



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Thursday, 23 February 2023 — No. 20

**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. Bussière (Gatineau) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Eric Proulx for his perseverance and determination.

Ms. Garceau (Robert-Baldwin) made a statement to underline International Women's Day.

Mr. Sainte-Croix (Gaspé) made a statement to underline the Traversées de la Gaspésie.

Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke) made a statement to underline the Parlons éducation citizens forums.

Mr. Lévesque (Chauveau) made a statement to underline the 60th anniversary of La Corporation Cité-Joie.

23 February 2023

Ms. Maccarone (Westmount–Saint-Louis) made a statement to underline National Fight Against the Sexual Exploitation of Minors Week.

Mr. Lemieux (Saint-Jean) made a statement to congratulate Mr. Dany Gagnon, recipient of a Fondation du Cégep Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu scholarship and winner of a Cybertalent trophy.

Mr. Émond (Richelieu) made a statement to underline the 350th anniversary of the Seigneurie de Saint-Ours.

Ms. Dorismond (Marie-Victorin) made a statement to raise citizens' awareness of the characteristics of heart and brain diseases in women.

Mr. Poulin (Beauce-Sud) made a statement to underline the retirement of Mr. Sylvain Veilleux, Director of Saint-Georges' fire department.

Mr. Lafrenière (Vachon) made a statement to underline the work of the organization L'appart à moi.

Mr. Bonnardel (Granby) made a statement to underline the 15th anniversary of the Fondation pour la sauvegarde des écosystèmes du territoire de la Haute-Yamaska.

23 February 2023

At 9:55 a.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 10:03 a.m.

Moment of reflection

Introduction of Bills

Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Minister of Justice, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following bill:

- 12 An Act to reform family law with regard to filiation and to protect children born as a result of sexual assault and the victims of that assault as well as the rights of surrogates and of children born of a surrogacy project

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 12 was introduced in the Assembly.

Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) moved that leave be granted to introduce the following bill:

- 199 An Act to better protect consumers against abusive credit contracts

23 February 2023

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 199 was introduced in the Assembly.

Presenting Papers

Ms. LeBel, Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, tabled the following:

The 2021–2022 report from the Chair of the Conseil du trésor and Minister Responsible for Government Administration on the application of the *Public Administration Act*;

(Sessional Paper No. 390-20230223)

The 2021–2022 annual report of the Ordre des orthophonistes et audiologistes du Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 391-20230223)

Mr. Dubé, Minister of Health, tabled the following:

The 2018–2023 five-year report on the application of the *Act to prevent skin cancer caused by artificial tanning*;

(Sessional Paper No. 392-20230223)

The 2020–2021, 2021–2022 and 2022–2023 health accounts.

(Sessional Paper No. 393-20230223)

23 February 2023

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

The 2021–2022 annual activity report of the Institut de technologie agroalimentaire du Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 394-20230223)

The President tabled the following:

The Ethics Commissioner's inquiry report to the President of the National Assembly on Mr. Pierre Fitzgibbon entitled "Rapport d'enquête de la commissaire à l'éthique et à la déontologie au président de l'Assemblée nationale au sujet de monsieur Pierre Fitzgibbon, ministre de l'Économie, de l'Innovation et de l'Énergie, ministre responsable du Développement économique régional et député de Terrebonne".

(Sessional Paper No. 395-20230223)

Presenting Reports from Committees

Mr. Bachand (Richmond), Committee Chair, tabled the following:

The report from the Committee on Institutions, which met on 21 and 22 February 2023 for clause-by-clause 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 report contains amendments to the bill.

(Sessional Paper No. 396-20230223)

23 February 2023

Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations

The President informed the Assembly that she had, within the prescribed time, received a request from Mr. Derraji, Official Opposition House Leader, to be heard on an alleged breach of privilege.

In his notice, the Official Opposition House Leader alleged that the Minister of Families acted in contempt of Parliament by misleading the National Assembly on 16 February 2023 by asserting three times, during Oral Questions and Answers, that 33,000 children were waiting for a childcare space.

The notice further stated the Official Opposition House Leader's intention to move a motion under Standing Orders 315 and following.

The President informed the Assembly that she would hear arguments at a later sitting.

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

At the request of the President, Mr. Tanguay, Leader of the Official Opposition, thrice withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

At the request of the President, Ms. Garceau (Robert-Baldwin) withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

23 February 2023

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, the Assembly proceeded with the tabling of a committee report.

Reports from Committees

Mr. Simard (Montmorency), Committee Chair, tabled the following:

The report from the Committee on Public Finance, which met on 22 February 2023 for clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 6, An Act to give effect to fiscal measures announced in the Budget Speech delivered on 22 March 2022 and to certain other measures. The report contains amendments to the bill.

(Sessional Paper No. 397-20230223)

Deferred Divisions

The Assembly took the division, which had been deferred on 22 February 2023, on the motion moved by Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys) during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition.

This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly take note that the CAQ government has proposed to finance tax cuts by diverting revenue dedicated to the Generations Fund;

THAT it declare that this would have a negative impact on reducing intergenerational inequity and have a significant long-term impact in terms of potential lost revenues for the Generations Fund;

THAT it recall that reducing Québec's debt ratio will require concerted long-term efforts;

THAT it declare that any modification to the payments or operation of the Fund must first be the subject of extensive consultations with the youth of Québec;

23 February 2023

THAT, accordingly, the Assembly ask the CAQ government to maintain the Generations Fund's capital and dedicated revenue payment deposits.

The motion was negated on the following vote:

(Division No. **36** in Appendix)

Yeas: **18** Nays: **90** Abstentions: **0**

Motions Without Notice

Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) moved a motion on including the Minister of Justice in the Groupe d'action pour l'avenir de la langue française; 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 Public Security, together with Ms. Maccarone (Westmount–Saint-Louis), Ms. Ghazal (Mercier), Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark National Fight Against the Sexual Exploitation of Minors Week, which takes place every year from 1 to 7 March, as well as National Fight Against the Sexual Exploitation of Minors Day, which will take place on March 4th;

THAT it recognize the importance of conveying a strong message that the sexual exploitation of minors will never be tolerated in our society and that all government stakeholders, community organizations, educational institutions, citizens and businesses will continue to mobilize to combat this scourge;

23 February 2023

THAT it reiterate that this fight remains a national priority and that the Québec government must continue to take action on multiple fronts, as stated in response to recommendations by the Select Committee on the Sexual Exploitation of Minors in the 2021–2026 government action plan entitled “Briser le cycle de l’exploitation sexuelle”;

THAT it underline the transpartisan work of Members in this regard during the previous legislature;

THAT it recognize and applaud the work of stakeholders in the field, particularly that of the community organizations that complement government actions in order to help victims of sexual exploitation and their families.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

Mr. Derraji, Official Opposition House Leader, together with Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage), Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved a motion on political neutrality in the public service; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Marissal (Rosemont), together with Mr. Legault, Premier, Ms. Setlakwe (Mont-Royal–Outremont), Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly reaffirm the inalienable right of the people of Ukraine to their territorial integrity;

23 February 2023

THAT it declare that Russia's armed invasion of Ukraine violates international law, in particular its military attacks on the civilian population and essential infrastructure;

THAT, like the House of Commons of Canada, it denounce the genocidal acts committed against the Ukrainian people that have been reported by the media;

THAT it welcome to Québec all temporarily displaced Ukrainians, while asking the governments of Québec and Canada to do everything in their power to facilitate their arrival in the country;

THAT it reaffirm its long-standing friendly relations with the Ukrainian diaspora in Québec;

THAT it applaud the heroic resistance of the Ukrainian people and the courage of those supporting the anti-war movement in Russia;

THAT, lastly, the National Assembly observe a minute of silence in memory of the victims.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

At the request of Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, the Assembly observed a minute of silence.

Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), together with Mr. Fortin (Pontiac), Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) and Mr. Marissal (Rosemont), moved a motion on ambulance services; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

23 February 2023

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

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

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

Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, gave the following notices:

- the Committee on Culture and Education shall hold a deliberative meeting to discuss the possibility of carrying out an order of initiative on the increase in violence in and around schools;
- the Committee on Citizen Relations shall hold a deliberative meeting to discuss the possibility of carrying out an order of initiative on closures and conversions of private seniors' residences (RPA).

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, informed the Assembly that on Friday, 17 March 2023, Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun) would question Ms. Blanchette Vézina, Minister of Natural Resources and Forests, during an interpellation on the importance of a new social contract for mining in response to the explosion in the number of claims in southern Québec.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Debates on Reports from Committees

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Public Finance, which held public hearings on 8, 9 and 14 February 2023 within the framework of special consultations on the Québec Pension Plan consultation document on a plan adapted to 21st century challenges entitled “Un régime adapté aux défis du 21^e siècle”. The report contains observations, a conclusion and three recommendations.

Mr. Benjamin, Third 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.

Debates upon Adjournment

At 1:00 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 309, the Assembly held two debates upon adjournment:

- the first, on a question from Ms. Garceau (Robert-Baldwin) to Ms. Roy, Minister of Families, about the conflicting information on the waiting list to obtain a childcare space;
- the second, on a question from Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) to Mr. Drainville, Minister of Education, about the Centre de services scolaire de Montréal eliminating its mobile remedial education service.

23 February 2023

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 53 and 59, Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) tabled the following:

A copy of a table on diagnosing students followed by the SSPI entitled “SSPI Diagnostics – Diagnostics rencontrés chez les élèves suivis par le SSPI”;
(Sessional Paper No. 398-20230223)

A copy of a table, dated 23 February 2023, on a list of schools served by the SSPI entitled “Liste des écoles desservies SSPI – année scolaire 2022–2023”.
(Sessional Paper No. 399-20230223)

At 1:26 p.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 2:30 p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 2:30 p.m.

Debates on Reports from Committees

The Assembly continued the debate on consideration of the report from the Committee on Public Finance, which held public hearings on 8, 9 and 14 February 2023 within the framework of special consultations on the Québec Pension Plan consultation document on a plan adapted to 21st century challenges entitled “Un régime adapté aux défis du 21^e siècle”. The report contains observations, a conclusion and three 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 Tuesday, 14 March 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

The motion was carried.

23 February 2023

At 3:18 p.m., Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Tuesday, 14 March 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

NATHALIE ROY

President

23 February 2023

APPENDIX

Recorded Divisions

On the motion moved by Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys):

(Division No. 36)

YEAS - 18

Beauchemin (<i>QLP</i>)	Derraji (<i>QLP</i>)	Lakhoyan Olivier (<i>QLP</i>)	Prass (<i>QLP</i>)
Cadet (<i>QLP</i>)	Dufour (<i>QLP</i>)	Maccarone (<i>QLP</i>)	Rizqy (<i>QLP</i>)
Caron (<i>QLP</i>)	(<i>Mille-Îles</i>)	McGraw (<i>QLP</i>)	Rotiroti (<i>QLP</i>)
(<i>La Pinière</i>)	Fortin (<i>QLP</i>)	Morin (<i>QLP</i>)	Setlakwe (<i>QLP</i>)
Ciccone (<i>QLP</i>)	Garceau (<i>QLP</i>)	Nichols (<i>IND</i>)	Tanguay (<i>QLP</i>)

NAYS - 90

Abou-Khalil (<i>CAQ</i>)	Charette (<i>CAQ</i>)	Jacques (<i>CAQ</i>)	Poulet (<i>CAQ</i>)
Allaire (<i>CAQ</i>)	Chassin (<i>CAQ</i>)	Jeannotte (<i>CAQ</i>)	Poulin (<i>CAQ</i>)
Arseneau (<i>PQ</i>)	Déry (<i>CAQ</i>)	Jolin-Barrette (<i>CAQ</i>)	Proulx (<i>CAQ</i>)
Asselin (<i>CAQ</i>)	Dionne (<i>CAQ</i>)	Julien (<i>CAQ</i>)	Provençal (<i>CAQ</i>)
Bachand (<i>CAQ</i>)	Dorismond (<i>CAQ</i>)	Labrie (<i>QS</i>)	Reid (<i>CAQ</i>)
Bélanger (<i>CAQ</i>)	Drainville (<i>CAQ</i>)	Lachance (<i>CAQ</i>)	Rivest (<i>CAQ</i>)
(<i>Prévost</i>)	Dubé (<i>CAQ</i>)	Laforest (<i>CAQ</i>)	Roberge (<i>CAQ</i>)
Bélanger (<i>CAQ</i>)	Dufour (<i>CAQ</i>)	Laframboise (<i>CAQ</i>)	Rouleau (<i>CAQ</i>)
(<i>Orford</i>)	(<i>Abitibi-Est</i>)	Lafrenière (<i>CAQ</i>)	Roy (<i>CAQ</i>)
Bernard (<i>CAQ</i>)	Duranceau (<i>CAQ</i>)	Lamontagne (<i>CAQ</i>)	(<i>Verchères</i>)
Bérubé (<i>PQ</i>)	Émond (<i>CAQ</i>)	LeBel (<i>CAQ</i>)	Sainte-Croix (<i>CAQ</i>)
Blais (<i>CAQ</i>)	Fitzgibbon (<i>CAQ</i>)	Lecours (<i>CAQ</i>)	Schmaltz (<i>CAQ</i>)
Blanchette Vézina (<i>CAQ</i>)	Fontecilla (<i>QS</i>)	(<i>Les Plaines</i>)	Schneeberger (<i>CAQ</i>)
Bogemans (<i>CAQ</i>)	Fréchette (<i>CAQ</i>)	Lecours (<i>CAQ</i>)	Simard (<i>CAQ</i>)
Bonnardel (<i>CAQ</i>)	Gagnon (<i>CAQ</i>)	(<i>Lotbinière-Frontenac</i>)	Skeete (<i>CAQ</i>)
Bouazzi (<i>QS</i>)	Gendron (<i>CAQ</i>)	Leduc (<i>QS</i>)	St-Louis (<i>CAQ</i>)
Boulet (<i>CAQ</i>)	Ghazal (<i>QS</i>)	Lefebvre (<i>CAQ</i>)	St-Pierre Plamondon (<i>PQ</i>)
Bourassa (<i>CAQ</i>)	Girard (<i>CAQ</i>)	Legault (<i>CAQ</i>)	Tardif (<i>CAQ</i>)
Boutin (<i>CAQ</i>)	(<i>Lac-Saint-Jean</i>)	Lemay (<i>CAQ</i>)	Thouin (<i>CAQ</i>)
Bussière (<i>CAQ</i>)	Girard (<i>CAQ</i>)	Lemieux (<i>CAQ</i>)	Tremblay (<i>CAQ</i>)
Caire (<i>CAQ</i>)	(<i>Groulx</i>)	Lévesque (<i>CAQ</i>)	(<i>Dubuc</i>)
Carmant (<i>CAQ</i>)	Grandmont (<i>QS</i>)	(<i>Chapleau</i>)	Zaga Mendez (<i>QS</i>)
Caron (<i>CAQ</i>)	Grondin (<i>CAQ</i>)	Mallette (<i>CAQ</i>)	Zanetti (<i>QS</i>)
(<i>Portneuf</i>)	Guillemette (<i>CAQ</i>)	Martel (<i>CAQ</i>)	
Champagne Jourdain (<i>CAQ</i>)	Haytayan (<i>CAQ</i>)	Montigny (<i>CAQ</i>)	
Charest (<i>CAQ</i>)	Hébert (<i>CAQ</i>)	Nadeau-Dubois (<i>QS</i>)	