



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Tuesday, 7 February 2023 — No. 12

**President of the National Assembly:
Madam Nathalie Roy**

The Assembly was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Moment of reflection

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

Mr. Fitzgibbon, Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy, moved that Bill 2, An Act mainly to cap the indexation rate for Hydro-Québec domestic distribution rate prices and to further regulate the obligation to distribute electricity, do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried and, accordingly, Bill 2 was passed in principle.

Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 2 be referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources for clause-by-clause consideration.

The motion was carried.

At 11:06 a.m., at the request of Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 1:40 p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 1:40 p.m.

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ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Members

Ms. Guillemette (Roberval) made a statement to congratulate Mr. Christian Roberge, selected to create a work for the Gala des Arlequins.

Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) made a statement to underline Semaine des régions.

Mr. Rivest (Côte-du-Sud) made a statement to congratulate Mr. Dominique Côté on his nomination for a Prix Opus award.

Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) made a statement to applaud the work and resilience of the teaching staff at École Sophie-Barat.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 32, Ms. Laforest (Chicoutimi) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of the major junior hockey team the Saguenéens de Chicoutimi.

Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) made a statement to congratulate gymnast Ève-Marie Leblanc on her participation at the Elite Canada competition.

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Ms. Poulet (Laporte) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Jean-François Dionne for his act of bravery.

Mr. Allaire (Maskinongé) made a statement to pay tribute to three athletes from the Maskinongé riding, award recipients at the Gala Sport-hommage Desjardins Mauricie.

Mr. Lamontagne (Johnson) made a statement to underline the 45th anniversary of the Association féministe d'éducation et d'action sociale Saint-Charles-de-Drummond.

Mr. Sainte-Croix (Gaspé) made a statement to underline Mr. Roland Pelletier's 102nd birthday.

Ms. Blais (Abitibi-Ouest) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Roger Alain for his 42 years with the Macamic fire department.

Ms. Gendron (Châteauguay) made a statement to underline the release of the Québec film *Snow Angel*.

At 1:54 p.m., Ms. Soucy, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

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The proceedings resumed at 2:02 p.m.

Moment of reflection

Presenting Papers

Ms. LeBel, Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, tabled the 2021–2022 annual reports of the following professional orders:

Barreau du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 294-20230207)
Chambre des huissiers de justice du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 295-20230207)
Chambre des notaires du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 296-20230207)
Collège des médecins du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 297-20230207)
Ordre des acupuncteurs du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 298-20230207)
Ordre des administrateurs agréés du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 299-20230207)
Ordre des agronomes du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 300-20230207)
Ordre des architectes du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 301-20230207)
Ordre des arpenteurs-géomètres du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 302-20230207)
Ordre des audioprothésistes du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 303-20230207)
Ordre des chimistes du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 304-20230207)
Ordre des chiropraticiens du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 305-20230207)

Ordre des comptables professionnels agréés du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 306-20230207)
Ordre des conseillers en ressources humaines agréés du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 307-20230207)
Ordre des conseillers et conseillères d'orientation du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 308-20230207)
Ordre des dentistes du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 309-20230207)
Ordre des denturologistes du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 310-20230207)
Ordre des diététistes-nutritionnistes du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 311-20230207)
Ordre des ergothérapeutes du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 312-20230207)
Ordre des évaluateurs agréés du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 313-20230207)
Ordre des géologues du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 314-20230207)
Ordre des hygiénistes dentaires du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 315-20230207)
Ordre des infirmières et des infirmiers du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 316-20230207)
Ordre des infirmières et des infirmiers auxiliaires du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 317-20230207)
Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 318-20230207)
Ordre des ingénieurs forestiers du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 319-20230207)
Ordre des médecins vétérinaires du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 320-20230207)
Ordre des opticiens d'ordonnances du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 321-20230207)
Ordre des optométristes du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 322-20230207)
Ordre des pharmaciens du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 323-20230207)
Ordre des podiatres du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 324-20230207)
Ordre des psychoéducateurs et psychoéducatrices du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 325-20230207)

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Ordre des psychologues du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 326-20230207)
Ordre des sages-femmes du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 327-20230207)
Ordre des technologues en imagerie médicale, en radio-oncologie et en électrophysiologie médicale du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 328-20230207)
Ordre des technologues en prothèses et appareils dentaires du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 329-20230207)
Ordre des technologues professionnels du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 330-20230207)
Ordre des traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes agréés du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 331-20230207)
Ordre des travailleurs sociaux et des thérapeutes conjugaux et familiaux du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 332-20230207)
Ordre des urbanistes du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 333-20230207)
Ordre professionnel de la physiothérapie du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 334-20230207)
Ordre professionnel des criminologues du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 335-20230207)
Ordre professionnel des inhalothérapeutes du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 336-20230207)
Ordre professionnel des technologistes médicaux du Québec	(Sessional Paper No. 337-20230207)
Ordre professionnel des sexologues du Québec.	(Sessional Paper No. 338-20230207)

Mr. Lamontagne, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, tabled the following:

The 2022–2027 strategic plan of La Financière agricole du Québec.
(Sessional Paper No. 339-20230207)

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Ms. Laforest, Minister of Municipal Affairs, tabled the following:

The report on the implementation of the *Municipal Ethics and Good Conduct Act* for the period from 1 November 2018 to 31 October 2022.

(Sessional Paper No. 340-20230207)

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

The reply to a written question from Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) on the representation of Indigenous peoples in Québec's public bodies – Question No. 4, *Order Paper and Notices* of 6 December 2022;

(Sessional Paper No. 341-20230207)

The reply to a written question from Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke) on the status of completion and the timetable for the recommendations of the Committee on Health and Social Services with regard to the order of initiative on the alarming increase in the use by children and youth of psychostimulants in relation to attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) – Question No. 5, *Order Paper and Notices* of 8 December 2022.

(Sessional Paper No. 342-20230207)

The President tabled the following:

A copy of the notice of motion by Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles) to be placed on the *Order Paper and Notices* of Wednesday, 8 February 2023 under Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition.

(Sessional Paper No. 343-20230207)

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Presenting Petitions

Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on maintaining sports-study and arts-study programs at École secondaire du Chêne-Bleu, signed by 445 citizens of Québec.
(Sessional Paper No. 344-20230207)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Motions Without Notice

Mr. St-Pierre Plamondon, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, together with Ms. McGraw (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce), Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved a motion on the construction of a hydroelectric dam on the Magpie River; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Drainville, Minister of Education, together with Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent), Ms. Ghazal (Mercier), Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark Teacher Appreciation Week, held from 5 to 11 February under the theme “Everyday we measure the significance of your role”;

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THAT it highlight the dedication of teachers and their invaluable contribution to shaping the society of today and tomorrow;

THAT it recognize the importance of concretely supporting teachers, in particular with innovative projects such as the teacher's aide pilot project, which lets them concentrate on their teaching tasks and meets the daily needs of students;

THAT it recognize the key role of teachers in students' educational success and well-being;

THAT, lastly, it invite all Quebecers to thank the teaching staff who take care of and guide our youth and adult learners throughout the school year.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Derraji, Official Opposition House Leader, together with Ms. Blanchette Vézina, Minister of Natural Resources and Forests, and Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia), moved:

THAT the National Assembly acknowledge the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission's proposal to eliminate the federal riding of Avignon–La Mitis–Matane–Matapédia;

THAT it underline this region's vastness, remoteness, long travel distances and scattered population;

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THAT it recall that such a vast territory would further widen the distance between citizens and their Member, would affect the quality of services offered by riding offices and would not adequately reflect the riding's regional differences;

THAT it highlight that any loss of political weight by our Québec regions jeopardizes our nation's democratic health;

THAT, lastly, it express its wish that the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission reconsider its recommendation to eliminate this riding.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion), together with Mr. Derraji (Nelligan), Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved a motion on a plan to combat Islamophobia; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, convened the following committee:

- the Committee on Public Finance, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 3, An Act respecting health and social services information and amending various legislative provisions.
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Ms. Soucy, First Vice-President, gave the following notices:

- the Committee on Culture and Education shall hold a deliberative meeting to organize its proceedings and discuss the possibility of examining a petition on implementing the veterinary medicine program in La Pocatière;
- the Committee on Health and Social Services shall hold a deliberative meeting to organize its proceedings and discuss the possibility of examining a petition on a request to make dementia prevention a health priority.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Ms. Soucy, First Vice-President, informed the Assembly that on Wednesday, 8 February 2023, during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, a debate would be held on the motion moved by Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles).

This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly note that the housing situation and access to property have deteriorated over the past five years;

THAT it acknowledge that Quebecers who are lessees face multiple factors that apply significant pressure on rent costs, including:

- the housing shortage, as demonstrated by the general decline in the rental property vacancy rate in Québec in 2022;
- the rising cost of living;

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- the decreasing affordability of housing throughout Québec;
- the shortage of housing adapted to the needs of families;

THAT it also note the shortage of social housing throughout Québec intended for lower-income earners as well as the increasing obsolescence of a number of these buildings;

THAT it acknowledge that a generation of Quebecers' access to property is currently compromised by the rising cost of property, the reduction in the number of housing starts, the increase in construction costs, the labour shortage in the construction sector and the increase in interest rates;

THAT it note that the measures implemented by the CAQ government to curb the housing crisis in Québec have so far been insufficient;

THAT it recognize that the many processes of the different government levels, including housing organizations, are too lengthy and complex, and that streamlining programs is necessary;

THAT, lastly, it demand that the Québec government take on this mission of the State by establishing a true national housing strategy to simultaneously address the availability of social housing, the affordability of rental housing and access to property.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Minister of Justice, moved that Bill 8, An Act to improve justice efficiency and accessibility, in particular by promoting mediation and arbitration and by simplifying civil procedure in the Court of Québec, do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried and, accordingly, Bill 8 was passed in principle.

Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 8 be referred to the Committee on Institutions for clause-by-clause consideration.

The motion was carried.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, the Assembly proceeded to hear a motion without notice.

Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 84.1 and pursuant to Standing Order 146, Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved:

THAT, within the framework of the consideration of Bill 8, An Act to improve justice efficiency and accessibility, in particular by promoting mediation and arbitration and by simplifying civil procedure in the Court of Québec, the Committee on Institutions hold special consultations and public hearings on Wednesday, 15 February 2023 after Notices of Proceedings in Committees from approximately 11:15 a.m. to 1:05 p.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.; and on Thursday, 16 February 2023 after Notices of Proceedings in Committees from approximately 11:15 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. and from 2:00 p.m. to 4:25 p.m.;

THAT, for this purpose, the Committee hear the following individuals and organizations:

Barreau du Québec
Community Justice Center
Chambre des notaires du Québec
Option consommateurs
Me Michel Beauchamp
Éducaloi
Juripop
Association professionnelle des notaires du Québec
Jeune Barreau du Québec
Association des jeunes notaires du Québec
Fédération des maisons d'hébergement pour femmes;

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THAT a period of 12 minutes be set aside for opening statements, allocated as follows: 6 minutes to the parliamentary group forming the Government, 3 minutes 36 seconds to the Official Opposition, 1 minute 12 seconds to the Second Opposition Group and 1 minute 12 seconds to the independent Member;

THAT the presentation by each organization last no longer than 10 minutes and the exchange with the Committee members last no longer than 35 minutes, allocated as follows: 17 minutes 30 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Government, 10 minutes 30 seconds to the Official Opposition, 3 minutes 30 seconds to the Second Opposition Group and 3 minutes 30 seconds to the independent Member;

THAT a 5-minute interval be scheduled between discussions with each individual or organization;

THAT the Minister of Justice be a member of the said Committee during its proceedings with respect to this order of reference.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

At 3:31 p.m., at the request of Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, Ms. Soucy, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 6:30 p.m.

Debates upon Adjournment

At 6:30 p.m., the Assembly held a debate upon adjournment on a question from Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys) to Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, about the worsening financial situation of Québec households.

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At 6:40 p.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 8 February 2023 at 9:40 a.m.

NATHALIE ROY

President