



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

SECOND SESSION

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 16 March 2022 — No. 37

**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. Campeau (Bourget) made a statement to underline the retirement of Ms. Marguerite Gauthier, Chair of the Parents-Secours de Tétreaultville committee.

Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) made a statement to congratulate Ms. Nathalie Poirier, winner of the Distinctions Reconnaissance award presented by the Fédération des comités de parents du Québec.

Ms. Hébert (Saint-François) made a statement to congratulate the athletes from Excellence sportive Sherbrooke who participated in the Beijing Olympic Games.

Ms. Maccarone (Westmount–Saint-Louis) made a statement to underline the commitment to academic success made by the students and staff of schools in the Westmount–Saint-Louis riding.

Mr. Lemieux (Saint-Jean) made a statement to announce the upcoming roadwork on Autoroute 10.

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Ms. Lessard-Therrien (Rouyn-Noranda-Témiscamingue) made a statement to underline Mr. Boris Bilicky's contribution to the community of Rouyn-Noranda.

Ms. IsaBelle (Huntingdon) made a statement to congratulate Ms. Baharan Baniahmadi, recipient of a Mécènes investis pour les arts award.

Ms. Perry Mélançon (Gaspé) made a statement to deplore the lack of action by the Government to revitalize the Haute-Gaspésie region.

Ms. Blais (Prévost) made a statement to underline the 100th anniversary of the municipality of Piedmont.

Mr. Ciccone (Marquette) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. Carolyn Arsenault for her community involvement.

At 9:52 a.m., Mr. Picard, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 10:03 a.m.

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Moment of reflection

Introduction of Bills

Mr. Dubé, Minister of Health and Social Services, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following bill:

28 An Act to terminate the public health emergency

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 28 was introduced in the Assembly.

Presenting Papers

Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Government House Leader, tabled the following:

The Government's reply to a petition tabled on 2 February 2022 by Mr. Rousselle (Vimont) on converting Garderie de la Gare into a CPE;
(Sessional Paper No. 385-20220316)

The Government's reply to a petition tabled on 3 February 2022 by Mr. Polo (Laval-des-Rapides) on prioritized development of and financial support for the sports complex project for the Mont-de-la-Salle school in Laval;
(Sessional Paper No. 386-20220316)

The Government's reply to a petition tabled on 3 February 2022 by Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) on the family law reform and maintaining grandparents' rights;
(Sessional Paper No. 387-20220316)

The Government's reply to a petition tabled on 10 February 2022 by Ms. Melançon (Verdun) on banning the practice of weighing students in CEGEPs;
(Sessional Paper No. 388-20220316)

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The reply to a written question from Ms. Lessard-Therrien (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue) on updating operator remuneration in the Farm Income Stabilization Insurance program and the timetable to that effect – Question No. 57, *Order Paper and Notices* of 8 February 2022;

(Sessional Paper No. 389-20220316)

The reply to a written question from Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) on the Government's commitment regarding the plan to establish a veterinary medicine campus submitted by Université de Montréal and UQAR – Question No. 68, *Order Paper and Notices* of 17 February 2022.

(Sessional Paper No. 390-20220316)

The President tabled the following:

The Report of the Auditor General of Québec to the National Assembly for 2021–2022 – March 2022;

(Sessional Paper No. 391-20220316)

A letter, dated 11 March 2022, he had received from Mr. Michael Shwec, President of the Quebec Provincial Council of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, in response to the motion carried by the Assembly on 23 February 2022 regarding its hope for a peaceful resolution of the armed conflict in Ukraine.

(Sessional Paper No. 392-20220316)

Presenting Petitions

Ms. Maccarone (Westmount–Saint-Louis) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on maintaining the Dawson College expansion project, signed by 19,883 citizens of Québec (French and English versions).

(Sessional Paper No. 393-20220316)

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Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on adding the social work program “Techniques de travail social” to the list of programs that are eligible for the Perspective Québec scholarships, signed by 8,986 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 394-20220316)

Ms. Guillemette (Roberval) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on opposing light pollution, signed by 1,131 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 395-20220316)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Ms. Ménard (Laporte), together with Ms. Girault, Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie, Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion), Mr. Arseneau, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey), Mr. Roy (Bonaventure), Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) and Ms. Montpetit (Maurice-Richard), moved:

THAT the National Assembly strongly denounce the unjustified Russian invasion of Ukraine;

THAT it denounce Russia’s violation of the territorial integrity of a sovereign State, which contravenes international law, and that it demand an immediate ceasefire;

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THAT it recall that the present conflict is a frontal attack on Ukrainian democracy and on all democracies of the world;

THAT it denounce the Russian bombardment of civilian infrastructure, in particular hospitals and schools, which has resulted in the deaths of many innocent civilians;

THAT it reiterate the importance of freedom of the press and denounce threats to journalists' safety and the passing of laws that compromise this freedom;

THAT it be concerned about the humanitarian consequences of this conflict which, so far, has displaced over 3 million Ukrainians, mostly women and children, fleeing the horrors of the war;

THAT, lastly, it applaud the courage of the Ukrainian people and reaffirm its unwavering support for the citizens of that country and for all those belonging to the great Ukrainian diaspora in Québec during these uncertain times.

The question was put on this motion, and a recorded division was thereupon demanded.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **263** in Appendix)

Yeas: **107** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Ms. Lessard-Therrien (Rouyn-Noranda-Témiscamingue), together with Ms. Melançon (Verdun), Mr. Arseneau, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey), Mr. Roy (Bonaventure), Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) and Ms. Montpetit (Maurice-Richard), moved:

THAT the National Assembly highlight the exceptional work carried out by midwives throughout the pandemic;

THAT it acknowledge that despite the perinatal policy “Politique de périnatalité 2008–2018”, only 4.5% of pregnant women and people have access to their services;

THAT it recognize the known benefits of midwife follow-ups in the current model on the health of mothers and newborns;

THAT it also recognize that the pandemic has created an increase in requests for follow-ups with midwives and that more and more women want to give birth outside a hospital;

THAT it deplore the fact that increasing wait times, the absence of obstetric services and the lack of real birthplace options limit the freedom of choice for women and families in a perinatal context;

THAT it acknowledge that the midwives’ collective agreement expired on 31 March 2020 and that they are still waiting for an offer from the Government;

THAT the National Assembly urge the Government to begin, without delay, negotiations for the renewal of the midwives’ collective agreement in order to improve their conditions of employment to promote the development of midwife services in Québec.

The question was put on this motion, and a recorded division was thereupon demanded.

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The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **264** in Appendix)

Yeas: **101** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

Mr. Arseneau, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, together with Mr. Derraji (Nelligan), Mr. Marissal (Rosemont), Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey), Mr. Roy (Bonaventure), Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) and Ms. Montpetit (Maurice-Richard), moved a motion on the tabling of the event report which is required once the public health emergency is lifted; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Bonnardel, Minister of Transport, together with Mr. Fortin, Official Opposition House Leader, Ms. Dorion (Taschereau), Mr. Arseneau, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey), Mr. Roy (Bonaventure), Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) and Ms. Montpetit (Maurice-Richard), moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark National Impaired Driving Prevention Week, held from 20 to 26 March 2022;

THAT it deplore the fact that impaired driving is one of the main causes of accidents in Québec and that each year, an average of 85 people die and 220 more are seriously injured due to drinking and driving;

THAT it recall that impaired driving is a dangerous and criminal act that can have very serious consequences;

THAT it affirm the need for drivers to not drive while they are impaired.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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Notices of Proceedings in Committees

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

- the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 22, An Act to amend the Automobile Insurance Act, the Highway Safety Code and other provisions;
- the Committee on Public Finance, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 12, An Act mainly to promote Québec-sourced and responsible procurement by public bodies, to reinforce the integrity regime of enterprises and to increase the powers of the Autorité des marchés publics;
- the Committee on Culture and Education, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 96, An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec;
- the Committee on Health and Social Services, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 15, An Act to amend the Youth Protection Act and other legislative provisions;
- the Committee on Citizen Relations, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 1, An Act to amend the Educational Childcare Act to improve access to the educational childcare services network and complete its development.

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

- the Committee on Culture and Education shall hold a deliberative meeting to discuss the possibility of examining a petition.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Report Stage

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Institutions on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 24, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Québec correctional system to provide for the power to require that an offender be connected to a device that allows the offender's whereabouts to be known.

After debate thereon, the report was concurred in.

Passage in Principle

Mr. Julien, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, moved that Bill 21, An Act mainly to end petroleum exploration and production and the public financing of those activities, do now pass in principle.

At 1:00 p.m., Mr. Picard, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 3:00 p.m.

Accordingly, pursuant to Standing Order 97, the debate on the motion moved by Mr. Julien, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, was adjourned in the name of Mr. Leïtão (Robert-Baldwin).

The proceedings resumed at 3:00 p.m.

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Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) moved:

THAT the National Assembly acknowledge the constantly rising inflation, which has a huge impact on the cost of living for citizens, especially for those with a modest income;

THAT it note that the Government's planned increase in the minimum wage does not enable workers to absorb the increasing costs;

THAT the National Assembly ask the Government to introduce a plan to gradually increase the minimum wage to at least \$18 per hour by 1 May 2023 to ensure the predictability of such increases;

THAT the National Assembly ask the Government to include support measures for small businesses and the community in its plan to increase the minimum wage.

Ms. Gaudreault, Third Vice-President, informed the Assembly of the allocation of speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this limited debate: 10 minutes to the mover of the motion for his reply; 46 minutes 15 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Government; 27 minutes 29 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition; 21 minutes 39 seconds to the Second Opposition Group; 7 minutes 7 seconds to the Third Opposition Group; and 7 minutes 30 seconds to the independent Members, subject to a maximum of 2 minutes each. Within this framework, any time not used by the independent Members or by a parliamentary group shall be redistributed among the parliamentary groups in the proportions established above. Lastly, individual addresses shall not be limited.

A debate arose thereon.

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At the beginning of his address, Mr. Tanguay (LaFontaine) moved:

THAT the motion moved by the Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve be amended as follows:

By replacing, in the 7th line, after the words “the Government”, the words “to introduce a plan to gradually increase the minimum wage to at least \$18 per hour by 1 May 2023 to ensure the predictability of such increases;” by the words “to hold broad special consultations to establish the next minimum wage increase planned for 1 May 2023;”.

The motion, as amended, would read as follows:

THAT the National Assembly acknowledge the constantly rising inflation, which has a huge impact on the cost of living for citizens, especially for those with a modest income;

THAT it note that the Government’s planned increase in the minimum wage does not enable workers to absorb the increasing costs;

THAT the National Assembly ask the Government to hold broad special consultations to establish the next minimum wage increase planned for 1 May 2023;

THAT the National Assembly ask the Government to include support measures for small businesses and the community in its plan to increase the minimum wage.

The debate continued on the main motion moved by Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) and on the amendment motion moved by Mr. Tanguay (LaFontaine), subject to the permission of its author.

Pursuant to Standing Order 98.1, Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) refused the amendment proposed by Mr. Tanguay (LaFontaine).

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

At the request of Mr. Schneeberger, Deputy Government House Leader, the division on the motion moved by Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) was deferred until Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day.

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been adjourned earlier in the sitting, on the motion moved by Mr. Julien, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, that Bill 21, An Act mainly to end petroleum exploration and production and the public financing of those activities, do now pass in principle.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried and Bill 21 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mr. Charette, Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change, moved that Bill 21 be referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources for clause-by-clause consideration.

The motion was carried.

Private Members' Public Bills

Passage in Principle

Mr. Birnbaum (D'Arcy-McGee) moved that Bill 498, An Act to proclaim the National Day for the Promotion of Positive Mental Health, do now pass in principle.

The debate was adjourned in the name of Mr. Birnbaum (D'Arcy-McGee).

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At 6:30 p.m., Ms. Gaudreault, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 17 March 2022 at 9:40 a.m.

FRANÇOIS PARADIS

President

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APPENDIX

Recorded Divisions

On the motion moved by Ms. Ménard (Laporte), together with Ms. Girault, Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie, Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion), Mr. Arseneau, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey), Mr. Roy (Bonaventure), Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) and Ms. Montpetit (Maurice-Richard):

(Division No. 263)

YEAS - 107

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

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On the motion moved by Ms. Lessard-Therrien (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue), together with Ms. Melançon (Verdun), Mr. Arseneau, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey), Mr. Roy (Bonaventure), Mr. LeBel (Rimouski) and Ms. Montpetit (Maurice-Richard):

(Division No. 264)

YEAS - 101

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