



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 19 April 2023 — No. 34

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

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

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Members

Ms. Grondin (Argenteuil) made a statement to congratulate those in charge of the Lake Beattie nature park and their partners.

Mr. Kelley (Jacques-Cartier) made a statement to underline the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement.

Mr. Asselin (Vanier-Les Rivières) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Marc Boulanger, recipient of the Medal of the National Assembly.

Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. France Laget Chambefort, a pioneer of early childhood education in Québec.

Ms. Schmaltz (Vimont) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of Club de l'âge d'or de Vimont.

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Ms. Caron (La Pinière) made a statement to congratulate the organization Autisme Montérégie for creating the “Autistes et non-autistes, mieux se comprendre” document.

Ms. Bourassa (Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. Jeanne d’Arc Plante and Mr. Jean-Paul Lachance.

Ms. Hébert (Saint-François) made a statement to congratulate the organization Moisson Estrie, recipient of an Hommage bénévolat-Québec award.

Mr. Lemieux (Saint-Jean) made a statement to wish the Les Tamalous ball league a successful season.

Ms. Boivin Roy (Anjou–Louis-Riel) made a statement to underline the work of Service d’aide communautaire Anjou.

Mr. Rivest (Côte-du-Sud) made a statement to congratulate Mr. Florent Montpetit for his athletic performance in ultimate Frisbee.

Mr. Lafrenière (Vachon) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. Denise Marquette for her volunteer work and community involvement.

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At 9:56 a.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 10:06 a.m.

Moment of reflection

Introduction of Bills

The President communicated to the Assembly, and then tabled, the Law Clerk's report on the following private bill:

203 An Act respecting the objects and powers of the Roman Catholic
 Archiepiscopal corporation of Montreal

The report states that the notice was drafted and published in accordance with the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings governing private bills.

(Sessional Paper No. 515-20230419)

Ms. Maccarone (Westmount–Saint-Louis) moved that leave be granted to introduce Private Bill 203, An Act respecting the objects and powers of the Roman Catholic Archiepiscopal corporation of Montreal.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Government House Leader, moved that Private Bill 203 be referred to the Committee on Institutions for consultation and clause-by-clause consideration and that the Minister of Justice be a member of the said Committee during its proceedings with respect to this order of reference.

The motion was carried.

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Presenting Papers

The President tabled the following decisions of the Office of the National Assembly, dated 6 April 2023:

Decision 2262 concerning the Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur la gestion financière et administrative (regulation to amend the regulation respecting financial and administrative management);

(Sessional Paper No. 516-20230419)

Decision 2269 concerning the Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur la rémunération et les conditions de travail du personnel d'un député et d'autres dispositions réglementaires (regulation to amend the regulation respecting the remuneration and conditions of employment of members of a Member's staff and other regulatory provisions);

(Sessional Paper No. 517-20230419)

Decision 2270 concerning the Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur la rémunération et les conditions de travail du personnel des cabinets de l'Assemblée nationale (regulation to amend the regulation respecting the remuneration and conditions of employment of the staff of House officers of the National Assembly);

(Sessional Paper No. 518-20230419)

Decision 2271 concerning the Règlement sur l'entrée en vigueur de la Politique en matière de prévention et de traitement des situations d'incivilité, de conflit et de harcèlement psychologique et sexuel au travail (regulation on the coming into force of the Policy on Preventing and Managing Situations Involving Psychological and Physical Harassment in the Workplace).

(Sessional Paper No. 519-20230419)

She then tabled the following:

The report from the independent advisory committee on the review of the annual indemnity of the Members of the National Assembly entitled "Valorisation de la fonction des parlementaires et Rémunération juste : Une équation gagnante pour la démocratie";

(Sessional Paper No. 520-20230419)

The 2021–2022 activity report of the Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant.

(Sessional Paper No. 521-20230419)

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Presenting Petitions

Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) tabled the abstracts of two petitions on maintaining educational support services for the integration of students with physical disabilities at the CSSDM:

- the first, being the abstract of a petition signed by 702 citizens of Québec;
(Sessional Paper No. 522-20230419)
- the second, being the abstract of a petition signed by 87 citizens of Québec.
(Sessional Paper No. 523-20230419)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Motions Without Notice

Mr. Derraji, Official Opposition House Leader, together with Mr. Cliche-Rivard (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne), Mr. Bérubé (Matane–Matapédia) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved a motion on Québec’s capacity to receive immigrants; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mr. Grandmont (Taschereau), together with Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine), moved a motion on a highway tunnel between Québec City and Lévis; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

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Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia), together with Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys), Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved a motion on Québec microdistilleries; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Dubé, Minister of Health, together with Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly recognize the urgency to act and the desire for change of all Quebecers to make our health and social services network more humane and more effective;

THAT it state clearly that the status quo in health is not an option;

THAT it recall the importance of everyone contributing to making the necessary changes to our health network to give Quebecers the care and services they deserve;

THAT it seek the full cooperation of all parliamentarians in order to make diligent progress on Bill 15, for which work begins today, taking into consideration all comments made during special consultations and the scope of the bill.

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 committees:

- the Committee on Institutions, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of 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 Planning and the Public Domain, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 16, An Act to amend the Act respecting land use planning and development and other provisions;
- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 19, An Act respecting the regulation of work by children.

And, by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 143, he convened the following committee:

- the Committee on Health and Social Services, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 15, An Act to make the health and social services system more effective.
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ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

Mr. Bonnardel, Minister of Public Security, moved that Bill 14, An Act to amend various provisions relating to public security and to enact the Act to assist in locating missing persons, do now pass in principle.

A debate arose thereon.

Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, interrupted the debate to inform the Assembly that he had received a request for a debate upon adjournment to be held on Thursday, 20 April 2023, on a question from Ms. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) to Ms. Laforest, Minister of Municipal Affairs, about renovictions and real estate speculators.

The debate continued.

At 1:00 p.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 3:00 p.m.

Accordingly, pursuant to Standing Order 97, the debate on the motion moved by Mr. Bonnardel, Minister of Public Security, was adjourned in the name of Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys).

The proceedings resumed at 3:00 p.m.

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Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

Mr. Kelley (Jacques-Cartier) moved:

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.

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Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, informed the Assembly of the allocation of speaking time with respect to this limited debate: 10 minutes to the mover of the motion for his reply; 54 minutes 15 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Government; 29 minutes 34 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition; 18 minutes 41 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 thereupon.

At the end of his address, Mr. Fitzgibbon, Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy, moved:

THAT the motion moved by the Member for Jacques-Cartier be amended as follows:

1. By striking out the words “for the Québec government” in the fourth paragraph;
2. By replacing the words “considering power line undergrounding in a more sustained manner” in the fourth paragraph by “assessing the feasibility of selective power line undergrounding”;
3. By replacing the words “to review” in the fifth paragraph by “to study the application of”;
4. By replacing the word “le” before the word “protocole” in the fifth paragraph by “du” in the French.

The motion, as amended, would read as follows:

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;

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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 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 assessing the feasibility of selective power line undergrounding;

THAT the National Assembly ask the Québec government, in collaboration with Hydro-Québec, to study the application of 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.

The debate continued on the main motion moved by Mr. Kelley (Jacques-Cartier) and on the amendment motion moved by Mr. Fitzgibbon, Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy, subject to the permission of its author.

During her address, Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun) moved:

THAT the motion moved by the Member for Jacques-Cartier be amended as follows:

By inserting the following paragraph after the fifth paragraph:

“THAT it ask the Government to set up an emergency climate change fund in order to prepare to respond to future environmental crises of a similar nature, which will increase in the coming years due to climate change;”.

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The motion, as amended, would read as follows:

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 it ask the Government to set up an emergency climate change fund in order to prepare to respond to future environmental crises of a similar nature, which will increase in the coming years due to climate change;

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.

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The debate continued on the main motion moved by Mr. Kelley (Jacques-Cartier) and on the amendment motions moved by Mr. Fitzgibbon, Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy, and Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun), subject to the permission of its author.

Pursuant to Standing Order 98.1, Mr. Kelley (Jacques-Cartier) accepted the amendment proposed by Mr. Fitzgibbon, Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy, and refused the amendment proposed by Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun).

The debate being concluded, the question was put on the amendment motion.

The motion was carried.

The question was then put on the motion moved by Mr. Kelley (Jacques-Cartier), as amended, and a recorded division was thereupon demanded.

At the request of Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, the division was deferred until Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day.

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been adjourned earlier in the sitting, on the motion moved by Mr. Bonnardel, Minister of Public Security, that Bill 14, An Act to amend various provisions relating to public security and to enact the Act to assist in locating missing persons, do now pass in principle.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried, and Bill 14 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 14 be referred to the Committee on Institutions for clause-by-clause consideration.

The motion was carried.

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Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved the adjournment of the Assembly until Thursday, 20 April 2023 at 9:40 a.m.

The motion was carried.

At 5:14 p.m., Ms. Soucy, First Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 20 April 2023 at 9:40 a.m.

NATHALIE ROY

President