



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Order Paper and Notices

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 19 April 2023 – No. 34

Nine forty a.m.

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

Part 1

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

- The Member for Argenteuil on the following subject: *The Lake Beattie nature park: a great example of access to nature.*
- The Member for Jacques-Cartier on the following subject: *Underline the Good Friday Agreement.*
- The Member for Vanier-Les Rivières on the following subject: *Applaud Mr. Marc Boulanger's involvement in the Vanier district.*
- The Member for Maurice-Richard on the following subject: *The exceptional work of the children's "Maman 2", Ms. France Laget Chambeft.*
- The Member for Vimont on the following subject: *50th anniversary of the Club de l'âge d'or de Vimont.*
- The Member for La Pinière on the following subject: *Congratulate the organization Autisme Montérégie.*
- The Member for Charlevoix-Côte-de-Beaupré on the following subject: *Mr. Jean-Paul Lachance and Ms. Jeanne d'Arc Plante of Saint-Laurent, pioneers of Île d'Orléans.*
- The Member for Saint-François on the following subject: *Moisson Estrie, organization recipient of an Hommage bénévolat-Québec award.*
- The Member for Saint-Jean on the following subject: *Wishing the Les Tamalous ball league of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu a successful season.*
- The Member for Anjou-Louis-Riel on the following subject: *Thanks to the SAC volunteers.*
- The Member for Côte-du-Sud on the following subject: *Mr. Florent Montpetit, member of the provincial elite.*
- The Member for Vachon on the following subject: *A volunteer who has the wellbeing of the elderly at heart!*

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

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 (b) Reports from committees
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ORAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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Part 2

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUSINESS HAVING PRECEDENCE

URGENT DEBATES

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OTHER BUSINESS

I. Government Bills

Passage in Principle

- (1) Bill 14
An Act to amend various provisions relating to public security and to enact the Act to assist in locating missing persons
Introduced by the Minister of Public Security on 15 March 2023
Report from the Committee on Institutions (consultations) tabled on **18 April 2023**
- (2) Bill 15*
An Act to make the health and social services system more effective
Introduced by the Minister of Health on **29 March 2023**

*** Recommendation of the Lieutenant-Governor**
- (3) Bill 16
An Act to amend the Act respecting land use planning and development and other provisions
Introduced by the Minister of Municipal Affairs on **21 March 2023**
- (4) Bill 19
An Act respecting the regulation of work by children
Introduced by the Minister of Labour on **28 March 2023**
- (5) Bill 20*
An Act to establish the Blue Fund and to amend other provisions
Introduced by the Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks on **6 April 2023**

*** Recommendation of the Lieutenant-Governor**

Committee Stage

- (6) Bill 7*
An Act respecting the implementation of certain provisions of the Budget Speech of 22 March 2022 and amending other legislative provisions
Introduced by the Minister of Finance on 1 February 2023
Passed in principle on **15 February 2023**, and
Referred to the Committee on Public Finance

*** Recommendation of the Lieutenant-Governor**

- (7) Bill 11
An Act to amend the Act respecting end-of-life care and other legislative provisions
Introduced by the Minister for Health and for Seniors on 16 February 2023
Report from the Committee on Citizen Relations (consultations) tabled on 30 March 2023
Passed in principle on **4 April 2023**, and
Referred to the Committee on Citizen Relations

- (8) 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
Introduced by the Minister of Justice on 23 February 2023
Report from the Committee on Institutions (consultations) tabled on 30 March 2023
Passed in principle on **30 March 2023**, and
Referred to the Committee on Institutions

Report Stage

Passage

II. Private Members' Public Bills

Passage in Principle

- (9) Bill 190
An Act to recognize the Members' oath to the people of Québec as the sole oath required for Members to take office
Introduced by the Member for Jean-Lesage on **1 December 2022**

- (10) Bill 191
An Act to amend the Act respecting safety in sports to prohibit fighting in sports activities in which persons under 18 years of age participate
Introduced by the Member for Marquette on **8 December 2022**
- (11) Bill 192
An Act to ensure student health and safety in the classroom by regulating ambient air quality in schools
Introduced by the Member for Saint-Laurent on **7 December 2022**
- (12) Bill 193
An Act to amend the Charter of human rights and freedoms to recognize the right to a healthful environment as a fundamental right
Introduced by the Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce on **1 February 2023**
- (13) Bill 195
An Act to amend the Consumer Protection Act to fight planned obsolescence and assert the right to repair goods
Introduced by the Member for Saint-Laurent on **2 February 2023**
- (14) Bill 196
An Act to amend the Educational Childcare Act to guarantee the right to receive childcare services
Introduced by the Member for Robert-Baldwin on **14 March 2023**
- (15) Bill 197
An Act to improve the quality of care through the setting of ratios in certain institutions governed by the Act respecting health services and social services
Introduced by the Member for Pontiac on **6 December 2022**
- (16) Bill 198
An Act to amend the Civil Code to ensure greater protection of seniors as lessees against repossession of dwellings and evictions
Introduced by the Member for Sherbrooke on **21 February 2023**

- (17) Bill 199
An Act to better protect consumers against abusive credit contracts
Introduced by the Member for Saint-Laurent on **23 February 2023**
- (18) Bill 390
An Act to promote taking gender equality and diversity in an intersectional perspective into account in the budgetary process
Introduced by the Member for Mercier on **21 March 2023**
- (19) Bill 391
An Act to amend the Education Act to enshrine the right to free special school projects offered in schools providing preschool or elementary and secondary education and to limit the distance between immovables of a school with a special project
Introduced by the Member for Saint-Laurent on **16 March 2023**
- (20) Bill 392
An Act respecting the suspension of the issuing of new mining claims and ending the precedence of mining and gas rights over other land uses
Introduced by the Member for Verdun on **18 April 2023**
- (21) Bill 393
An Act to combat food waste
Introduced by the Member for Verdun on **6 April 2023**
- (22) Bill 396
An Act to amend the Act to reduce the debt and establish the Generations Fund to provide for the achievement of a capitalization of one hundred billion dollars
Introduced by the Member for Marguerite-Bourgeoys on **16 March 2023**
- (23) Bill 490
An Act to reinforce the qualified majority required for the appointment and removal of persons appointed by the National Assembly
Introduced by the Member for Nelligan on **18 April 2023**
- (24) Bill 492
An Act to combat waste
Introduced by the Member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine on **18 April 2023**

Committee Stage

Report Stage

Passage

III. Private Bills

Hearings and Clause-by-Clause Consideration

Passage in Principle

Passage

IV. Government Motions

V. Estimates of Expenditure

- (25) Estimates of Expenditure for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2024 tabled by the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor on 21 March 2023 and referred for consideration to the standing committees on **22 March 2023**.

VI. Statutory Debates

BUSINESS STANDING IN THE NAME OF MEMBERS IN OPPOSITION

- (26) 18 April 2023
Motion by the Member for Jacques-Cartier

THAT the National Assembly acknowledge that the ice storm that struck western Québec on April 5 caused power outages for more than one million homes and that some outages lasted more than seven days;

THAT it acknowledge that climatic phenomena, such as severe ice storms or fierce winds, are bound to happen more frequently in the coming years due to climate change;

THAT it recall that the Auditor General of Québec, in a performance audit released in December 2022, reported that the reliability of Hydro-Québec's distribution service has deteriorated in recent years;

THAT it declare that it is necessary for the Québec government to continue to invest in order to ensure greater resilience of Hydro-Québec's distribution network, notably in terms of vegetation control near power lines and by considering power line undergrounding in a more sustained manner;

THAT the National Assembly ask the Québec government, in collaboration with Hydro-Québec, to review the reconnection priority protocol to correct the problems experienced during the recent ice storm, as CHSLDs and seniors' homes were not prioritized adequately;

THAT, lastly, it express its deep gratitude to all Hydro-Québec teams who worked round the clock since the beginning of the storm, on April 5, to reconnect affected Québec homes.

Part 3

BILLS PASSED

(Bills awaiting Royal Assent)

Bill 10

An Act limiting the use of personnel placement agencies' services and independent labour in the health and social services sector
Passed on **18 April 2023**

Part 4

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEES

The detailed calendar of the proceedings of each committee is available on the Internet site of the Assembly.

COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

- Hearing of the Auditor General of Québec on its annual management report and financial commitments.
- Hearing of the Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor on its administrative management and financial commitments, as well as on the Report on the application of the Public Administration Act.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Orders of reference

Special consultations:

- **Bill 16**, An Act to amend the Act respecting land use planning and development and other provisions (Order of reference given on 30 March 2023).

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

Orders of initiative

- The revelations of violence during hazing in the junior hockey league and the potential situation in other sports.

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY

Orders of reference

Special consultations:

- **Bill 19**, An Act respecting the regulation of work by children (Order of reference given on 5 April 2023).

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE

Orders of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 7**, An Act respecting the implementation of certain provisions of the Budget Speech of 22 March 2022 and amending other legislative provisions (Order of reference given on 15 February 2023).

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

Orders of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **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 (Order of reference given on 30 March 2023).

COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN RELATIONS

Orders of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 11**, An Act to amend the Act respecting end-of-life care and other legislative provisions (Order of reference given on 4 April 2023).

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Orders of reference

Special consultations:

- **Bill 15**, An Act to make the health and social services system more effective (Order of reference given on 18 April 2023).

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

Interpellation:

- By the Member for Taschereau to the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility on the following subject: *The importance of pedestrian safety around schools in Québec* (Notice given on 6 April 2023).

Part 5

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Questions already placed on the Order Paper
are published each Wednesday

- (14) Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) – **16 March 2023**
To the Minister of Finance

Recently, damning reports from B'Tselem (2021), Human Rights Watch (2021) and Amnesty International (2022), three major Israeli and international human rights organizations, denounced the crime against humanity of apartheid in Israel-Palestine. These reports add to the considerable body of documentation on the issue of violations of international law and human rights by the State of Israel against Palestinians.

As the Minister is no doubt aware, the situation in Israel-Palestine is very closely linked to the territory and its occupation. Under international law, the Israeli settlements in occupied territories constitute a violation of the *Fourth Geneva Convention*. Consequently, the Government of Canada does not recognize permanent Israeli control over the territories occupied in 1967 – namely the Golan Heights, the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

However, the Société des alcools du Québec currently sells 36 wine products from Israeli. However, half of these were not produced from the juice of grapes grown within the internationally recognized borders of the State of Israel, or were only partially so.

I therefore bring to the attention of the Minister the fact that 18 wine products on the shelves of the SAQ are mislabeled as being of Israeli origin, with the label wording “Made in Israel” or “Product of Israel”.

This labelling is misleading. Several citizens have contacted me and feel deceived and misled by the labeling in question, which denies agricultural exploitation on Palestinian territory that does not comply with international law.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) issued a decision on 13 May 2022, forwarded to the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO), concerning two products misidentified as “Products of Israel”. This labeling without explanatory information was considered “false” by the CFIA.

My questions are the following:

- Will the Minister undertake to ensure that the SAQ take the appropriate measures to rectify the situation, that is to say, that it removes the 18 wine products in question until such time as they comply with labelling laws?
- Does the Minister intend to ensure, in the name of respect for international law, that no wine produced in illegal settlements be found on the shelves of the SAQ?

(15) Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) – **16 March 2023**
To the Minister of Finance

Policy Ltd. is an Israeli company that is the architect and administrator of Israel's National Police Academy. It trains all Israeli police officers, including militarized units, who receive training in repressive practices such as crowd control, house raids, strong-arm techniques, target shooting and undercover operations.

Israel's National Police Academy also trains police officers in prisons, where cases of torture and degrading treatment of Palestinian political prisoners, including children, have been widely documented by both local (Israeli and Palestinian) and international human rights organizations. In concrete terms, Policy is one of the pillars of the ongoing system of oppression and expropriation experienced by Palestinians in Palestine-Israel. You will recall that this system was recently denounced in a cascade of reports from human rights organizations, such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, which see in it the crime against humanity of apartheid.

However, 25% of the shares of the company Policy Ltd. are held by G4S, a private security company targeted by an international campaign since 2012. Although G4S divested itself of its Israeli subsidiary in 2016, it still owns more than a quarter of the shares of Policy Ltd.

Several pension funds or sovereign wealth funds have recently dissociated themselves from G4S, such as KLP, Norges Bank and MP Pension – the Danish pension fund for academics.

However, this is not the case for the CDPQ. Indeed, the Caisse is the main shareholder of Allied Universal, which acquired G4S in 2021. More specifically, Allied Universal maintains a 0.03% investment in Policy. The Caisse is therefore financially linked through its holdings in Policy Ltd.

Given this financial association, the Coalition Boycott, Désinvestissement et Sanctions du Québec (BDS-Quebec) met with the CDPQ twice in 2022. The CDPQ expressed its willingness to socialize its portfolio companies, notably through shareholder dialogue. Its representatives also mentioned that the company no longer brings in income in Israel.

BDS-Quebec points out that the CDPQ's involvement in G4S/Policy, which must end, highlights a much larger problem facing the Caisse: that of the ethical nature of its investments whenever human rights are in question.

My questions are the following:

- In light of the above, is the Minister concerned about the CDPQ's financial association with Policy Ltd?
- Does he intend to ensure that the CDPQ has a specific policy and investment criteria for serious political contexts of human rights violations and that it complies with them?

(16) Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke) – **22 March 2023**

To the Minister of Justice

As the Minister knows, last autumn, the federal government passed Bill C-5, which favours diversion measures for simple drug possession offences. This approach is widely supported by scientific literature and by the hands-on experience of police officers and community organizations. It would help to destigmatize people who use drugs and, by doing so, help better protect their health and dignity. This new legislative measure introduced by the federal government has been very well received by addiction counsellors, who believe that adopting a similar approach in Québec would make it possible to reduce overdose cases while helping to relieve the justice system of cases that are more of a social and public health issue.

My question is the following:

Given that Québec does not have federal prosecutors and that it is up to the Minister to provide guidance to prosecutors on the application of this law, I would like to know when the Minister intends to issue directives in this regard, and what approach he intends to prioritize?

(17) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **22 March 2023**
To the Minister of Education

Last September, during the first governing board meeting of Grand-Pré elementary school, the parents and school staff learned that this would be the last year the school would offer specialized language classes. Grand-Pré is a specialized school that serves students with disabilities who have been evaluated by speech therapists as having severely impaired verbal communication and moderately to severely impaired verbal comprehension.

The school is located in the municipality of Saint-Jacques, in the Lanaudière region. It is a specialized school, which makes it distinct from local schools, since it serves all students of the Des Samares school service centre who require services adapted to their needs. This grouping has existed since 1998 and has led to the growth of considerable expertise. The Des Samares school service centre has decided to distribute its classes in five schools spread out across the territory, in particular with the objective of bringing students closer to their school.

Nadia Ménard, president of the governing board and mother of a seven-year-old student at the school remarked that all children attending these classes have severe dysphasia, both in terms of receptive and expressive language skills. Several of them have other disabilities, and the vast majority have experienced a difficult, even catastrophic time in their home school before being admitted to Grand-Pré. Learning that our children would be sent back to so-called regular schools, that the school's expertise was going to vanish, and that this would all be done in a rush in the context of a labour shortage has been very distressing for several families.

The CCSEHDAA, an advisory committee on services for handicapped students and students with social maladjustments or learning disabilities, was not consulted, nor were the parents' committee, the governing board and the teaching staff. No one is against inclusion, but not at any cost; not at the expense of the mental health, development, safety and self-esteem of our children with special needs. Not at the expense of everything they have at Grand-Pré school.

I did a family survey. The majority of them (84% of respondents) support maintaining the current arrangement, sometimes even despite having to travel for almost two hours to get to Grand-Pré. This demonstrates the exceptional, high-quality and reassuring service that our vulnerable children receive there.

We understand the desire of the school service centre to bring closer or even be able to offer language services to the inhabitants of municipalities farther north. What we do not understand is the need to discontinue the excellent services given to the language classes grouping at Grand-Pré. The other argument put forward is that it would allow students in language class to complete their entire elementary education at the same school. This is certainly a praiseworthy idea, but the decision to relocate all classes next September would mean that more than a third of the students would have to attend a third school in three years. We are talking here about children who are very sensitive to change and whose families say that their arrival at Grand-Pré has drastically improved their motivation, learning and behaviour.

Ms. Menard finished by saying that local MNAs, all CAQ members, have informed the Minister of Education about this situation. The Minister would have expressed his disagreement with the decision taken, but since it is not a question of a school closure, but rather a relocation of specialized classes, he would have no authority under the *Education Act* to take action and exercise a veto. The school service centre thus informed our elected officials that the decision would be maintained, regardless of the opinions of parents and the Ministère de l'Éducation. Parents are anxious and distressed; some are considering withdrawing their child from the school system so as not to expose them to the nightmare they had to go through before their enrolment at Grand-Pré school.

However, research done suggests that the Minister of Education would have a certain discretionary power with regard to the decisions taken by school service centre when services for students with special needs are affected. In particular, when certain committees are not consulted, which is required under the regulations of various school service centres and in keeping with the *Education Act*.

My questions are the following:

- 1) Given the many procedural errors committed by the Des Samares school service centre, does the Minister intend to reverse this decision?
- 2) Knowing that the majority of parents opposed the reorganization of services, what does the Minister intend to do to help these parents and students?

(18) Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) – **28 March 2023**

To the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility

The Île-aux-Tourtes bridge is an important piece of road infrastructure used by no less than 87,000 vehicles every day. This piece of infrastructure, which came into service in 1965, has now fallen into disrepair.

As part of the planning for the replacement bridge, it is imperative to include lanes reserved for public transportation other than the shoulders, for the sake of the environment and the quality of life of our citizens and because of the bridge's impact on the economic development of the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region.

Can the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility explain her reasons for the complete removal of the lanes dedicated to public transportation?

(19) Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) – **30 March 2023**

To the Minister of Public Security

There exists specialized software aimed at simplifying child pornography investigations.

The police use these tools to automate and facilitate the processing of huge quantities of searched images and videos. Thus, the use of these software tools leads to efficiency by considerably reducing the time and resources needed. These software allow for rapid identification of victims and suspects, as well as classification of evidence, as they automatically compile faces and create lists. When searching for pornography, the priority is to do everything possible to save the victims, neutralize the producers of child pornography and discourage collectors from supplying the industry.

Can the Minister of Public Security tell us whether the Sûreté du Québec (SQ) has ever used such software and, if so, which one(s)?

Does the SQ currently use such software and, if so, which one, since when, and for how much longer is it committed to using it?

What other municipal police forces use this type of software in Québec?

(20) Mr. Grandmont (Taschereau) – **5 April 2023**

To the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility

The Municipality of the Township of Potton has adopted by-law 2023-490, which allows all off-highway vehicles to travel on 50 kilometres of municipal roads. By turning these public roads into off-highway vehicle paths, the new by-law puts not only off-highway vehicle users in danger, but all users of Potton roads (be they residents or visitors).

By endorsing this by-law that is the only one of its kind in Québec, we are contributing to setting a precedent transferable to the provincial level. Manufacturers of off-highway vehicles are themselves opposed to the use of their products on paved and unpaved public roads. The Specialty Vehicle Institute of America, the largest group of off-highway vehicle manufacturers, states that off-highway vehicles are designed and manufactured “for off-road use only”, and the US Consumer Product Safety Commission stated that all-terrain vehicles “can reach highway speeds, but with their low-pressure tires and high centre of gravity, they are more prone to tip over or go out of control”.

Beyond the semantic inconsistency in the by-law, the *Act respecting off-highway vehicles* is clear. The Act prohibits the operation of off-highway vehicles on public highways; aims to develop the safe use of off-highway vehicles on the trails designed for that purpose and only exceptionally allows municipalities to open segments of public highways for off-highway vehicle operation in order to secure the passage between off-highway vehicle trails, while protecting other road users through adequate signs and signals. Such a by-law goes against the principles of the *Act respecting off-highway vehicles* and risk to increase the number of accidents and deaths as studies have shown in jurisdictions that allow off-highway vehicle operation on public roads.

My question to the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility is the following:

Will the Minister disallow By-law 2023-490 while the municipality holds formal consultations to demonstrate a certain level of social acceptability?

- (21) Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) – **5 April 2023**
To the Minister Responsible for Housing

According to the most recent report on property health by the Société d'habitation du Québec, dated 31 March 2022, 40.2% of the 64,663 affordable housing units in Québec require major renovations, compared to 28.9% in 2020.

Meanwhile, we learned that \$275 million available through the second component of the Canada-Québec Housing Agreement, which was to be used to renovate low-rent housing, was instead used for construction through the AccèsLogis program.

In a *La Presse* article on 27 February 2023, the Minister's press secretary, Mr. Philippe Couture, stated that while it was true that some money was temporarily allocated to the AccèsLogis program, that was only to ensure that no federal funding was lost while waiting for the launch of a renovation program for low-rent housing, which was a requirement of the agreement. He added that the program would soon be presented to the Government for authorization.

My question to the Minister Responsible for Housing is the following:

Considering that the Canada-Québec agreement was signed in October 2020, why was a Québec renovation program not established in 2021 or 2022, if that was a requirement for receiving investments?

- (22) Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) – 5 April 2023
To the Minister of the French Language

On 28 February 2023, the Office québécois de la langue française published a study on the quality of French on commercial signs.

This study revealed that even though only 1% of linguistic discrepancies on commercial signs detract from the clarity of the message, a considerable number of the discrepancies are related to typography (33%), spelling (19%), grammar (15%) and loan words from other languages (10%).

Can the Minister of the French Language inform us of his intended follow-up actions to this study, and does he intend to put incentives in place to promote the quality of the French language on commercial signs?

(23) Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) – **18 April 2023**

To the Minister of Finance

The financial assistance provided under the Basic Income Program is taxable, just like other last-resort financial assistance benefits, including the Social Solidarity Program. There is no withholding tax at the time of payment. To date, citizens receiving social assistance have almost always fallen short of provincial exemption requirements. However, with the increase in the Basic Income Program and the indexation of the amounts paid out, minimal as they may be, social solidarity recipients will have to pay income tax for the first time ever in Québec.

My question to the Minister of Finance is the following:

Will the social assistance recipients affected by this taxation be compensated for the income tax they will have to pay for the 2022 taxation year, considering the basic personal amount deduction is lower than the sum of the benefits received? Will the Minister commit not to seize the solidarity credit of the individuals affected? Will corrective measures be made for 2023, given that the problem will be much worse by then?

(24) Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) – **18 April 2023**

To the Minister Responsible for Social Solidarity and Community Action

The financial assistance provided under the Basic Income Program is taxable, just like other last-resort financial assistance benefits, including the Social Solidarity Program. There is no withholding tax at the time of payment. To date, citizens receiving social assistance have almost always fallen short of provincial exemption requirements. However, with the increase in the Basic Income Program and the indexation of the amounts paid out, minimal as they may be, social solidarity recipients will have to pay income tax for the first time ever in Québec.

Furthermore, with the entry into force of the Basic Income Program in January 2023, certain individuals who have been recognized as having a severely limited capacity for employment and who have access to programs such as Retraite Québec disability pensions, IVAC pensions, certain other pension annuities, etc. would be entitled to a lumpsum payment (the difference between their social assistance amount and pension amount) and to a financial assistance claim slip providing them with the right to free medications and help for certain special needs.

My questions to the Minister Responsible for Social Solidarity and Community Action are the following:

- 1) Will the Minister commit to ensuring that all persons concerned are informed of this right by the responsible, respective departments? Will she see to it that a message is sent out to them?
- 2) Will the social assistance recipients affected by this unexpected taxation be compensated for the income tax they will have to pay for the 2022 tax year? Will corrective measures be undertaken for 2023, given that the problem will be worse by then?

25) Mr. Derraji (Nelligan) – **19 April 2023**
To the Premier

On two occasions, first on 23 April 2021 and then on 1 October 2021, Mr. Michel Lépine, President of NOBCO Micro-systèmes, sent the Premier a formal request for a public inquiry into a matter involving Mr. Lépine and his company, National Bank and, at the time, the CSST.

Mr. Lépine alleges there may be embezzlement, even fraud, in the performance of a \$130 million contract involving at least the three above-mentioned parties, the result of which he was defrauded.

Without passing judgment on the substance of the allegations, it appears to me that Mr. Lépine has legitimate reason to consider himself in the position of a whistleblower and to expect a follow-up on his request.

Faced with a lack of response following his correspondence, Mr. Lépine also sent an affidavit concerning his allegations to the Premier's office, specifically on 8 March 2022.

Allegations of fraud, corruption, fabrication, and even destruction of evidence – this situation, if proven true, and given Mr. Lépine’s professional background as an SPVM investigator, necessitates the Premier’s attention.

My questions are the following:

- 1) Can the Premier assure me that a detailed response will be given to Mr. Lépine as soon as possible?
- 2) Can the Premier give the House an update on this matter? Has an assessment been carried out, and if so, what are its conclusions and how does the Premier intend to follow up on it?

Part 6
NOTICES

I. NOTICES PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

Government Bills

Private Members' Public Bills

Private Bills

- (a) 18 April 2023
An Act respecting the objects and powers of the Roman Catholic
Archiepiscopal corporation of Montreal – *Member for Westmount–Saint-*
Louis

II. NOTICES APPEARING FOR THE FIRST TIME

- (aa) An Act to amend the Education Act to enshrine the right of handicapped
students and students with social maladjustments or learning disabilities to
receive educational services equivalent to those provided by the school –
Member for Westmount–Saint-Louis
- (bb) An Act respecting Municipalité de Morin-Heights – *Member for Argenteuil*