



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Order Paper and Notices

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 13 September 2023 – No. 57

Nine forty a.m.

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

Part 1
ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

- The Member for Beauce-Sud on the following subject: *Tribute to the late Mr. Clément Bédard, founder of Les Pères Nature.*
- The Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce on the following subject: *Underline the success of the 2023 NDG Intercultural Festival.*
- The Member for Joliette on the following subject: *30th anniversary of Moisson Lanaudière.*
- The Member for Gouin on the following subject: *Recognizing Ms. Maureen Vachon's courage and determination.*
- The Member for Saint-François on the following subject: *Tribute to Ms. Lisette Lahaie, keeper of the memory of Brompton.*
- The Member for Jean-Lesage on the following subject: *The climate emergency.*
- The Member for Jonquière on the following subject: *Tribute to the band Voivod.*
- The Member for Hull on the following subject: *45th anniversary of the Ligue de fers de Gatineau.*
- The Member for Vanier-Les Rivières on the following subject: *Underline the 35th anniversary of Alphabeille Vanier.*
- The Member for Saint-Jean on the following subject: *The Medal of the National Assembly awarded to one of the first female pilots on the occasion of the 40th edition of the International Balloon Festival of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu!*
- The Member for Saint-Jérôme on the following subject: *The Salon des aînés de Saint-Jérôme.*
- The Member for Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré on the following subject: *Together, supporting our media!*

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

- PRESENTING**
- (a) **Papers**
 - (b) **Reports from committees**
 - (c) **Petitions**

ORAL ANSWERS TO PETITIONS

**COMPLAINTS OF BREACH OF PRIVILEGE OR CONTEMPT AND
PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS**

ORAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DEFERRED DIVISIONS

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

NOTICES OF PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEES

INFORMATION ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Part 2

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUSINESS HAVING PRECEDENCE

URGENT DEBATES

DEBATES ON REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

OTHER BUSINESS

I. Government Bills

Passage in Principle

- (1) Bill 17
An Act to amend various provisions for the main purpose of reducing regulatory and administrative burden
Introduced by the Minister for the Economy on **24 May 2023**
- (2) Bill 22
An Act respecting expropriation
Introduced by the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility on **25 May 2023**
- (3) Bill 23
An Act to amend mainly the Education Act and to enact the Act respecting the Institut national d'excellence en éducation
Introduced by the Minister of Education on 4 May 2023
Report from the Committee on Culture and Education (consultations) tabled on 8 June 2023
Resuming the debate adjourned on **12 September 2023**
- (4) Bill 28
An Act to amend the Act respecting the marketing of agricultural, food and fish products and the Farm Producers Act
Introduced by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on **8 June 2023**
- (5) Bill 29
An Act to protect consumers from planned obsolescence and to promote the durability, repairability and maintenance of goods
Introduced by the Minister of Justice on **1 June 2023**

- (6) Bill 31
An Act to amend various legislative provisions with respect to housing
Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Housing on **9 June 2023**
- (7) Bill 32
An Act to establish the cultural safety approach within the health and social services network
Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Relations with the First Nations and the Inuit on **9 June 2023**

Committee Stage

- (8) 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
Passed in principle on **19 April 2023**, and
Referred to the Committee on Institutions
- (9) Bill 15
An Act to make the health and social services system more effective
Introduced by the Minister of Health on 29 March 2023
Report from the Committee on Health and Social Services (consultations) tabled on 24 May 2023
Passed in principle on **31 May 2023**, and
Referred to the Committee on Health and Social Services
- (10) Bill 27
An Act to amend the Taxation Act, the Act respecting the Québec sales tax and other provisions
Introduced by the Minister of Finance on 30 May 2023
Passed in principle on **6 June 2023**, and
Referred to the Committee on Public Finance
- (11) Bill 30
An Act to amend various provisions mainly with respect to the financial sector
Introduced by the Minister of Finance on 7 June 2023
Passed in principle on **12 September 2023**, and
Referred to the Committee on Public Finance

Report Stage

Passage

II. Private Members' Public Bills

Passage in Principle

- (12) 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**
- (13) 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**
- (14) 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**
- (15) 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**
- (16) 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**
- (17) 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**

- (18) 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**
- (19) 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**
- (20) Bill 199
An Act to better protect consumers against abusive credit contracts
Introduced by the Member for Saint-Laurent on **23 February 2023**
- (21) 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**
- (22) 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**
- (23) 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**
- (24) Bill 393
An Act to combat food waste
Introduced by the Member for Verdun on **6 April 2023**

- (25) 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**
- (26) Bill 397
An Act to prevent and fight sexual violence in educational institutions that provide preschool education services, elementary school instructional services or secondary school instructional services in general or vocational education, including adult education services
Introduced by the Member for Mercier on **27 April 2023**
- (27) Bill 398
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
Introduced by the Member for Westmount–Saint-Louis on **20 April 2023**
- (28) Bill 399
An Act to amend the Act respecting the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec to require the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec to make and to report on investments with sustainable social and environmental impacts
Introduced by the Member for Maurice-Richard on **27 April 2023**
- (29) 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**
- (30) Bill 492
An Act to combat waste
Introduced by the Member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine on **18 April 2023**
- (31) Bill 493
An Act to amend the Québec Immigration Act to take temporary residents into account for immigration planning purposes
Introduced by the Member for Nelligan on **10 May 2023**

- (32) Bill 494
An Act to amend the Civil Code to render without effect the clauses of a lease of a dwelling tending to prohibit companion animals
Introduced by the Member for Laurier-Dorion on **25 May 2023**
- (33) Bill 496
An Act to recognize the white admiral as the emblematic insect of Québec
Introduced by the Member for Argenteuil on **9 June 2023**

Committee Stage

- (34) Bill 194
An Act to establish a presumption of consent to organ or tissue donation after death
Introduced by the Member for Pontiac on 26 April 2023
Passed in principle on **9 June 2023**, and
Referred to the Committee on Health and Social Services

Report Stage

Passage

III. Private Bills

Hearings and Clause-by-Clause Consideration

- (35) Bill 201
An Act respecting Municipalité de Morin-Heights
Introduced by the Member for Argenteuil on **20 April 2023**, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain
- (36) Bill 203
An Act respecting the objects and powers of the Roman Catholic Archiepiscopal corporation of Montreal
Introduced by the Member for Westmount–Saint-Louis on **19 April 2023**, and
Referred to the Committee on Institutions

Passage in Principle

Passage

IV. Government Motions

V. Estimates of Expenditure

VI. Statutory Debates

BUSINESS STANDING IN THE NAME OF MEMBERS IN OPPOSITION

(37) 12 September 2023

Motion by the Member for Marguerite-Bourgeoys

THAT the National Assembly declare that the CAQ government's lack of vision and lack of sufficient measures proposed with respect to housing, student financial assistance, support for SMEs, fighting the labour shortage and addressing the rising cost of living are detrimental to Québec's economy and the prosperity of Québec families.

Part 3

BILLS PASSED

(Bills awaiting Royal Assent)

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.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Orders of reference

Special Consultations:

- **Bill 31**, An Act to amend various legislative provisions with respect to housing (Order of reference given on 12 September 2023).

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 201**, An Act respecting Municipalité de Morin-Heights (Order of reference given on 20 April 2023).

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY

Orders of reference

Special Consultations:

- **Bill 17**, An Act to amend various provisions for the main purpose of reducing regulatory and administrative burden (Order of reference given on 12 September 2023).
- **Bill 29**, An Act to protect consumers from planned obsolescence and to promote the durability, repairability and maintenance of goods (Order of reference given on 12 September 2023).

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE

Orders of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 27**, An Act to amend the Taxation Act, the Act respecting the Québec sales tax and other provisions (Order of reference given on 6 June 2023).
- **Bill 30**, An Act to amend various provisions mainly with respect to the financial sector (Order of reference given on 12 September 2023).

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

Orders of reference

Special Consultations:

- **Bill 32**, An Act to establish the cultural safety approach within the health and social services network (Order of reference given on 12 September 2023).

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 14**, An Act to amend various provisions relating to public security and to enact the Act to assist in locating missing persons (Order of reference given on 19 April 2023).
- **Bill 203**, An Act respecting the objects and powers of the Roman Catholic Archbishopric of Montreal (Order of reference given on 19 April 2023).

COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN RELATIONS

Orders of reference

General Consultation:

- Consultation document entitled “Québec Immigration Planning for the 2024-2027 Period” (Order of reference given on 30 May 2023).

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Orders of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 15**, An Act to make the health and social services system more effective (Order of reference given on 31 May 2023).
- **Bill 194**, An Act to establish a presumption of consent to organ or tissue donation after death (Order of reference given on 9 June 2023).

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Orders of reference

Special Consultations:

- **Bill 22**, An Act respecting expropriation (Order of reference given on 12 September 2023).

Part 5

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

*Questions already placed on the Order Paper
are published each Wednesday*

- (30) Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke) – **23 May 2023**
To the Minister of Health

Under the Regulation respecting hearing devices and insured services, retired people are entitled to reimbursement for one hearing aid, while people who are employed and have an income are entitled to reimbursement for two hearing aids. This situation increases retired people's financial insecurity.

In 2019, the office of the Minister responsible for Seniors and Informal Caregivers stated that a review of the Regulation was underway. This review was not completed while Québec government departments were busy managing the COVID-19 crisis. However, in May 2022, the office of the Minister of Health, which is now responsible for reviewing the Regulation, stated that this review was planned for the next few months. One year later, the Regulations have still not been reviewed and retirees are still financially vulnerable.

In light of the above, my question to the Minister of Health is the following:

When will the Minister change this policy to end this age discrimination?

- (31) Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) – **23 May 2023**
To the Minister of Labour

The Association Québécoise des Entrepreneurs en Infrastructure (AQEI) is concerned about the increasing number of accidents and deaths of road workers and flag persons, which are largely due to the negligent behaviour of drivers. Flag persons are essential to the safety of both road users and construction workers. Unfortunately, their work is constantly questioned and criticized, which ultimately puts their safety at risk. All too often, the Move-Over Law is not complied with, drivers do not slow down and flag persons are insulted.

As this is an issue that affects several government bodies, such as the Ministère du Travail, the Ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable, the Ministère de la Sécurité publique and the SAAQ, they tend to pass the buck to each other. Meanwhile, the lives of flag persons are still at risk. On 27 March 2023, a flag person was hit by an impatient driver who fled the scene.

For this reason, the AQEI would like the Government to implement several measures to better protect the safety of road workers and flag persons. Firstly, the AQEI proposes the establishment of a joint panel where all those affected by this issue can discuss the measures to be implemented to increase the safety of flag persons. Secondly, it proposes the launch of an awareness campaign to make drivers aware that their actions can endanger the lives and safety of flag persons. Thirdly, the AQEI proposes that the fines for failure to comply with the Move-Over Law and speed limit be increased to encourage compliance with the regulations. In addition, it proposes that the SAAQ update its training for future drivers to include safety around work sites. Lastly, the AQEI proposes that police officers be assigned to work sites to ensure that drivers are more compliant with the regulations.

Considering the above, my question is the following:

Given that there are already several panels (in particular at the Ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable) where this issue is discussed, but that a global and common dialogue between all stakeholders is more than necessary, will the Minister of Labour commit as of today to set up a joint advisory panel where all the stakeholders concerned by this matter, including those mentioned above, can finally hold discussions in order to implement solutions to ensure that the lives of flag persons are better protected?

(32) Ms. Lakhoyan Olivier (Chomedey) – **23 May 2023**
To the Minister of Tourism

I recently met with representatives of the Maison du tourisme de Tadoussac to hear their concerns.

Tadoussac, a municipality of about 800 people, welcomes between 250,000 and 300,000 tourists annually who come to enjoy the region's natural resources. In fact, delegates from the international association of the Most Beautiful Bays in the World Club will visit the municipality in 2025 for their annual convention.

However, Tadoussac needs support to be able to continue receiving a large number of visitors each year. The authorities need an estimated \$15 million to upgrade their washroom facilities.

In addition, the building that houses the Maison du tourisme de Tadoussac needs work, especially on the roof and exterior walls, in order to keep the building in good condition. Financial support is also necessary in this regard.

The Maison du tourisme de Tadoussac's representatives do not feel adequately supported by the Minister of Tourism. Will the Minister listen to Tadoussac's concerns so that the municipality can continue to be an attractive tourist destination?

(33) Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) – **24 May 2023**

To the Minister of Finance

The Act respecting the implementation of certain provisions of the Budget Speech of 25 March 2021 and amending other provisions (Bill 17) was assented to on 24 February 2022. It amended the *Act respecting the Québec Pension Plan* (the Act), in particular the application of a penalty on the retirement pensions of disability pension beneficiaries.

This unexpected amendment was part of a bill that amended over 20 legislative texts and was adopted without consultations. Furthermore, this was done at a time when proceedings on this penalty's compliance with the charters were, and still are, being brought before the Administrative Tribunal of Québec, with special consultations on the Québec Pension Plan (QPP) planned the following year.

Before the coming into force of these amendments, the Act reduced by 36% the retirement pensions of people who had received a disability pension between the ages of 60 and 65. This was the same exclusion applied to the retirement pensions of workers who retire early and who start receiving their pension at the age of 60 instead of 65. Since the coming into force of Bill 17, the reduction imposed on the retirement pensions of disability pension beneficiaries remains, although it varies between 18 and 24%. Other measures, which will come into force in 2024, intend to cap the disability pension at 60 years of age, thereby forcing beneficiaries to "choose" an early retirement pension.

This penalty was maintained despite the fact that we are the only jurisdiction in Canada that imposes it and that, in February 2017, the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse (CDPDJ) published the document “Avis concernant la pénalité à la rente de retraite du RRQ que subissent les personnes qui reçoivent une rente d’invalidité en vertu du même régime”, in which it formally declared the penalty to be discriminatory in nature.

Thus, the QPP deprives affected individuals of almost a quarter of their retirement pension, despite it being established that they are generally no longer able to significantly contribute to the QPP, that disabilities lead to an important reduction in income and that the costs related to the condition of people with disabilities increase as they age. Furthermore, this loss is not compensated, or is compensated only in part, by the Guaranteed Income Security federal programs, despite Retraite Québec’s claims.

In view of the above, my questions to the Minister of Finance are as follows:

- Considering the CDPDJ found that a penalty of 36% on the retirement pensions of people who had received a disability pension between the ages of 60 and 65 was discriminatory, does the Minister deem that it is no longer discriminatory at a rate of 24%?
- Does the Minister acknowledge that this penalty, denounced by the community, by the Office des personnes handicapées du Québec, by opposition parties and by the CDPDJ, is an injustice towards seniors with a severe limitation for employment and who benefit from a disability pension?
- Will the Minister commit to meeting the groups interested in this issue during the hearings which will precede the passage of the bill that will follow up on the consultations held in 2023 on the future of the QPP?

(34) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **7 June 2023**

To the Minister of Culture and Communications

On 20 April 2023, the National Assembly unanimously voted in favour of a motion to legally designate the jig as part of Québec’s intangible heritage under the *Cultural Heritage Act*.

The designation mechanism was introduced in order to have a measurable impact on the safeguarding and development of recognized cultural practices, in the spirit of UNESCO’s 2003 convention, which inspired the Québec legislation.

In 2019–2020, approximately 1.4% of the heritage budget (0.09% of the culture budget) was allocated to living heritage, which does not include the considerable sums allocated to municipal heritage officers, who are assigned as a priority to built heritage. The situation has barely changed since then, and not enough to make a significant difference, as called for by the heritage community throughout Québec. In particular, the budget is overly dependent on ad hoc projects that are supposed to compensate for underlying circumstances that are disadvantageous and in some cases discriminatory.

For example, in Québec it is possible to study music from elementary school all the way to university without hearing a single piece from the traditional Québec instrumental repertoire, even though the diatonic button accordion and dance evenings are legally designated as part of Québec’s intangible heritage. The same applies to the Conservatoire de musique despite it being under the direct responsibility of the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications.

Considering that the Québec State has committed to supporting living heritage and the various disciplines associated with traditional culture, this situation appears to be incoherent.

A national safeguarding and development strategy for intangible heritage was announced by the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications in 2020, though no information has been made public since.

Such a strategy would position Québec as a true North American leader in living heritage management and allow future generations of Quebecers to fully benefit from the opportunity to practise activities that are passed down from generation to generation, including those of the First Peoples. The successful measures for the designation of dance evenings (the only designation that to date has directly led to concrete national actions) can serve as inspiration going forward.

The national strategy could draw inspiration from the indicators in the overall results framework of UNESCO’s Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage to identify relevant areas for action. It could also take into account the document entitled “Pour une désignation légale réussie d’un élément du patrimoine immatériel”, published by the Conseil québécois du patrimoine vivant, which provides guidance for stakeholders on such matters.

Does the Minister intend to launch a national safeguarding and development strategy for intangible heritage, along with the resources necessary to implement it?

(35) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) – **7 June 2023**

To the Minister of Education

Québec is currently facing two shortages in educational childcare services: a shortage of available spaces and a shortage of early childhood educators. In the project Grand chantier pour les familles, the Québec government set the following objectives:

- ensure that there is a qualified workforce in sufficient numbers;
- improve the salary and working conditions of the network staff;
- promote the profession of early childhood educator.

We commend these efforts and would like to have a portrait of the evolution of the situation with regard to educators:

My questions are the following:

- 1) For the 2022–2023, 2021–2023, 2020–2021 and 2019–2020 school years, how many enrolments were there in the different early childhood education programs (including work-study pathways, accelerated training programs (ACS) and early childhood education technical programs)? Please include the private and public educational institutions in the number of enrolments.
- 2) For the 2022–2023, 2021–2023, 2020–2021 and 2019–2020 school years, how many students graduated from these various programs?

(36) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) – **7 June 2023**
To the Minister of Families

Québec is currently facing two shortages in educational childcare services: a shortage of available spaces and a shortage of early childhood educators. In the project Grand chantier pour les familles, the Québec government set the following objectives:

- ensure that there is a qualified workforce in sufficient numbers;
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- promote the profession of early childhood educator.

We commend these efforts and would like to have a portrait of the evolution of the situation with regard to educators:

My questions are the following:

- 1) For the 2022–2023, 2021–2023, 2020–2021 and 2019–2020 school years, how many enrolments were there in the different early childhood education programs (including work-study pathways, accelerated training programs (ACS) and early childhood education technical programs)? Please include the private and public educational institutions in the number of enrolments.
- 2) For the 2022–2023, 2021–2023, 2020–2021 and 2019–2020 school years, how many students graduated from these various programs?
- 3) How many Québec selection certificates were issued for the educator and educator assistant job categories for 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019?

(37) Mr. Grandmont (Taschereau) – **8 June 2023**
To the Minister of Tourism

La Route de Champlain is a recreotouristic NPO, established in 2015 in Montréal-Nord, which has helped introduce thousands of citizens to affordable, safe and ecological water activities using kayaks and fully electric boats.

During the summer of 2022, La Route de Champlain operated four sites on the island of Montréal as well as several others along the Richelieu River in the Montérégie region thanks to the work of its 43 employees. The COVID-19 pandemic and the refurbishment of the Parc Aimé-Léonard greatly weakened the organization by reducing traffic and complicating operations. The 2022 season should have been an opportunity for the organization to bounce back. However, starting in May 2022, management had to juggle budget items in an attempt to salvage the season, and in June 2022, the payment of wages started to be erratic.

Under these circumstances, the organization has not paid its 43 employees since July 2022. In a normal bankruptcy situation, employees are covered by the Wage Earner Protection Program for their last six months of wages. Since the employees ended their season in August and have not been paid since July, they are therefore without such protection.

Currently, the Fonds de développement des entreprises touristiques (FDET) is in the process of seizing the organization's equipment, which remains its only remaining asset and the employees' last hope to see their summer's efforts be reduced to nothing.

The 43 employees are stuck between the organization's poor management and a creditor who wishes to minimize losses. Employees still have the possibility to sue the administrators, but since they are insolvent, they will never see the \$130,000 in wages owed to them.

The remaining option for the 43 employees is to suspend the seizure of the organization's equipment by the Fonds de développement des entreprises touristiques. The organization would then be able to liquidate its assets in order to pay its former employees.

My question to the Minister of Tourism is the following:

Is the Minister open to suspending the FDET's seizure of the equipment so that the former employees of La Route de Champlain can be duly paid?

(38) Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) – **9 June 2023**
To the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Essentially, the number one issue for Québec's grain sector is the competitiveness of its producers, both nationally and internationally. Producers are seeing a lack of concrete measures to boost and ensure their competitiveness. They want to be a part of Québec's economic growth, but the current situation makes it very difficult for them to do so. The grain sector has significant export potential, and this can only contribute to Québec's collective enrichment, in particular through reinvestment in public services.

In February 2021, a study on competitiveness in Québec's grain sector was published. That study, commissioned by the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ), was completed in order to provide an overview of the situation in the grain sector in comparison with their different international competitors.

That study reinforces the findings in recent years that the overall environment in which Québec grain producers are operating jeopardizes their ability to compete with foreign competitors if nothing is done in terms of subsidies and rewards for producers' agri-environmental efforts. The study also shows that there is relatively inadequate support with regard to economic protection, even though the grain sector is the foundation of the entire agricultural sector.

With this in mind, the MAPAQ established a mainly administrative competitiveness committee, which organized a series of meetings with representatives of the grain sector and La Financière agricole du Québec in order to coordinate their actions.

However, during the last election campaign, the Québec government stated that it still aims to better understand the grain sector's issues and ensure that the existing mechanisms allow producers to remain industry leaders – and it committed to continuing work in this respect.

Given the above, my questions are the following:

- 1- Does the Québec government recognize that the grain sector is the foundation of the entire agricultural sector?

- 2- Does the Québec government recognize that the grain sector creates collective wealth for Québec?
- 3- What actions do you intend to take to support the specific, remote regions that are currently facing specific issues, in particular the distance from buyers and processors and the high transportation costs?

(39) Mr. St-Pierre Plamondon (Camille-Laurin) – **9 June 2023**

To the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor

The Association des microbiologistes du Québec (AMQ) includes more than 500 members who are part of the various fields of microbiology: agri-food, molecular, biopharmaceutical or clinical microbiology and public, industrial or environmental health.

The Association des biologistes du Québec (ABQ) is a professional association, officially registered on 21 March 1974, for the purpose of bringing together the biologists of Québec. The ABQ is a non-profit organization which includes more than a thousand members from the diverse field of biological sciences.

These two associations have many things in common, not least the fact that the practice of microbiology and biology in Québec is characterized by the absence of professional supervision. Indeed, both disciplines lack a professional order, which results in public protection issues on the subject of applied sciences.

The obsolescence of the *Professional Chemists Act* is just as worrying, so that today more than ever, we find it increasingly difficult to define the exclusive scope of practice of chemistry and to determine the exceptions provided for in the Act. This situation poses serious difficulties of application and interpretation in the field and before the courts, and compromises the protection of the public.

Chemistry, microbiology and biology are three disciplines of applied sciences, and they share an important connection in terms of knowledge and practice environments. This is especially clear from the interrelation of their scopes of practice and the interprofessional nature of the activities they carry out, in particular in the health and environmental sectors.

For all these reasons, the AMQ and the ABQ are making joint presentations to government authorities so that microbiologists and biologists can join the Ordre des chimistes du Québec (the Ordre) within the framework of a modernized *Professional Chemists Act*. The Ordre is open to this idea.

Joining a professional order would not only ensure the recognition and confirmation of their expertise but would also allow microbiologists and biologists to consolidate their communication, popularization and education efforts to the public, while ensuring public protection in applied sciences. The Ordre shares a similar opinion: the modernization of the *Professional Chemists Act* would guarantee public protection in the practice of chemistry.

My questions are the following:

- Does the Québec government recognize the need to oversee the microbiologists and biologists of Québec through a professional order?
- If so, what measures and what timetable does it recommend for integrating microbiologists and biologists into Québec's professional system?
- Is the Québec government aware of the dangers looming over Quebecers from the illegal practice of chemistry?
- Is the Québec government open to integrating microbiologists and biologists into the Ordre des chimistes du Québec?

(40) Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) – **9 June 2023**

To the Minister of Immigration, Francization and Integration

The regionalization of immigration is an important issue for Québec and for all our regions. In this respect, the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region has shown leadership, in particular through the development of the Centre d'accompagnement pour le recrutement de la main-d'œuvre immigrante project promoted by Panorama Québec via the Centre local de développement Rouyn-Noranda. The purpose of this project is to establish and maintain a comprehensive, innovative and efficient strategy for attracting and integrating immigrant workers.

This project emerged from collaboration between many regional stakeholders, including the Centre local de développement Rouyn-Noranda and the regional county municipalities of Abitibi, Abitibi-Ouest, Vallée-de-l'or and Témiscamingue. It is strongly supported in a region with a lower proportion of immigrants than the Québec average.

Nevertheless, despite the tabling of the project in March 2023, there has been no follow-up from the Ministère.

Given the situation, my questions to the Minister of Immigration, Francization and Integration are the following:

- Does the Government recognize the mobilization in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region around the Centre d'accompagnement en recrutement de la main-d'œuvre immigrante Panorama Québec project, which emerged from collaboration between, notably, the Centre local de développement Rouyn-Noranda and the regional county municipalities of Abitibi, Abitibi-Ouest, Vallée-de-l'or and Témiscamingue?
- Does the Government support the Centre d'accompagnement en recrutement de la main-d'œuvre immigrante project promoted by Panorama Québec?
- Is the Government committed to financially supporting the project?

(41) Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun) – **9 June 2023**

To the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Essentially, the number one issue for Québec's grain sector is the competitiveness of its producers, both nationally and internationally. Producers are seeing a lack of concrete measures to boost and ensure their competitiveness. They want to be a part of Québec's economic growth, but the current situation makes it very difficult for them to do so. The grain sector has significant export potential, and this can only contribute to Québec's collective enrichment, in particular through reinvestment in public services.

In February 2021, a study on competitiveness in Québec's grain sector was published. That study, commissioned by the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ), was completed in order to provide an overview of the situation in the grain sector in comparison with their different international competitors. That study reinforces the findings in recent years that the overall environment in which Québec grain producers are operating jeopardizes their ability to compete with foreign competitors if nothing is done in terms of subsidies and rewards for producers' agri-environmental efforts. The study also shows that there is relatively inadequate support with regard to economic protection, even though the grain sector is the foundation of the entire agricultural sector.

With this in mind, the MAPAQ established a mainly administrative competitiveness committee, which organized a series of meetings with representatives of the grain sector and La Financière agricole du Québec in order to coordinate their actions.

However, during the last election campaign, the Québec government stated that it still aims to better understand the grain sector's issues and ensure that the existing mechanisms allow producers to remain industry leaders – and it committed to continuing work in this respect. The Government also committed to investing an additional \$50 million in the Ministerial Initiative on Compensating Agri-Environmental Practices.

Given the above, my questions are the following:

- 1- Does the Québec government recognize that the grain sector is the foundation of the entire agricultural sector?
- 2- Does the Québec government recognize that the grain sector creates collective wealth for Québec?
- 3- What actions do you intend to take to support the specific, remote regions that are currently facing specific issues, in particular the distance from buyers and processors and the high transportation costs?
- 4- How will the \$50 million investment for agri-environmental practices be allocated, in particular in the grain sector?

(42) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) – **12 September 2023**

To the Minister Responsible for Social Solidarity and Community Action

According to the Bilan-Faim report published in 2022, Québec food banks currently respond to over 2 million monthly requests for food aid, an increase of 20% since 2021. The food inflation that has been raging for several months has compounded the issue of food insecurity in the province. Increasingly, food distribution organizations are seeing new faces and, in order to meet the growing demand, many of them have no choice but to reduce the size of their food baskets.

Before the latest budget was tabled, food banks were asking for a one-time financial assistance of \$24 million. Instead, the budget provided for an additional \$2 million per year, which is clearly inadequate. Furthermore, community organizations face uncertainty as they have no idea what their share of this sum will be.

My questions to the Minister are the following:

- Can the Minister provide details of how the additional funds will be allocated between the different organizations for both amounts promised, that is, the additional \$2 million for foodstuffs and the \$20 million over four years as part of the Québec Infrastructure Plan (layout of physical facilities)?
- Can the Minister define the timeline for this allocation?

(43) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **12 September 2023**

To the Minister of Education

The month of May is allergy month, and I would like to note that Québec ranks last in terms of support for students with allergies. The Minister has very few statistics on the implementation of the protocol developed by the Montréal public health department, the number of allergic reactions requiring in-school emergency response, the availability of auto-injectors for all or any other data on the matter. There has long been talk of a mystery reference framework to be developed in collaboration with the Ministère de la Santé, but the issue has dragged on and the 75,000 students with allergies remain at risk when they attend school, a place which should be safe for everyone.

The little available information shows that some private schools are often better equipped than public schools, both in terms of personnel training and deployment of measures to protect students with allergies. Such disparity goes against the very concept of equity in education. There is also a discrepancy in the application of the food allergy protocol in the metropolis and in the rest of the province. A few years ago, the Montréal public health department carried out a pilot project and issued a reference document to compensate for the government's lack of action.

Does the Minister not believe that all students with allergies in the province deserve a safe academic experience, regardless of their financial situation or place of residence?

Can the Minister provide a timeline and a summary of the concrete measures he intends to take, and can he, moving forward, commit to investing the sums necessary to protect all the young people living with food allergies, with no disparity by region or type of school attended?

(44) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **12 September 2023**
To the Minister of Education

Following the passage of Bill 144, *An Act to amend the Education Act and other legislative provisions concerning mainly free educational services and compulsory school attendance*, by the National Assembly of Québec in 2017, homeschooling is now formally enshrined in the *Education Act*. It was essential for the Government to determine regulatory standards applicable to homeschooling, as legal uncertainty had prevailed until then. Today, an estimated 8,000 Québec children are homeschooled.

Bill 144 not only provided for the establishment of a Québec-wide advisory panel on homeschooling, but also that the panel would advise the Minister on any matter he submits to it. The panel's purpose was to provide a forum for discussion and agreement on homeschooling by bringing together stakeholders from the education sector, home-education associations, competent professionals and academic researchers. Unfortunately, the advisory panel has yet to be convened by the current government. We deem it important to reconnect and discuss the many issues surrounding homeschooling by convening the advisory panel given the major regulatory changes of recent years and in order to comply with the law.

The 2017 legislative amendment also led to the creation of the Direction de l'enseignement à la maison to assist families who wish to begin homeschooling and those who are already doing so.

More recently, the Government carried out a major reform of the complaint process in the education network with the passage of the *Act respecting the National Student Ombudsman*. Student ombudsmen are now under the responsibility of the National Student Ombudsman, who manages the new autonomous organization independently from the school network. In addition, the complaint management system encompasses private institutions. However, homeschooled students were left out of this reform.

Indeed, though certain homeschooled children receive services from school service centres covered by the new legislation, this only concerns a very small part of their administrative follow-up. Meanwhile, the majority of children receive follow-up services from the Direction de l'enseignement (DEM) à la maison, which is not covered by that legislation. Currently, in the event of a disagreement between the family and their DEM resource person, the only recourse available is a complaint to the latter. These complaints are handled by the resource person and their superior, so there is no neutral third party.

My questions are the following:

1. Could the complaint process for homeschooling families be improved and made impartial, as is currently the case for regular school students with the National Student Ombudsman?
2. When will the Minister convene the Québec-wide advisory panel on homeschooling?

Part 6
NOTICES

I. NOTICES PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

Government Bills

- (a) 12 September 2023
An Act respecting the collective agreements of the special constables and the bodyguards of the Gouvernement du Québec – *Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor*

Private Members' Public Bills

- (b) 12 September 2023
An Act to make available the documents from the inquiry conducted by Investigation Commissioner Bernard Grenier concerning the unlawful activities of Option Canada in the 1995 Québec Referendum – *Member for Camille-Laurin*
- (c) 12 September 2023
An Act amending the Public Infrastructure Act to submit projects included in the Québec infrastructure plan to a climate test – *Member for Taschereau*

Private Bills

II. NOTICES APPEARING FOR THE FIRST TIME

- (aa) An Act to modernize the notarial profession and to promote access to justice–
Minister of Justice