



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Tuesday, 28 March 2023 — No. 27

**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

Business Having Precedence

Debate on the Budget Speech

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been adjourned on 23 March 2023, 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 the end of her address, Ms. Caron (La Pinière) moved the following motion stating a grievance:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for presenting a budget that continues to penalize persons age 60 and over with disabilities with respect to the benefit they receive from the Régie des rentes du 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), Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard), Mr. Tanguay, Leader of the Official Opposition, Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage), Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles) and Ms. Caron (La Pinière), subject to the receivability of these motions.

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At 12:00 p.m., Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 1:40 p.m.

Accordingly, pursuant to Standing Order 52, the debate 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), Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles) and Ms. Caron (La Pinière), subject to the receivability of these motions, was adjourned.

The proceedings resumed at 1:40 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Members

Ms. Maccarone (Westmount–Saint-Louis) made a statement to underline the 15th International Transgender Day of Visibility.

Ms. Champagne Jourdain (Duplessis) made a statement to underline the start of the snow crab and northern shrimp fishing season in the Côte-Nord region.

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Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) made a statement to underline the Semaine de l'alphabétisation populaire.

Mr. Rivest (Côte-du-Sud) made a statement to underline the work of Saint-Jean-Port-Joli's Corporation des fêtes et événements culturels.

Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) made a statement to ask for the regularization of the status of young immigrants in order to promote their contribution to Québec society.

Ms. Bogemans (Iberville) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Fernand Touchette for his volunteer work with La Maison Victor-Gadbois.

Mr. Jacques (Mégantic) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. Maryse Veilleux for her commitment to the municipality of Disraeli.

Ms. Gendron (Châteauguay) made a statement to underline the success of the MAHG festivals in Châteauguay and Mercier.

Mr. Lévesque (Chauveau) made a statement to underline the 25th anniversary of the company Chaussures Saute-Mouton.

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Mr. Chassin (Saint-Jérôme) made a statement to underline Pharmacy Appreciation Month.

Mr. Lefebvre (Arthabaska) made a statement to underline the 120th anniversary of the Chambre de commerce et d'industrie des Bois-Francs et de l'Érable.

At 1:53 p.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 2:03 p.m.

Moment of reflection

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Nadeau-Dubois, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, and Ms. Massé (Sainte-Marie-Saint-Jacques) welcomed Mr. Guillaume Cliche-Rivard, the new Member for Saint-Henri-Sainte-Anne.

Mr. Nadeau-Dubois, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, Mr. Legault, Premier, Mr. Tanguay, Leader of the Official Opposition, and Mr. St-Pierre Plamondon, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, made some comments.

Mr. Cliche-Rivard (Saint-Henri-Sainte-Anne) then took the floor.

Lastly, the President welcomed the new Member.

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Introduction of Bills

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

19 An Act respecting the regulation of work by children

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 19 was introduced in the Assembly.

Presenting Papers

Ms. Déry, Minister of Higher Education, tabled the following:

The financial statements of the University Foundation of the Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning /McGill University, for the fiscal year ended 31 May 2021;

(Sessional Paper No. 464-20230328)

The financial statements of the University Foundation of the Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning /McGill University, for the fiscal year ended 31 May 2022.

(Sessional Paper No. 465-20230328)

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

The 2020–2021 review of the implementation, within the administration, of the 2018–2022 strategy to ensure the occupancy and vitality of our territories.

(Sessional Paper No. 466-20230328)

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The President tabled the following:

The new seating plan of the National Assembly, dated 28 March 2023;
(Sessional Paper No. 467-20230328)

A letter, dated 24 March 2023, she had received from Mr. Jean-François Gauthier, member of the Commission d'accès à l'information du Québec, informing the President of his resignation, effective 1 May 2023;
(Sessional Paper No. 468-20230328)

A copy of the notice of motion by Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) to be placed on the *Order Paper and Notices* of Wednesday, 29 March 2023 under Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition.
(Sessional Paper No. 469-20230328)

Oral Questions and Answers

The President issued a directive on modifications in the distribution of certain measures and speaking times having become necessary following modifications in the composition of the Assembly.

RULING FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair recalls that an agreement was reached at the beginning of the legislature between the different political parties represented in the Assembly on, in particular, the distribution of measures and the allocation of speaking times during limited debates. However, as has happened in the past, an amendment to this agreement was made necessary due to the election of the Member for Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne, a member of the Second Opposition Group.

Following this election, the Official Opposition and the Second Opposition Group began negotiations with a view to agreeing on the modifications to be made to the agreement. They informed the Chair of their conclusions. Given that they are in keeping with the principles established by our parliamentary jurisprudence, the Chair is following up on this new agreement, which reflects the consensus reached by the two groups. The President specified that the new measures granted to the Second Opposition Group all originate from those previously granted to the Official Opposition. The modifications announced therefore have no impact on the rights granted to the Third Opposition Group or to independent Members.

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The Second Opposition Group will therefore be allocated three additional questions per 10-sitting cycle, in 6th place, at the 3rd, 7th and 9th sitting of a cycle.

This group will also be granted one additional item during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition and one additional interpellation per two 14-sitting cycles, in 8th place.

The Second Opposition Group will also be granted one additional Statement by Members per 10-sitting cycle, in 6th place, at the 5th sitting of a cycle.

Lastly, the allocation of speaking times during limited debates are adjusted.

She then tabled the following:

Tables indicating the distribution of measures and the allocation of speaking times for Question Period, Statements by Members, Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, limited debates and interpellations.

(Sessional Paper No. 470-20230328)

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Ms. Duranceau, Minister Responsible for Housing, tabled the following:

A copy of a document concerning public infrastructure and affordable housing entitled “Indice d’état gouvernemental (IEG) et état des logements du parc de HLM – Quelques exemples”.

(Sessional Paper No. 471-20230328)

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 53 and 59, Mr. Ciccone (Marquette) tabled the following:

A copy of an open letter, dated 23 March 2023, published on the website of the newspaper *Métro*, on maintaining services at Lachine Hospital, entitled “Préservation de l’hôpital de Lachine”;

(Sessional Paper No. 472-20230328)

A copy of a letter, dated 23 March 2023, on the FMOQ joining the mobilization to support Lachine Hospital’s community role, entitled “La FMOQ joint sa voix à la mobilisation pour appuyer le maintien de la vocation communautaire de l’Hôpital de Lachine”.

(Sessional Paper No. 473-20230328)

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Motions Without Notice

Ms. Ghazal, Whip of the Second Opposition Group, together with Mr. Lacombe, Minister of Culture and Communications, Mr. Ciccone (Marquette), Ms. Tardif (Laviolette–Saint-Maurice) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved a motion on the increase in threats against elected officials; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia), together with Mr. Cliche-Rivard (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne), moved a motion on Québec’s role in immigration within its borders; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Roberge, Minister Responsible for Canadian Relations and the Canadian Francophonie, together with Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) and Ms. Tardif (Laviolette–Saint-Maurice), moved:

THAT the National Assembly take note of the closure of Roxham Road;

THAT it recall the importance that Québec’s reception capacity be respected;

THAT, lastly, the National Assembly ask the federal government to distribute asylum seekers among all Canadian provinces and territories, taking into account the demographic weight and reception capacity of each in the integration effort.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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Mr. Derraji, Official Opposition House Leader, together with Ms. Ghazal, Whip of the Second Opposition Group, Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved a motion on the state of Québec's school infrastructure; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

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 the National Assembly give effect to the order of reference given to the Committee on Institutions within the framework of the consideration of Bill 14, An Act to amend various provisions relating to public security and to enact the Act to assist in locating missing persons, to hold special consultations and public hearings on Tuesday, 4 April 2023 from 9:45 a.m. to 12:25 p.m. and after Notices of Proceedings in Committees from approximately 3:15 p.m. to 7:20 p.m.; on Wednesday, 5 April 2023 after Notices of Proceedings in Committees from approximately 11:15 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.; and on Thursday, 6 April 2023 after Notices of Proceedings in Committees from approximately 11:15 p.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:

Fraternité des policiers et policières de Montréal
Sûreté du Québec
Association des directeurs de police du Québec
Ligue des droits et libertés
Service de police de la Ville de Montréal
Association des policiers et policières provinciaux du Québec
Fédération des policiers et policières municipaux du Québec
Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse
Association of Families of Persons Assassinated or Disappeared

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Commissaire à la déontologie policière
Barreau du Québec
Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador
Bureau des enquêtes indépendantes
École nationale de police du Québec
Fraternité des policiers et policières de la Ville de Québec
Bureau du coroner
Syndicat des agents de la paix en services correctionnels
du Québec
Coalition contre la répression et les abus policiers
Comité consultatif sur la réalité policière;

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 Public Security 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.

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Notices of Proceedings in Committees

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

- 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.

And, by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 143, 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.

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 examining a petition on the availability of epinephrine auto-injectors (like EpiPen) in Québec's preschool and elementary schools;
- the Committee on Institutions shall hold a deliberative meeting to discuss the possibility of examining a petition on recognition of systemic racism and discrimination against Indigenous women and girls.

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Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, informed the Assembly that on Wednesday, 29 March 2023 during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, a debate would be held on the motion moved by Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion).

This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly note that Québec municipalities have denounced the fact that the investments included in the last budget are clearly insufficient to meet social housing needs;

THAT it ask the Québec government to address the housing crisis by prioritizing the construction of all promised social housing and improving the AccèsLogis program to create new units.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Having Precedence

Debate on the Budget Speech

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been adjourned earlier in the sitting, 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), Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles) and Ms. Caron (La Pinière), subject to the receivability of these motions.

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At the end of her address, Ms. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) moved the following motion stating a grievance:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for its inability to offer the community sector working conditions commensurate with the services it provides to communities, while our social safety net is riddled with holes.

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), Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles), Ms. Caron (La Pinière) and Ms. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques), subject to the receivability of these motions.

At the beginning of her address, Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun) moved the following motion stating a grievance:

THAT the National Assembly censure the CAQ government for its 2023–2024 budget, which lacks ambition in the fight against climate change and which rolls out the red carpet to multinational corporations that are plundering our subsoil assets.

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), Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles), Ms. Caron (La Pinière), Ms. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) and Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun), subject to the receivability of these motions.

At the beginning of his address, Mr. Leduc, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, moved the following motion stating a grievance:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for the lack of budgetary measures allowing the remuneration of all work internships within the State apparatus.

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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), Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles), Ms. Caron (La Pinière), Ms. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques), Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun) and Mr. Leduc, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, subject to the receivability of these motions.

The debate was adjourned in the name of Ms. Garceau (Robert-Baldwin).

Debates upon Adjournment

At 6:30 p.m., the Assembly held a debate upon adjournment on a question from Mr. Morin (Acadie) to Mr. Lafrenière, Minister Responsible for Relations with the First Nations and the Inuit, about issues related to education in Nunavik.

At 6:43 p.m., Ms. Soucy, First Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 29 March 2023 at 9:40 a.m.

NATHALIE ROY

President