



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Tuesday, 21 March 2023 — No. 24

**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

Report Stage

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Public Finance on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 3, An Act respecting health and social services information and amending various legislative provisions.

After debate thereon, the report was concurred in.

At 10:55 a.m., at the request of Mr. Caire, 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. Dionne (Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Gérard Ouellet for his volunteer work and community involvement.

Mr. Asselin (Vanier-LesRivières) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. Annie Dallaire and Mr. Jean-François Michaud for saving a woman's life.

Ms. McGraw (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) made a statement to underline Nowruz.

Mr. Nadeau-Dubois (Gouin) made a statement to underline the work of mental health organizations in the Gouin riding.

Mr. Lévesque (Chauveau) made a statement to underline Québec Meals on Wheels Week.

Ms. Prass (D'Arcy-McGee) made a statement to underline the 35th edition of Quebec Intellectual Disability Week.

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Ms. Gendron (Châteauguay) made a statement to underline the successful evening of boxing matches organized by New Era Promotion in Châteauguay.

Ms. Tremblay (Hull) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of the Table ronde des organismes volontaires d'éducation populaire de l'Outaouais.

Ms. Poulet (Laporte) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Jean-Marie Girard, president and founder of La Grande Guignolée des médias de la Rive-Sud.

Mr. Lemay (Masson) made a statement to congratulate the members of the Neptune Natation swimming club on their performances in the 2023 Speedo Western Canadian Championships.

Mr. Lamontagne (Johnson) made a statement to underline the athletic performance of Mr. Michel Gouin, ultramarathoner.

Mr. Carmant (Taillon) made a statement to underline the 35th edition of Quebec Intellectual Disability Week.

At 1:55 p.m., Ms. Soucy, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

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The proceedings resumed at 2:01 p.m.

Moment of reflection

Introduction of Bills

Ms. Laforest, Minister of Municipal Affairs, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following bill:

16 An Act to amend the Act respecting land use planning and development and other provisions

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 16 was introduced in the Assembly.

Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) moved that leave be granted to introduce the following bill:

390 An Act to promote taking gender equality and diversity in an intersectional perspective into account in the budgetary process

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 390 was introduced in the Assembly.

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Presenting Papers

Ms. LeBel, Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, transmitted the following message from the Honourable Lieutenant-Governor of Québec to the President, who communicated it to the Assembly:

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR

In accordance with the provisions of section 54 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, I hereby transmit the estimates of expenditure for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2024 to the National Assembly and recommend said estimates to it for consideration.

Québec City, 15 March 2023

J. Michel Doyon

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

Expenditure Management Strategy – Additional Information – 2023–2024
Expenditure Budget – Volume 1 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 429-20230321)

Annual Expenditure Management Plans of the Departments and Bodies –
2023–2024 Expenditure Budget – Volume 2 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 430-20230321)

Estimates and Expenditures of the Departments and Bodies – 2023–2024
Expenditure Budget – Volume 3 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 431-20230321)

Estimates, Expenditures and Annual Expenditure Management Plans of the
National Assembly and Persons Appointed by the National Assembly –
2023–2024 Expenditure Budget – Volume 4 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 432-20230321)

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Annual Information Resource Investment and Expenditure Plan – 2023–2024
Expenditure Budget – Volume 5 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 433-20230321)

2023–2033 Québec Infrastructure Plan – 2023–2024 Expenditure Budget –
Volume 6 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 434-20230321)

2023–2024 Expenditure Management Strategy – In Brief (French and English
versions).
(Sessional Paper No. 435-20230321)

Mr. Julien, Minister Responsible for Infrastructure, tabled the following:

Annual Management Plans for Public Infrastructure Investments – 2023–2024
Expenditure Budget (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 436-20230321)

2023–2033 Québec Infrastructure Plan – In Brief (French and English versions).
(Sessional Paper No. 437-20230321)

Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Government House Leader, then moved:

THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 280, the 2023–2024
estimates of expenditure be referred to a Committee of the Whole
for consideration and for concurrence in one quarter of the said
estimates.

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

Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT, pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph 4.1 of the first paragraph of Standing Order 87 and Standing Orders 280 and 281, the Assembly consider and concur in Interim Supply for the 2023–2024 fiscal year as provided hereinafter;

THAT, as soon as Orders of the Day for the 22 March 2023 sitting are called, the Assembly resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole and consider Interim Supply as follows:

THAT, for a period not exceeding 1 hour, an exchange take place between the Minister of Education and the Members in opposition;

THAT, immediately thereafter, for a period not exceeding 1 hour, an exchange take place between the Minister Responsible for Housing and the Members in opposition;

THAT, at 1:00 p.m., the Committee of the Whole suspend its proceedings and that the proceedings of the Assembly be suspended until 3:00 p.m.;

THAT, at 3:00 p.m., the Committee of the Whole continue its proceedings and, if necessary, be able to conclude the exchange between the Members in opposition and the Minister Responsible for Housing;

THAT, immediately thereafter, for a period not exceeding 1 hour, an exchange take place between the Minister of Health and the Members in opposition;

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THAT, immediately thereafter, for a period not exceeding 1 hour, an exchange take place between the Minister of Cybersecurity and Digital Technology and the Members in opposition;

THAT, immediately thereafter, for a period not exceeding 1 hour, an exchange take place between the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor and the Members in opposition;

THAT, immediately upon the conclusion of this exchange, the Chair of the Committee of the Whole put the question for concurrence in one quarter of the estimates of expenditure for the 2023–2024 fiscal year;

THAT the Chair of the Committee of the Whole then report to the Assembly and that the question for concurrence in such report and then the question for passage of the consequent appropriation bill be put without debate, pursuant to the first paragraph of Standing Order 281;

THAT, lastly, pursuant to the second paragraph of Standing Order 281, the Government House Leader be permitted to move a motion without notice that may not be debated, stating that the main estimates of expenditure, save those of the National Assembly, be referred to the Standing Committees for consideration;

THAT the opening statements for each of the exchanges with the aforementioned ministers not exceed 6 minutes for the parliamentary group forming the Government, 3 minutes 7 seconds for the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition, 1 minute 2 seconds for the Second Opposition Group, 1 minute 2 seconds for the Third Opposition Group, and 48 seconds for the independent Members as a whole;

THAT, for each of the exchanges with the aforementioned ministers, a period of 1 minute 30 seconds per hour be set aside for exchanges with the independent Members as a whole;

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THAT any time not used by the independent Members be redistributed proportionally among the parliamentary groups forming the Official Opposition, the Second Opposition Group and the Third Opposition Group;

THAT the President of the Assembly or the Chair of the Committee of the Whole be permitted to suspend the proceedings at any time;

THAT, despite Standing Order 20, the Committee of the Whole and the Assembly be permitted to continue their proceedings until the latter has voted on the appropriation bill and on the motion for referral of all of the estimates of expenditure, save those of the National Assembly, to the Standing Committees for consideration;

THAT this motion become an order of the Assembly and take precedence over any incompatible provisions of the Standing Orders.

The motion was carried.

Presenting Papers

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

The reply to a written question from Mr. Grandmont (Taschereau) on Québec's paratransit services – Question No. 9, *Order Paper and Notices* of 21 February 2023;

(Sessional Paper No. 438-20230321)

The reply to a written question from Mr. Kelley (Jacques-Cartier) on the availability of studies on the impact of highway noise on public health – Question No. 11, *Order Paper and Notices* of 22 February 2023;

(Sessional Paper No. 439-20230321)

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The reply to a written question from Ms. Lakhoyan Olivier (Chomedey) on the labour dispute at Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery – Question No. 12, *Order Paper and Notices* of 23 February 2023.

(Sessional Paper No. 440-20230321)

The President read an excerpt of a letter, dated 20 March 2023, to Mr. Siegfried Peters, Secretary General of the National Assembly, from Mr. Jean-François Blanchet, Chief Electoral Officer of Québec, about the by-election held on 13 March 2023 in the electoral division of Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne.

She then tabled the following:

The aforementioned letter accompanied by a notice proclaiming Mr. Guillaume Cliche-Rivard the candidate elected in the electoral division of Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne.

(Sessional Paper No. 441-20230321)

Presenting Reports from Committees

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

The report from the Committee on Public Finance, which held public hearings on 16 March 2023 within the framework of special consultations on Bill 9, An Act amending mainly certain Acts establishing public sector pension plans.

(Sessional Paper No. 442-20230321)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

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Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia), together with Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles), Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly ask the Québec government to allocate, as soon as possible, the necessary resources to put an end to illegal offers of short-term tourist accommodations;

THAT it express that it is unacceptable, during a housing crisis, for businesses and digital platforms to offer short-term tourist accommodations without complying with the laws, regulations and by-laws of Québec and its municipalities.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

Ms. Roy, Minister of Families, together with Ms. Tardif (Laviolette–Saint-Maurice), moved a motion on educational childcare services; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Ms. Caron (La Pinière), together with Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun), Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved a motion on food insecurity; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion), together with Ms. Proulx, Minister of Tourism, Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles), Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly ask the Government to amend the *Tourist Accommodation Act* by 9 June so that digital platform operators are required to verify the compliance of their advertised tourist accommodations and to remove illegal offers.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Ms. Soucy, First Vice-President, gave the following notice:

- the Committee on Transportation and the Environment shall hold a deliberative meeting to discuss the possibility of examining a petition on implementing measures to increase pedestrian safety and to discuss the possibility of carrying out an order of initiative on road safety.

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At 3:12 p.m., at the request of Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, Ms. Soucy, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until the expiry of the time limit for receiving notices for debates upon adjournment.

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The proceedings resumed at 3:34 p.m.

At 3:34 p.m., at the request of Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, Ms. Soucy, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 4:00 p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 4:06 p.m.

Business Having Precedence

Budget Speech

Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, delivered the Budget Speech.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, tabled the following documents during his address:

Summary of budgetary transactions – Preliminary results for 2022–2023 – Table 1;

(Sessional Paper No. 443-20230321)

Summary of budgetary transactions – Forecasts for 2023–2024 – Table 2;

(Sessional Paper No. 444-20230321)

Revenue – Forecasts for 2023–2024 – Table 3;

(Sessional Paper No. 445-20230321)

Expenditure – Forecasts for 2023–2024 – Table 4;

(Sessional Paper No. 446-20230321)

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Expenditure by portfolio – Forecasts for 2023–2024 – Table 5;
(Sessional Paper No. 447-20230321)

Budget Plan – Budget 2023–2024 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 448-20230321)

Additional Information – Budget 2023–2024 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 449-20230321)

Budget Speech – Budget 2023–2024 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 450-20230321)

Budget in Brief – Budget 2023–2024 (French and English versions).
(Sessional Paper No. 451-20230321)

At the end of his address, Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, moved that the Assembly approve the Government's budgetary policy.

Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys) commented on behalf of the Official Opposition.

Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) commented on behalf of the Second Opposition Group.

Mr. St-Pierre Plamondon, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, commented on behalf of the Third Opposition Group.

At 5:32 p.m., at the request of Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Government House Leader, the President suspended the proceedings until 6:30 p.m.

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Debates upon Adjournment

At 6:30 p.m., the Assembly held two debates upon adjournment:

- the first, on a question from Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) to Mr. Drainville, Minister of Education, about sexual violence in schools;
- the second, on a question from Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) to Ms. Proulx, Minister of Tourism, about tourist accommodation.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Mr. Drainville, Minister of Education, tabled the following:

A copy of an act of designation and of a general investigative mandate, dated 21 March 2023, issued by Mr. Drainville, Minister of Education.
(Sessional Paper No. 452-20230321)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 53 and 59, Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) tabled the following:

A copy of a document entitled “Recommandations incontournables du collectif jeunesse « La voix des jeunes compte » pour prévenir et contrer les violences sexuelles dans les écoles primaires et secondaires”.
(Sessional Paper No. 453-20230321)

At 6:54 p.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 22 March 2023 at 9:40 a.m.

NATHALIE ROY

President