



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Thursday, 23 March 2023 — No. 26

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

The Assembly was called to order at 9:41 a.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Members

Mr. Sainte-Croix (Gaspé) made a statement to underline the 150th anniversary of Château Lamontagne.

Ms. Caron (La Pinière) made a statement to underline Québec Meals on Wheels Week.

Mr. Montigny (René-Lévesque) made a statement to underline the heroic actions of five citizens following the 7 June 2022 boating accident at ZEC Trinité.

Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) made a statement to demonstrate the need for Québec independence.

Mr. Caron (Portneuf) made a statement to pay tribute to young Maxime Raymond for helping the victims of the conflict in Ukraine.

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Mr. Derraji (Nelligan) made a statement to underline the 20th anniversary of the Fondation Club Avenir.

Ms. Mallette (Huntingdon) made a statement to underline the 160th anniversary of *The Gleaner* newspaper.

Mr. Émond (Richelieu) made a statement to congratulate the athletes of the Richelieu-Yamaska delegation who participated in the Québec Games.

Ms. Lecours (Lotbinière-Frontenac) made a statement to underline the 40th anniversary of the La Gîtée shelter.

Mr. Bonnardel (Granby) made a statement to underline the 25th anniversary of the OS'Entreprendre Challenge.

Ms. Blanchette Vézina (Rimouski) made a statement to underline the 40th edition of Carrousel international du film de Rimouski.

Mr. Lefebvre (Arthabaska) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Pascal Tousignant for his involvement in the Association sportive Le Laurier de Victoriaville.

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

The proceedings resumed at 10:04 a.m.

Moment of reflection

Presenting Papers

Mr. Caire, Minister of Cybersecurity and Digital Technology, tabled the following on behalf of Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Minister of Justice:

The budgetary forecasts of the Comité de la rémunération des procureurs aux poursuites criminelles et pénales for the periods from December 2022 to 31 March 2023 and 1 April 2023 to 30 September 2023.

(Sessional Paper No. 458-20230323)

Mr. Caire, Deputy Government House Leader, tabled the following:

The Government's reply to the petitions tabled on 2 February 2023 by Mr. Bussière (Gatineau) on allocating special budgets for Route 105 in the MRC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau;

(Sessional Paper No. 459-20230323)

The Government's reply to a petition tabled on 7 February 2023 by Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) on maintaining sports-study and arts-study programs at École secondaire du Chêne-Bleu.

(Sessional Paper No. 460-20230323)

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Presenting Petitions

Mr. Bussière (Gatineau) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on building a high school in Val-des-Monts, signed by 2,807 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 461-20230323)

Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on reducing noise at the Olympic Park's Esplanade, signed by 105 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 462-20230323)

Mr. Sainte-Croix (Gaspé) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on revising the health and social services network's User Travel Policy, signed by 407 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 463-20230323)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

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

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Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Ciccone (Marquette), together with Mr. Carmant, Minister Responsible for Social Services, Mr. Marissal (Rosemont), Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly take note of the proliferation of cannabis vape pens, otherwise known as wax pens;

THAT it take note that these products are illegal in Québec and can contain up to 90% THC, which is three times the limit permitted in Québec for any cannabis product;

THAT it be concerned about these products' harmful impacts on the health of Quebecers, including our youth, and that it take note of the accounts reported in the media of the consequences of using these products, which can include increased dependence, vomiting that may last for several days, loss of consciousness, and temporary loss of the use of limbs;

THAT, lastly, the National Assembly ask the Government to act decisively to protect the population, first and foremost Québec's youth, in particular by:

- documenting the extent of the use of cannabis vape pens in Québec and their effects on health;
- conducting a public information campaign on the dangers of using these products;
- improving efforts to fight the illegal trafficking of these products by providing support to police forces.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke), together with Ms. Prass (D'Arcy-McGee), Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved a motion on the amounts provided for mental health; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine), together with Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent), Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved a motion on whistleblowers; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Ms. Guilbault, Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility, together with Mr. Morin (Acadie), Mr. Grandmont (Taschereau), Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine), Ms. Tardif (Lavolette-Saint-Maurice) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly recognize that impaired driving is a leading cause of accidents in Québec, whether on the road, off-road trails or waterways;

THAT it remind drivers that driving after consuming drugs or alcohol is inappropriate behaviour that can have serious and often permanent impacts on the victims' physical and mental health;

THAT it underline that prevention and awareness-raising are still essential to remind people that impaired driving is a criminal offence;

THAT, lastly, the National Assembly designate the third week of March as Québec Impaired Driving Prevention Week and observe a minute of silence in memory of all those killed and injured.

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By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

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

- the Committee on Health and Social Services, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 10, An Act limiting the use of personnel placement agencies' services and independent labour in the health and social services sector;
- the Committee on Institutions, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on 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 Committee on Public Finance, to undertake clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 9, An Act amending mainly certain Acts establishing public sector pension plans.

And, by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 87, he convened the following committee:

- the Committee on Citizen Relations, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 11, An Act to amend the Act respecting end-of-life care and other legislative provisions.

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

- the Committee on Culture and Education shall hold a public meeting to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on the order of initiative on the revelations of violence during hazing in the junior hockey league and the potential situation in other sports;
- the Committee on Institutions shall hold a deliberative meeting to discuss the possibility of examining a petition on cyberviolence against women.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, informed the Assembly that on Friday, 31 March 2023, Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles) would question Ms. Duranceau, Minister Responsible for Housing, during an interpellation on housing in Québec, a sector neglected by a disengaged CAQ government.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Having Precedence

Debate on the Budget Speech

The Assembly entered upon the debate on the motion moved by Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, that the Assembly approve the Government's budgetary policy.

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At the end of his speech, Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys) moved the following motion stating a grievance:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for putting at risk the ability of future generations to finance the services to which they are entitled by reducing the payments into the Generations Fund.

The debate continued on the motion moved by Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, and on the motion stating a grievance moved by Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys), subject to the receivability of this motion.

At the beginning of his address, Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) moved the following motion stating a grievance:

THAT the National Assembly censure the CAQ government for this budget that is unfair, irresponsible and lacking ambition for Québec.

The debate continued on the motion moved by Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys) and Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard), subject to the receivability of these motions.

Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, informed the Assembly of the allocation of speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this debate: 6 hours 37 minutes 30 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Government, including the Budget Speech; 3 hours 45 minutes 41 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition, including the comments made by its representative on 21 March 2023 and his address during today's proceedings; 2 hours 15 minutes to the Second Opposition Group, including the comments made by its representative on 21 March 2023 and his address during today's proceedings; 36 minutes 49 seconds to the Third Opposition Group, including the comments made by its representative on 21 March 2023 and his address during today's proceedings; and 7 minutes 30 seconds to each independent Member. 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.

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The debate continued.

At the end of his address, Mr. Tanguay, Leader of the Official Opposition, moved the following motion stating a grievance:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for tabling a 2023–2024 budget that does not include a comprehensive plan to support the State’s essential missions, nor concrete measures to counter the labour shortage, in addition to abandoning future generations by reducing payments into the Generations Fund.

Debates upon Adjournment

At 1:00 p.m., the Assembly held three debates upon adjournment:

- the first, on a question from Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) to Ms. Champagne Jourdain, Minister of Employment, on the lack of effective measures in the 2023–2024 budget to counter the labour shortage. Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, replaced the Minister for this debate;
- the second, on a question from Mr. Grandmont (Taschereau) to Ms. Laforest, Minister of Municipal Affairs, on the cities’ disappointment with the budget. Ms. Duranceau, Minister Responsible for Housing, replaced the Minister for this debate;
- the third, on a question from Mr. Fortin (Pontiac) to Mr. Dubé, Minister of Health, on the situation of nurses in the Mauricie and Centre-du-Québec regions.

At 1:38 p.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 2:30 p.m.

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The proceedings resumed at 2:30 p.m.

Business Having Precedence

Debate on the Budget Speech

The debate continued on the motion moved by Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys), Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) and Mr. Tanguay, Leader of the Official Opposition, subject to the receivability of these motions.

At the end of his address, Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) moved the following motion stating a grievance:

THAT the National Assembly censure the CAQ government for the weakness of its orthodox stance on the Canadian Constitution, which prevents the Québec peoples from achieving their dreams of freedom.

The debate continued on the motion moved by Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys), Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard), Mr. Tanguay, Leader of the Official Opposition, and Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage), subject to the receivability of these motions.

At the end of her address, Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles) moved the following motion stating a grievance:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for tabling a budget that does not help Québec families find housing, meet the expectations of housing organizations or support cities and municipalities in addressing their urgent and growing needs.

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The debate continued on the motion moved by Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, and on the motions stating a grievance moved by Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys), Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard), Mr. Tanguay, Leader of the Official Opposition, Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) and Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles), subject to the receivability of these motions.

At 4:29 p.m., Ms. Soucy, First Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Tuesday, 28 March 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

ROYAL ASSENT

On Thursday, 23 March 2023 at 2:25 p.m. at the Palais de justice de Québec, in the presence of Ms. Beauregard, Director of Sittings and Parliamentary Procedure and Delegate of the Secretary General, the Honourable Jocelyn Rancourt, Administrator of the Government of Québec, was pleased to assent to the following bill:

18 Appropriation Act No. 1, 2023–2024

NATHALIE ROY

President