



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

SECOND SESSION

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Tuesday, 19 October 2021 — No. 1

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

The Assembly was called to order at 2:03 p.m.

At the request of the President, the Assembly observed a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Jean Rochon, former Member for Charlesbourg, and Mr. David Amess, British MP.

The President informed the Assembly that his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Québec would deliver the Opening Address of the Session.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor entered the National Assembly and, being seated in the Chair, was pleased to open the Session by the following Address:

Mr. President of the National Assembly,
Mr. Premier,
Madam Leader of the Official Opposition,
Mr. Leader of the Second Opposition Group,
Mr. Leader of the Third Opposition Group,
Members of the Executive Council,
Members of the National Assembly,
Distinguished Guests,

I would like to begin by recognizing the hard work accomplished by all Members of this 42nd Legislature since the beginning of the pandemic we are all facing, a pandemic that has profoundly affected parliamentary life.

It has been a long time since we experienced such a scourge, and very few Members have had to work in such difficult circumstances since the end of the Second World War.

Despite all the challenges, despite all the constraints, you have continued to represent your fellow citizens with rigour and sensitivity. You have demonstrated greatness in meeting immense responsibilities to carry out your shared mission of improving our society. There have been, and still are, many challenges. The Québec nation is grateful and thankful.

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I would like to first greet and congratulate Mr. Premier François Legault for having met the challenges in managing the State and for demonstrating sound judgment and rigour in these difficult times brought on by the current pandemic. Mr. Premier, the people of Québec have entrusted you with a very important mandate. As in the past, you can continue to count on my full cooperation in achieving this mandate.

It would be remiss of me not to recognize the work, at times thankless, that the opposition group members have performed in these too often tragic times, which we have all been facing for nearly two years now. I would also like to congratulate and thank Ms. Dominique Anglade, Leader of the Official Opposition, Mr. Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, and Mr. Joël Arseneau, Leader of the Third Opposition Group.

The circumstances and obligations of your mandate have changed considerably since the previous session of this legislature began. No one could have expected to face a crisis of this magnitude. The Government therefore considered it appropriate to convene a new parliamentary session and renew its priorities.

In a moment, I will give the floor to the Premier so he may set out his priorities.

For my part, I would like to underscore the immense privilege that you all have as elected officials of our nation, of this nation that we love and cherish. Other challenges will arise, but by working together you will overcome them.

Québec's history has not been an uneventful one. It is a history of challenges, resistance and resilience, as the last two years have reminded us. We must never forget our ancestors' struggle to build a free and democratic society representative of their culture and identity. We must be proud of their legacy.

Today, this great democratic legacy is embodied in each of you, the 125 representatives, who have different backgrounds, different professions and different political ideologies and who come from different regions of Québec.

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The mandate entrusted to you is an important one. However, it can be summed up as a principle that is simple, yet involves great responsibility: work to the best of your ability in order to address the needs and concerns of all Quebecers. This is what must always be at heart when you take positions and make decisions.

My thoughts are also with the First Nations and the Inuit Nation of Québec, who have been through extremely painful hardships, which have created deep wounds, from one generation to another. Wounds that still cause pain today. We all have a duty to face the truth and work together to seek it out.

It seemed appropriate to me, in the wake of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Viens Commission, to create the First Peoples medals.

On the recommendation of the members of the First Nations and the Inuit Nation, these medals recognize the work, commitment and interests of people from both the First Nations and the Inuit Nation for the betterment of their respective communities.

It bears repeating that Québec is recovering from one of the worst crises in over 75 years. The future still holds many challenges, but it also presents great new opportunities.

We must continue to bring the Québec nation together to seize these opportunities and ensure that all our fellow citizens benefit from them.

I will conclude by wishing you every success in carrying out your duties during this Second Session of the 42nd Legislature. I am confident that you will demonstrate greatness and dedication, just as you have over the past months.

Lastly, I want to thank you, both on my own behalf and on behalf of our fellow citizens, for your commitment to making Québec a great place to live in harmony and with respect for others. In that regard, I would like to express my confidence that all of you can achieve this.

Have a good session. Thank you.

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His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor withdrew.

The President took the Chair.

Mr. Legault, Premier, then delivered the Opening Speech of the Second Session of the 42nd Legislature.

At the end of his speech, Mr. Legault, Premier, moved that the Assembly approve the Government's general policy.

By leave of the Assembly, Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT the special order adopted at the opening of the sitting on 14 September 2021 continue to have effect despite the prorogation of the First Session of the 42nd Legislature.

The motion was carried.

At 3:33 p.m., the President adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 20 October 2021 at 9:40 a.m.

FRANÇOIS PARADIS

President