocate taxing rights across jurisdictions (nexus and profit allocation);
2. Development of a system to ensure that multinational corporations pay a minimum level of tax on profits.

My questions to the Minister of Finance are as follows:

- Has the Ministère des Finances or Revenu Québec carried out an analysis of how Québec would be affected by the proposal made by the OECD last October (pillars One and Two)?
- Has the Ministère des Finances or Revenu Québec carried out an assessment of the revenue that could be generated for Québec if the OECD proposal (pillars One and Two) were implemented?
- Considering how difficult it is to reach a multilateral agreement on digital economy taxation, would it not be wise for Québec to introduce a new temporary tax on the turnover of companies in the digital sector, as certain jurisdictions such as France have done?
- Given that harmonization of such a temporary tax on the digital economy with the federal government would be desirable, have the Ministère des Finances or Revenu Québec entered into discussions with their federal counterparts on this subject?
- In the context of major budget deficits due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the concomitant increase in the revenues and profits of the giants of the digital economy, does the Minister consider it appropriate that the government of Québec explicitly request that the federal government implement a temporary tax on digital economy businesses?

(193) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **9 February 2021**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Many elderly people who live in private seniors' residences (PSRs) in my riding and throughout Québec are being affected by a dramatic increase in their rent costs exceeding the inflation rate. I understand that PSRs are experiencing higher operating costs due to the pandemic, as are many businesses, however not all seniors live in luxurious residences and the vast majority simply cannot afford this increased burden. Some seniors do not have family support and the elderly often fear reprisals. Senior citizens have a limited ability to pay because 60% of those aged 65 and older have an income of less than \$30,000 per year.

My question is the following:

Can the Minister quickly implement specific measures to protect seniors from these unacceptable increases by implementing an assistance program to support small residences experiencing financial difficulty or by raising incomes for seniors living in these residences?

(197) Mr. Lebel (Rimouski) – **18 February 2021**
To the Government

The past year has been challenging for a large number of Québec's elderly population. Our shortcomings in how we perceive aging and the services we need to offer to seniors have been exposed for all to see. Without pointing fingers, we must come to the realization that things must change and that it is necessary to rethink our idea of what "aging well" means in Québec.

We must make the right decisions to adapt Québec society to the aging of its population. This is a major societal issue that requires vision and concrete actions.

It is clear that people are living longer lives, with average life expectancy being much higher due to better overall health. However, it is much less clear that we will be living better lives. Our ability to meet the challenges of this new paradigm will depend on society's ability to adapt. This new reality requires that we thoroughly examine the ways in which we view aging, retirement, the various stages we go through in life, and the contribution of each individual to society

In my riding, already one in four people is over age 65. In October 2019, I held a symposium where seniors, elected officials and stakeholders became more aware of the situation. Together, we identified concrete actions that could be taken to make longevity a good thing and not a problem.

Now all Quebecers must be made more aware of the situation because our society is one of most affected by aging in the world. We must take urgent action. I know that we all agree on the why, but now we must mobilize all Quebecers to reflect on the how.

My question is the following:

Is the Government ready to initiate a process involving the mobilization of seniors and civil society actors that will lead us to an Estates General on the ability of Québec society to adapt to its aging population by fall 2022?

(201) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **9 March 2021**
To the Minister of Transport

The Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques issued an order in council (890-2010) for the Turcot Complex reconstruction project in the cities of Montréal, Montréal-Ouest and Westmount to ensure that this major project is carried out properly from an environmental perspective.

One component of the Order in Council, condition 8 regarding the Saint-Jacques Escarpment, requires mitigation of the damages that will be caused to the wetland and trees in the area.

Instead of creating basins and a pond as presented to the public, the department wants to create a ditch that would require the removal of between 400 and 625 trees, even though most of them are healthy. The MTQ's explanations that this work is necessary “[Translation] to facilitate maintenance, ensure adequate drainage and guarantee the long-term stability of the Saint-Jacques Escarpment and the mound of the green strip” are confusing because the trees’ roots play an important role in maintaining soil stability.

The Escarpment is a major route for migratory birds, for which these trees are essential, and home to 65 species of birds, including species such as the wood thrush and the barn swallow, which are threatened, as well as the brown snake, which is on the way to becoming threatened.

In light of these points, we would like the Minister to answer the following questions:

1. Why is the Minister of Transport not complying with condition 8 of Order in Council 890-2010, as regards the Saint-Jacques Escarpment?
2. Why was the group Sauvons la falaise not notified about the Minister of the Environment's approval of tree removal or the start of work, despite a promise to do so?
3. What does the Minister intend to do to comply with condition 8?

(205) Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) – **9 March 2021**
To the Minister of Education

In April 2020, the Premier affirmed that herd immunity was one of the reasons for students' return to the classroom.

Can the Minister table the public health notices on this subject?

(206) Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) – **9 March 2021**
To the Minister of Education

On 8 January 2021, the Minister of Education announced that a mobile application would be created to give young people access to resources, testimonials, videos, etc. The Minister also announced that discussion forums on themes designed to meet the needs of young people would be set up to help mitigate feelings of isolation and offer ways to manage stress, in addition to a messaging service (chat) to be accessible throughout Québec.

For each of these announcements, can the Minister specify the progress of the work, the deadlines, the partner organizations responsible for implementing these measures and the contracts awarded to the organizations?

(207) Ms Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) – **9 March 2021**
To the Minister of Education

On 8 January 2021, the Minister of Education announced the implementation of a tutoring program and, according to the press release, the launch of various tutoring programs slated to begin at the end of January.

Can the Minister specify the list of tutoring programs put in place, the amounts allocated, the dates of allocation and a breakdown of the amounts by school service centre?

(212) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **16 March 2021**
To the Government

People living in poverty in the regions and the organizations that stand up for them are complaining that they no longer have access to denturist services.

The Québec government is mainly responsible for this problem, according to the Association des denturologistes, which specializes in the manufacture, installation and adjustment of dentures.

Let us recall that being deprived of these services can cause health problems for the people affected or exacerbate problems they already have.

I don't think we should blame denturists. The problem is that the Government reimburses only two-thirds of the bill for denturists, who must also deal with a huge bureaucracy and a lot of State-imposed paperwork. In many regions, this situation results in a complete refusal by denturists to provide care to some of our most vulnerable population.

Denturists are under pressure, and this has significant impacts on the health of Quebecers who are on social assistance, which is unacceptable.

My question is the following:

Is the Government aware of the situation? What will it do to remedy this situation? It is a question of health and social justice.

(214) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) - **18 March 2021**
To the Minister of Tourism

On 11 June 2020, the Minister of Tourism announced a tourism recovery plan with an emergency assistance envelope under the Concerted Temporary Action Program for Businesses (PACTE) of \$446 million in loans, including forgiveness of an amount equal to 25% of the loan repayment, up to a maximum of \$100,000. This represents direct assistance of only 8%. This low proportion will increase the financial burden on Québec's establishments and tourist attractions and hamper the industry's recovery.

Last November 10, the Minister announced that the forgivable portion of a loan under the tourism recovery plan would be increased from 25% to 40%, without however changing the ceiling, which is maintained at \$100,000.

On February 12 of this year, the Minister announced a new modification to the PACTE program, this time increasing the ceiling on the forgivable portion to \$250,000 and adding 100% coverage of monthly energy costs incurred between 1 January 2021 and 30 June 2021, up to \$35,000 per month, subject to an overall maximum of \$210,000 per establishment.

Further to the changes set out above, can the Minister tell us what proportion of the \$446 million of the tourism component of the PACTE program will be dedicated to establishments and tourist attractions?

(215) Ms. Melançon (Verdun) - **18 March 2021**
To the Minister of Tourism

In recent weeks, the Minister announced an action plan for responsible and sustainable tourism. In a related press conference, the Minister affirmed that the first measure she wants to quickly put in place is an electric car circuit to visit vineyards and farms in the Estrie region.

In connection with this statement and objective 2.2 of the action plan, can the Minister specify which regions will be targeted by the deployment of such circuits first, the planned investments that will be required to establish these circuits and the timetable for putting them in place?

(216) Mr. Tanguay (LaFontaine) – **18 March 2021**
To the Minister of Justice

On 14 April 2020, the Honourable Judge Claude Dallaire made an important judgement (A v. Attorney General of Quebec, 2020 QCCS 3375) in which he ordered the Attorney General of Quebec and Ms. France Rémillard to pay damages to the plaintiff as a result of the actions of a public servant of the Ministère de la Justice.

Once the facts of this case were made public by the newspaper La Presse, the Minister mandated Ms. Lise Verreault to conduct an internal investigation into the compliance of the current management mechanisms and procedures of the Autorité centrale du Québec (ACQ). The report was submitted to the Minister on 17 December 2020 and subsequently made public.

With regard to this matter, I would like to ask the Minister the following questions:

- What actions have been taken to follow up on each of report's recommendations so far?
- How many people are currently employed by the ACQ? Can he provide their names and functions, a description of their duties and who they report to?
- Can he tell us what procedures have been put in place to ensure control and accountability mechanisms?
- Lastly, can the Minister tell us what Ms. France Rémillard's current functions are within the Ministère de la Justice?

(217) Ms. David (Marguerite-Bourgeoys) – **18 March 2021**
To the Minister Responsible for the French Language

On November 4, 2019, the Conseil supérieur de la langue française released a study entitled "Pratiques linguistiques des ministères et organismes publics du gouvernement du Québec". The report contains an analysis of the governmental language policy adopted in 2011. The report reveals that just under 40% of government employees are aware of the existence of this language policy. Therefore, a large proportion of government employees cannot apply the policy in their day-to-day work and in their interactions with Québec citizens.

The day after the publication of this report, the Minister Responsible for the French Language issued a press release in which he stated that he had read the report and that he wanted to rectify the situation quickly.

Now that 16 months have passed since the Minister's commitment to rectify the situation, can the Minister tell us what actions have been taken to improve language practices within government departments and agencies?

(218) Ms. Maccarone (Westmount—Saint-Louis) – **18 March 2021**
To the Minister of Justice

Last January 28, the Superior Court, in the Centre for Gender Advocacy v. Attorney General of Quebec case, declared certain articles of the Civil Code discriminatory against trans and non-binary individuals. Following this ruling, the Government has until December 31 to amend these articles.

These legislative changes are very important for Québec's LGBT+ community and will require the sensitivity and expertise necessary to be able to carry out this legislative work.

In order to accomplish this, will the Minister commit to setting up, as of now, a working table on the necessary amendments with the relevant groups, in particular, LGBT+ Family Coalition, Gender Creative Kids Canada, Conseil québécois LGBT and other experts?

(219) Ms. Fournier (Marie-Victorin) – **23 March 2021**
To the Minister of Finance

On 13 June 2018, Bill 141, An Act mainly to improve the regulation of the financial sector, the protection of deposits of money and the operation of financial institutions, was passed and assented to. It brought about changes to legislation governing in particular commercial leasing brokerage.

One of the amendments that was introduced led to a certain loosening of the commercial real estate brokerage industry since the requirement to obtain a licence issued by the real estate self-regulatory organization known as the Organisme d'autoréglementation du courtage immobilier du Québec (OICAQ) to practise certain brokerage activities was withdrawn. The requirement to obtain a broker's licence is now linked to the aspect of professional representation rather than that of practice, which is paradoxical. Only individuals holding the title of broker and operating under this designation are required to have a broker's licence. This situation allows any player

to enter the market without the need for a licence, despite the fact that transactions are often complex and delicate, and the legal obligations place all of the burden and risk on the tenants. In the past, the issuance of a licence at least ensured that industry players had the skills necessary to operate while ensuring the protection of the public.

The OACIQ interprets this legislative amendment as follows with respect to its practical application: “Licence holders performing leasing brokerage transactions are subject to the obligations of the REBA even when carrying out a leasing transaction. Other companies or individuals who do not hold a licence may now carry out leasing brokerage transactions, but cannot use a title leading others to believe that they are real estate brokers.” The organization also received these changes with caution.

Taking into consideration these facts, it is important to enhance the norms and standards governing the practice of commercial leasing brokerage for the purpose of protecting the public. Therefore:

- Will the Minister of Finance commit to intervene by decree or regulation to rectify the situation by demanding that from now on a broker’s licence issued by the OACIQ be required to practice commercial leasing brokerage?

(221) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) – **25 March 2021**
To the Minister of Higher Education

In recent years, several controversies have erupted in Québec due to the absence of chemical validation. A recent example is the fire at a chemical plant in Trois-Rivières that resulted because no chemist was employed by the company.

Despite the fact that almost 3,000 chemists are members of the Ordre des chimistes du Québec (OCQ), it is reasonable to assume that a large number of individuals practise chemistry in Québec illegally and without adequate controls. This phenomenon has dramatically increased in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular with regards to the production of hydroalcoholic gel.

In addition, the professional practice of chemistry has evolved considerably in recent years and today has many ramifications that are not considered in the *Professional Chemists Act* (the Act), currently in effect. The lack of a defined framework for practising a field of biochemistry is also problematic. In this sense, the microbiologists represented by the Association des microbiologistes du Québec (AMQ) recently stated that they wished to be integrated into the OCQ. In order to ensure the independence of the analysis process and the competence of the individuals employed who are responsible for carrying on activities related to the profession of microbiology, it is important that this be supervised without further delay by the OCQ, which already offers to its members the levers and tools required to practise in the field of microbiology.

In addition, within the framework of the consideration of Bill 98, An Act to amend various legislation mainly with respect to admission to professions and the governance of the professional system, the OCQ obtained the support of the Minister of Justice for updating the Act. The Minister, who was a member of the Opposition at the time, had urged the Government in place to proceed with the update quickly.

It is therefore essential that the Act be updated without delay for the good of the Québec population.

Given the above, our questions to the Minister responsible for the administration of legislation respecting the professions are the following:

- In light of this information, will the Minister responsible for the administration of legislation respecting the professions commit to updating the *Professional Chemists Act*?
- If so, within what time frame?

(222) Ms. Montpetit (Maurice-Richard) – **25 March 2021**
To the Minister of Health and Social Services

Regarding Québec's universal hearing screening program:

Screening for hearing impairment of newborn babies is essential in order to quickly identify possible learning disabilities or language disorders.

Considering that in the rest of Canada nearly 95% of newborns are screened, my questions to the Minister are the following:

- At what stage are we in implementing the program in Québec hospitals and birth centres?
- What are the targets by region and what is the timetable for implementation?
- What measures does the Minister intend to put in place to make this screening mandatory for each newborn and what is the timetable?
- Lastly, what percentage of newborns in Québec have been screened in recent years?

(223) Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey) – **30 March 2021**
To the Minister of Public Security

On Friday, 21 August 2020, during the period of appropriations for the Ministère de la Sécurité publique, I had asked the Minister what actions had been taken after her office received complaints about favouritism in what had become known as an organized system of political appointments for the promotion of Sûreté du Québec officers.

Based on the answers obtained, I had asked the Minister to inform the members of the Committee on Institutions of the following elements and to get back to us with the answers:

1. Who handled the complaints received by her office;
2. If the Minister had verified the Sûreté du Québec's officer promotion process;
3. How many complaints had her office received;
4. Were those in charge who were the subject of these complaints of favouritism informed of the allegations against them;
5. What did the Minister intend to do to ensure a fair promotion process for everyone.

Following this publicly made request, the basis of which is in the day's debate transcripts, the members of the Committee on Institutions have been waiting more than seven months for answers from the Minister and her department to these five questions.

During question period on 24 March 2021, I asked the Minister if her executive secretary, Mr. Cédric Lavoie, had had the time to inform her of the matter and the complaints he had received in November 2019.

Can the Minister inform and tell us what specific actions have been taken following the receipt of these complaints and provide answers to the five questions previously asked during the appropriations for the Ministère de la Sécurité publique on 21 August 2020?

(224) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **30 March 2021**
To the Government

The situation in western Bas-St-Laurent continues to deteriorate, with an increasing number of new COVID-19 cases. We are even reaching a record number of cases since the pandemic started. More and more people are worried that the region will become a red zone.

If that should happen, I wonder whether public health would penalize eastern Bas-Saint-Laurent which has an epidemiological record similar to that of our neighbours in the Gaspésie region, which is at the yellow level. Before the holidays, the CAQ government had decided to divide eastern and western Bas-Saint-Laurent in two. It is therefore possible to do the opposite at a time when the situation seems to be getting worse in the regional county municipalities in the western part of the region.

But according to the regional director for public health, it was the Minister of Health and Social Services who decided that the regions would not be split this time, contrary to before the holidays when KRTB remained orange while the regional county municipalities of Rimouski-Neigette, La Mitis, La Matapédia and La Matanie had become red zones.

The director was clear, stating that it was a political decision and that they had been told it would be like that for all regions this time: no divisions.

Therefore, my question is the following:

At a time when the region is concerned about becoming a red zone, with an increasing number of cases in the regional county municipalities of western Bas-St-Laurent, can the Minister explain to us on what basis he decided that it is no longer possible for a part of the region to remain an orange zone, contrary to before the holidays?

(225) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **31 March 2021**

To the Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change

Last October 7, the Coalition des opposants à un projet minier en Haute-Matawinie (COPH), a coalition of citizens from various sectors of the municipality of Saint-Michel-des-Saints, sent a letter to the Minister concerning the Matawinie mining project and progress on recommendations made by the BAPE commissioner in report 353 released in June 2020. To date, the COPH has not received a response from the Minister.

In his letter of introduction accompanying the commission's report, BAPE president Philippe Bourke stated that the commission of inquiry examined the project from a sustainable development perspective and that in this regard, the report brings to the attention of the decision-making bodies concerned various elements that require commitments, actions or modifications, before the possible issuance of government authorizations.

For the sake of transparency, we would like to know the state of progress and the results of the recommendations made by the commission in its report.

In the report's conclusion, the commission states that given the social acceptability issues important at the time of the public hearing, but recognizing the complexity of integrating this project into an inhabited resort area, it believes that Nouveau Monde Graphite (NMG) should carry out the recommended assessments to reduce uncertainty about aspects the area considers valuable, in particular, water quality, quality of life, cohabitation, property values and mining legacy effects. Based on the results of these assessments, improvements should be made by the project developer and then evaluated by the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MELCC) before authorization of the project.

In its report, the committee also states that the MELCC must ensure that it obtains nine additional assessments from the project developer.

I would therefore like to ask the Minister of the Environment the following questions:

1. What assessments have been carried out by his department and by the project developer since report 353 was tabled by the commission in June 2020?
2. Were the assessments completed before the project was authorized by his department?
3. Will the assessments be made public?

(226) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – **1 April 2021**

To the Government

Passe-Partout is an educational program that facilitates the first transition to school for 4-year olds and their families. It is recognized that children who have participated in Passe-Partout are likely to be less vulnerable in kindergarten. That is why parents should have access to this program by choice.

This educational program has been offered for more than 40 years and it is unique in that it supports parenting skills while facilitating the first transition to school. This program may be offered in parallel with the 4-year old kindergarten program and is a great complement to the various educational childcare services. The Passe-Partout program benefits participating children in numerous ways. It makes it possible to reach children who do not attend any educational childcare service before the age of five and to identify their vulnerabilities and needs before they start school. It is necessary to have all the tools to act quickly if a child is experiencing difficulties.

In the current context of the pandemic and as regards changes in kindergarten for 4-year olds, I have learned that many school service centres have reduced the number of Passe-Partout groups.

Funding for the Passe-Partout program is capped, so these cuts will be permanent.

It is a matter of two different educational programs that can co-exist.

My questions are as follows:

Is it possible to suspend the funding cap on the Passe-Partout program in the budget rules for school service centres so that the spaces not being used during the pandemic can be funded in future years?

Is it feasible to review the terms of the Passe-Partout program for 2022–2023 with regard to the recommendations of the department's assessment report, including the updating of the organizational framework and budget rules so that the program can be implemented throughout Québec?

(227) Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) – 13 April 2021
To the Government

In principle, anyone whose physical or mental health has changed is required to undergo an automobile driving assessment. If a person's driving abilities are affected following an illness, they must be assessed by an occupational therapist, which is normal. However, age must not be a criterion of discrimination. Many elderly drivers must take a Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ) road test. If they fail the test, the SAAQ often requests that they consult an occupational therapist. The current fee of \$650 for an occupational therapist and the one-year wait time for an appointment are unacceptable.

In the past, this service was offered free of charge by the region's Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS). For the past few years, this service has been offered solely by private practitioners and there has been an increase in costs that has become difficult for elderly people to pay. The stress of undergoing such an assessment is compounded by the anxiety caused by the financial costs.

In a democratic society such as ours, which has strong social values, how is it that we have come to this point where we have totally eliminated this public service that was necessary for a large part of the population?

In my opinion, ageism exists when seniors are discriminated against compared with younger people. A young person can retake his or her road test without having to consult an occupational therapist.

My question is the following:

Will the Government reconsider this rule in order to provide the population, including seniors, with a public occupational therapy service?

Part 6
NOTICES

I. NOTICES PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

Government Bills

Private Members' Public Bills

(a) 13 April 2021

An Act to enhance the transparency of municipal councils – *Member for Marie-Victorin*

(b) 13 April 2021

An Act to amend the Act respecting labour relations, vocational training and workforce management in the construction industry to right the power imbalance – *Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve*

Private Bills

II. NOTICES APPEARING FOR THE FIRST TIME