



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 15 February 2023 — No. 16

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

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

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Members

Mr. Tremblay (Dubuc) made a statement to underline the 100th anniversary of the municipality of Bégin.

Mr. Benjamin (Viau) made a statement to underline the 30th anniversary of Maison de la famille de Saint-Michel.

Ms. Hébert (Saint-François) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of the organization Secours-Amitié Estrie.

Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) made a statement to underline the 35th anniversary of Fédération des maisons d'hébergement pour femmes.

Ms. Schmaltz (Vimont) made a statement to express solidarity and support for those affected by the tragic event that occurred in Sainte-Rose on 8 February 2023.

15 February 2023

Ms. Garceau (Robert-Baldwin) made a statement to underline the 40th anniversary of the West Island Black Community Association.

Mr. Lévesque (Chauveau) made a statement to underline Hooked on School Days.

Ms. Bourassa (Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of the Mont Grand-Fonds open-air activities centre.

Mr. Lemieux (Saint-Jean) made a statement to underline the participation of Ville de Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu in the Comité sur l'itinérance of the Union des municipalités du Québec.

Mr. Bernard (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue) made a statement to underline the success of the telethon for Ressource pour personnes handicapées Abitibi-Témiscamingue–Nord-du-Québec.

Mr. Caron (Portneuf) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Serge Lessard for his social and community involvement and volunteer work.

Ms. Charest (Brome-Missisquoi) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of Centre d'action bénévole de Cowansville.

15 February 2023

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

The proceedings resumed at 10:03 a.m.

Moment of reflection

Introduction of Bills

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

10 An Act limiting the use of personnel placement agencies' services
and independent labour in the health and social services sector

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 10 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 6 December 2022 by Mr. Rivest (Côte-du-Sud) on implementing the veterinary medicine program in La Pocatière.
(Sessional Paper No. 377-20230215)

15 February 2023

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

At the request of the President, Mr. St-Pierre Plamondon, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia), together with Mr. Derraji, Official Opposition House Leader, Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly ask that the Government of Québec prioritize competence in its Cabinet appointments;

THAT it state that recognized membership in the political group forming the Government should never be a factor that gives a candidate an advantage.

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

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. 33 in Appendix)

Yeas: **112** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

15 February 2023

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Minister of Justice, together with Mr. Morin (Acadie), Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke), Mr. St - Pierre Plamondon, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly recall that the *Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, better known as Bill C-5, allows sentences for sexual assault offences to be served in the community;

THAT it emphasize that since 2007, granting community sentences for sexual assault offences had not been allowed;

THAT it recognize that Bill C-5 goes against the efforts made to restore victims' confidence in the justice system and that it is a setback in the fight against sexual assault;

THAT it call on the federal government to amend the law in order to make sexual assault offences ineligible for community sentences.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, together with Ms. Biron, Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie, Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard), Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly of Québec take note of the devastating earthquake of magnitude 7.8 on the Richter scale that struck Turkey and Syria on 6 February;

15 February 2023

THAT it recognize that more than a week after this tragedy, despite the ongoing rescue operations, 35,418 people have lost their lives in southern Turkey and 5,800 in Syria, and that this toll could even double according to the United Nations;

THAT it note that this earthquake has affected a region with highly vulnerable populations, including thousands of refugees;

THAT it underline the incredible dedication of more than 34,000 rescue workers and organizations working around the clock in an attempt to locate survivors;

THAT it encourage the Government of Canada to increase and speed up its emergency humanitarian assistance in order to quickly support the vulnerable populations of Turkey and Syria;

THAT it call on Quebecers to support the humanitarian efforts, particularly through donations to the Canadian Red Cross;

THAT, lastly, the National Assembly offer its condolences to the victims and their loved ones, that it recognize Turkish and Syrian Quebecers' concern for their families, friends and compatriots, and that it express its full support.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

15 February 2023

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion), together with Mr. Skeete, Minister Responsible for the Fight Against Racism, Ms. Maccarone (Westmount–Saint-Louis), Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark Black History Month, whose 2023 theme is Out of the Darkness, Into the Light;

THAT it once again highlight the importance of recognizing and promoting the past, present and future contribution of Québec's Black communities to the development of Québec;

THAT it recognize and pay tribute to the story of the struggle for justice, equality and dignity of Black Quebecers;

THAT the National Assembly deplore the inequality and racism Québec's Black communities still experience and underscore the important work that remains to be done to achieve true inclusion.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

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

- the Committee on Public Finance, to undertake clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 3, An Act respecting health and social services information and amending various legislative provisions.

15 February 2023

And, by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 143, he convened the following committee:

- the Committee on Institutions, to undertake public hearings within the framework of special consultations on 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.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage

Mr. Fitzgibbon, Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy, moved the passage of 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.

A debate arose thereon.

Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, interrupted the debate and informed the Assembly that he had received two requests for debate upon adjournment to be held on Thursday, 16 February 2023 on two questions from Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) to Mr. Drainville, Minister of Education, about eliminating support services for students with disabilities at the Centre de services scolaire de Montréal.

The debate continued.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried on division and, accordingly, Bill 2 was passed.

15 February 2023

Passage in Principle

Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, moved that Bill 7, An Act respecting the implementation of certain provisions of the Budget Speech of 22 March 2022 and amending other legislative provisions, do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried on division and, accordingly, Bill 7 was passed in principle.

Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 7 be referred to the Committee on Public Finance for clause-by-clause consideration.

The motion was carried.

Debates on Reports from Committees

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, which held public hearings on 31 January and on 1, 2 and 7 February 2023 within the framework of special consultations on the Government's sustainable development strategy entitled "Stratégie de développement durable 2023 – 2028". The report contains observations and 35 recommendations.

Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, informed the Assembly of the allocation of speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this debate: 60 minutes to the parliamentary group forming the Government; 32 minutes 42 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition; 19 minutes 48 seconds to the Second Opposition Group; 6 minutes to the Third Opposition Group; and 1 minute 30 seconds to the independent Member. Within this framework, any time not used by the independent Member or by a parliamentary group shall be redistributed among the parliamentary groups in the proportions established above. Lastly, individual addresses shall not be limited.

A debate arose thereon.

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

15 February 2023

Accordingly, pursuant to Standing Order 97, the debate on the report from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment was adjourned in the name of Mr. Grandmont (Taschereau).

The proceedings resumed at 3:00 p.m.

Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) moved:

THAT the National Assembly note that increases in rent in all Québec municipalities far exceed the Tribunal administratif du logement's rent adjustment recommendations;

THAT it ask the Québec government to tackle the housing crisis by establishing mandatory rent control for all rental property leases;

THAT it ask that this rent control include eliminating the exception contained in Section F of the lease in order to allow the Tribunal administratif du logement to fix the rents for dwellings built or converted for rental purposes less than five years ago.

Mr. Benjamin, 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; 49 minutes 15 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Government; 25 minutes 33 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition; 27 minutes 41 seconds to the Second Opposition Group; 6 minutes to the Third Opposition Group; and 1 minute 30 seconds to the independent Member. Within this framework, any time not used by the independent Member or by a parliamentary group shall be redistributed among the parliamentary groups in the proportions established above. Lastly, individual addresses shall not be limited.

15 February 2023

A debate arose thereon.

During her address, Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles) moved:

THAT the motion moved by the Member for Laurier-Dorion be amended as follows:

By striking out, in the second paragraph, the words “by establishing mandatory rent control for all rental property leases” after the word “crisis”;

By replacing the third paragraph by the following paragraph:

“THAT it ask the Québec government to immediately initiate consultations with all stakeholders affected by section F of the lease, in order to discuss, evaluate and propose solutions to the issues related to buildings converted for rental purposes less than five years ago.”

The motion, as amended, would read as follows:

THAT the National Assembly note that increases in rent in all Québec municipalities far exceed the Tribunal administratif du logement’s rent adjustment recommendations;

THAT it ask the Québec government to tackle the housing crisis;

THAT it ask the Québec government to immediately initiate consultations with all stakeholders affected by section F of the lease, in order to discuss, evaluate and propose solutions to the issues related to buildings converted for rental purposes less than five years ago.

The debate continued on the main motion moved by Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) and on the amendment motion moved by Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles), subject to the permission of its author.

15 February 2023

Pursuant to Standing Order 98.1, Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) refused the amendment proposed by Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles).

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

At the request of Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, the division on the motion moved by Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) was deferred until Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day.

Debates on Reports from Committees

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been adjourned earlier in the sitting, on the consideration of the report from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, which held public hearings on 31 January and on 1, 2 and 7 February 2023 within the framework of special consultations on the Government's sustainable development strategy entitled "Stratégie de développement durable 2023–2028". The report contains observations and 35 recommendations.

The debate expired and, pursuant to Standing Order 95, no question was put.

Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved the adjournment of the Assembly until Thursday, 16 February 2023 at 9:40 a.m.

The motion was carried.

At 6:09 p.m., Ms. Soucy, First Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 16 February 2023 at 9:40 a.m.

NATHALIE ROY

President

15 February 2023

APPENDIX

Recorded Divisions

On the motion moved by Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia), together with Mr. Derraji, Official Opposition House Leader, Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil):

(Division No. 33)

YEAS - 112

Abou-Khalil (CAQ)	Chassin (CAQ)	Jeannotte (CAQ)	Poulet (CAQ)
Allaire (CAQ)	Ciccone (QLP)	Jolin-Barrette (CAQ)	Poulin (CAQ)
Arseneau (PQ)	D'Amours (CAQ)	Julien (CAQ)	Prass (QLP)
Asselin (CAQ)	Derraji (QLP)	Kelley (QLP)	Proulx (CAQ)
Bachand (CAQ)	Déry (CAQ)	Labrie (QS)	Provençal (CAQ)
Beauchemin (QLP)	Dionne (CAQ)	Lachance (CAQ)	Reid (CAQ)
Bélanger (CAQ)	Dorismond (CAQ)	Lacombe (CAQ)	Rivest (CAQ)
(Orford)	Drainville (CAQ)	Laforest (CAQ)	Rizqy (QLP)
Bélanger (CAQ)	Dufour (CAQ)	Laframboise (CAQ)	Roberge (CAQ)
(Prévost)	(Abitibi-Est)	Lafrenière (CAQ)	Rotiroti (QLP)
Bernard (CAQ)	Dufour (QLP)	Lakhoyan Olivier (QLP)	Rouleau (CAQ)
Bérubé (PQ)	(Mille-Îles)	Lamontagne (CAQ)	Roy (CAQ)
Biron (CAQ)	Duranceau (CAQ)	LeBel (CAQ)	(Verchères)
Blais (CAQ)	Émond (CAQ)	Lecours (CAQ)	Sainte-Croix (CAQ)
Blanchette Vézina (CAQ)	Fitzgibbon (CAQ)	(Les Plaines)	Schmaltz (CAQ)
Bogemans (CAQ)	Fontecilla (QS)	Lecours (CAQ)	Schneeberger (CAQ)
Boivin Roy (CAQ)	Fortin (QLP)	(Lotbinière-Frontenac)	Setlakwe (QLP)
Bonnardel (CAQ)	Fréchette (CAQ)	Leduc (QS)	Simard (CAQ)
Bouazzi (QS)	Gagnon (CAQ)	Lefebvre (CAQ)	Skeete (CAQ)
Boulet (CAQ)	Garceau (QLP)	Lemay (CAQ)	St-Louis (CAQ)
Bourassa (CAQ)	Gendron (CAQ)	Lemieux (CAQ)	St-Pierre Plamondon (PQ)
Boutin (CAQ)	Ghazal (QS)	Lévesque (CAQ)	Tardif (CAQ)
Bussière (CAQ)	Girard (CAQ)	(Chapleau)	Thouin (CAQ)
Cadet (QLP)	(Lac-Saint-Jean)	Maccarone (QLP)	Tremblay (CAQ)
Caire (CAQ)	Girard (CAQ)	Mallette (CAQ)	(Dubuc)
Carmant (CAQ)	(Groulx)	Marissal (QS)	Tremblay (CAQ)
Caron (CAQ)	Grandmont (QS)	Martel (CAQ)	(Hull)
(Portneuf)	Grondin (CAQ)	Massé (QS)	
Caron (QLP)	Guilbault (CAQ)	McGraw (QLP)	
(La Pinière)	Guillemette (CAQ)	Montigny (CAQ)	
Champagne Jourdain (CAQ)	Haytayan (CAQ)	Morin (QLP)	
Charest (CAQ)	Hébert (CAQ)	Nichols (IND)	
Charette (CAQ)	Jacques (CAQ)	Picard (CAQ)	