



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Tuesday, 9 May 2023 — No. 42

**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

Estimates of the National Assembly

On the motion moved by Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, and pursuant to Standing Order 286, the Assembly resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to examine the estimates of expenditure for the National Assembly for the 2023–2024 fiscal year.

At 10:01 a.m., Ms. Soucy, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 10:06 a.m.

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Committee of the Whole

Ms. Soucy, Chair of the Committee of the Whole, informed the committee that the period allotted for the consideration of the estimates shall not exceed two hours and that the speaking time shall be allotted as follows: 20 minutes to the President for her opening remarks; 50 minutes to the parliamentary group forming the Government; 37 minutes 30 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition; and 12 minutes 30 seconds to the Second Opposition Group. Within this framework, any time not used by a parliamentary group shall be redistributed among the parliamentary groups in the proportions established above.

The Committee of the Whole undertook examination of the estimates of expenditure for the National Assembly.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 20, the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole continued beyond 12:00 p.m.

The examination of the estimates of expenditure for the National Assembly being concluded, Mr. Jacques (Mégantic), member of the Committee of the Whole, reported to the Assembly.

At 12:12 p.m., Ms. Soucy, First 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

Mr. Lemay (Masson) made a statement to invite citizens to participate in McHappy Day to the benefit of the organization Unité d'information et d'action en toxicomanie.

Ms. Lecours (Les Plaines) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of the Club de l'âge d'or de Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines.

Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke) made a statement to denounce gaps in paratransit services.

Ms. Gendron (Châteauguay) made a statement to underline the successful art exhibition by the organization Les toits d'Émile.

Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) made a statement to underline the retirement of officer Marc Benoit.

Mr. St-Louis (Joliette) made a statement to underline the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Village de l'Industrie.

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Ms. Lecours (Lotbinière-Frontenac) made a statement to underline the 40th anniversary of the Centre de la petite enfance Jolibois.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 54.1, Ms. Soucy (Saint-Hyacinthe) made a statement to underline the importance of women in politics.

Mr. Lévesque (Chauveau) made a statement to underline Celiac Awareness Month.

Ms. Bélanger (Prévost) made a statement to underline National Hospice Palliative Care Week.

Ms. Dorismond (Marie-Victorin) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. Carmen Bilodeau for her 25 years of service with the organization La Croisée de Longueuil.

Ms. Garceau (Robert-Baldwin) made a statement to underline the work of the organization Sikh Youth Competitions.

At 1:54 p.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

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The proceedings resumed at 2:04 p.m.

Moment of reflection

Introduction of Bills

Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Minister of Justice, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following bill:

- 26 An Act to amend the Courts of Justice Act to, in particular, give effect to the agreement between the chief judge of the Court of Québec and the Minister of Justice

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 26 was introduced in the Assembly.

Ms. Proulx, Minister of Tourism, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following bill:

- 25 An Act to fight illegal tourist accommodation

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 25 was introduced in the Assembly.

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Presenting Papers

Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, tabled the following:

The 2021–2022 annual report on the surveys conducted in the context of Revenu Québec’s 2021–2024 three-year survey plan, including the opinion from the Commission d’accès à l’information du Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 555-20230509)

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

The Government’s reply to a petition tabled on 23 March 2023 by Mr. Sainte-Croix (Gaspé) on revising the health and social services network’s User Travel Policy;

(Sessional Paper No. 556-20230509)

The reply to a written question from Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) on the follow-up planned by the Minister of the French Language for a study by the Office québécois de la langue française regarding the quality of French on commercial signs – Question 22, *Order Paper and Notices* of 5 April 2023.

(Sessional Paper No. 557-20230509)

The President tabled the following:

A copy of the notice of motion by Mr. Tanguay, Leader of the Official Opposition, to be placed on the *Order Paper and Notices* of Wednesday, 10 May 2023 under Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition.

(Sessional Paper No. 558-20230509)

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Presenting Reports from Committees

The President tabled the reports from the parliamentary committees that examined the estimates of expenditure of the government departments for the 2023–2024 fiscal year:

The report from the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources;

(Sessional Paper No. 559-20230509)

The report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain;

(Sessional Paper No. 560-20230509)

The report from the Committee on Culture and Education;

(Sessional Paper No. 561-20230509)

The report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy;

(Sessional Paper No. 562-20230509)

The report from the Committee on Public Finance;

(Sessional Paper No. 563-20230509)

The report from the Committee on Institutions;

(Sessional Paper No. 564-20230509)

The report from the Committee on Citizen Relations;

(Sessional Paper No. 565-20230509)

The report from the Committee on Health and Social Services;

(Sessional Paper No. 566-20230509)

The report from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment.

(Sessional Paper No. 567-20230509)

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Presenting Petitions

Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on improving air service to the Îles-de-la-Madeleine, signed by 1,818 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 568-20230509)

Then, by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, he tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on improving air service to the Îles-de-la-Madeleine, signed by 1,034 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 569-20230509)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 53 and 59, Mr. Tanguay, Leader of the Official Opposition, tabled the following:

A copy of a document on reforming the Québec electoral system entitled “Réforme du mode de scrutin au Québec : Le PQ, la CAQ, QS et le PV s’engagent à agir ensemble”.

(Sessional Paper No. 570-20230509)

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Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Derraji, Official Opposition House Leader, together with Ms. Fréchette, Minister of Immigration, Francization and Integration, Mr. Cliche-Rivard (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne), Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudeuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly denounce the Century Initiative group's desire to increase Canada's population to 100 million by 2100, regardless of Québec and Canada's capacity to receive such a population;

THAT it state that such an initiative would have harmful impacts such as:

- Weakening of the linguistic dynamic in Canada, by marginalizing French;
- Significant loss of Québec's influence within Canada;
- Increased pressure on housing and public services;

THAT it declare that this initiative is not viable for the Québec nation's future;

THAT it recall that immigration is valuable for Québec;

THAT it reiterate that Québec's immigration levels must be determined by Québec, taking into account Québec's immigration policy, the demand for permanent and temporary immigration, the needs of Québec, including those of its regions, and its capacity to receive and integrate;

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THAT, lastly, it urge the federal government to adopt immigration levels that are based on Québec and Canada's capacity to receive and integrate and that can maintain the influence of French and Québec within Canada while allowing them to benefit from the human, social, economic and cultural value that immigration brings.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Marissal (Rosemont), together with Mr. Fortin (Pontiac), Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark International Day of the Midwife, celebrated on 5 May;

THAT it recall that one of the objectives of Québec's Perinatal Policy is to reduce avoidable obstetric interventions and that midwifery is a means of achieving this;

THAT it acknowledge that many women who want midwifery services are not able to access them;

THAT the National Assembly ask the Government to ensure that Bill 15 continues to guarantee autonomy of practice for these front-line professionals;

THAT, lastly, the National Assembly ask the Government to consolidate the gains made by midwives in their ability to effectively organize their services in collaboration with other professionals and with families and communities.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. St-Pierre Plamondon, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, together with Ms. Fréchette, Minister of Immigration, Francization and Integration, and Mr. Cliche-Rivard (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne), moved:

THAT the National Assembly oppose the increase in federal immigration levels and the Century Initiative group's desire to increase Canada's to 100 million by 2100;

THAT it note the existence of a real democratic deficit and denounce the absence of debates or consultations on this new policy;

THAT it recall that to prevent the decline in its political power, Québec must increase its immigration levels from 100,000 to 150,000, well beyond its capacity to receive in terms of housing, sustainability of the French language and culture;

THAT the National Assembly recall that in just over 50 years, Québec's weight in the federation has already gone down from 29 to 22%, and this in periods when Canada's migration policy was much less ambitious;

THAT it denounce that with the Century Initiative, the proportion of francophones within Canada will continue to decrease, which will lead to further under-representation and marginalization for Québec, much like what happened with francophones in all other Canadian provinces;

THAT it recall that the 1991 Canada–Québec Accord relating to Immigration allows Québec to fully assume its responsibilities on permanent immigration level planning and determines that the federal government cannot ignore Québec's objectives;

THAT it therefore ask the Québec government to formally oppose the Century Initiative and the increase in immigration levels proposed by the federal government;

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THAT the National Assembly immediately ask that a real democratic debate on this major change in the federal government's migration policy be held.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Minister of Justice, together with Mr. Morin (Acadie), Mr. Cliche-Rivard (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne), Mr. St-Pierre Plamondon, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Commission des services juridiques;

THAT it reiterate the Commission's essential role in providing access to justice;

THAT it underline the Commission's invaluable contribution to supporting victims of sexual and domestic violence;

THAT it recall that Québec benefits from a unique network that serves a large clientele with diverse needs;

THAT it applaud the dedication and invaluable work of many people in the legal aid network since its creation in 1972.

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 Transportation and the Environment, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 20, An Act to establish the Blue Fund and to amend other provisions;
- the Committee on Citizen Relations, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 11, An Act to amend the Act respecting end-of-life care and other legislative provisions;
- 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.

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.

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

- the Committee on Culture and Education shall hold a deliberative meeting to establish its observations, conclusions and recommendations following the special consultations and public hearings on the order of initiative on the revelations of violence during hazing in the junior hockey league and the potential situation in other sports.

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Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, informed the Assembly that on Wednesday, 10 May 2023 during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, a debate would be held on the motion moved by Mr. Tanguay, Leader of the Official Opposition.

This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly note that the Coalition
avenir Québec government has repeatedly broken its promises;

THAT it acknowledge that the most recent example of
this is the Government's backtracking on the Québec City-Lévis
highway tunnel.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

Mr. Boulet, Minister of Labour, moved that Bill 19, An Act respecting the regulation of work by children, do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried and, accordingly, Bill 19 was passed in principle.

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Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 19 be referred to the Committee on Labour and the Economy for clause-by-clause consideration.

The motion was carried.

Ms. Laforest, Minister of Municipal Affairs, moved that Bill 16, An Act to amend the Act respecting land use planning and development and other provisions, do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried and, accordingly, Bill 16 was passed in principle.

Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 16 be referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain for clause-by-clause consideration.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved the adjournment of the Assembly until Wednesday, 10 May 2023 at 9:40 a.m.

The motion was carried.

At 5:44 p.m., Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 10 May 2023 at 9:40 a.m.

NATHALIE ROY

President