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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

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FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

## **Order Paper and Notices**

**of the Assembly**

**Wednesday, 20 September 2023 – No. 60**

*Nine forty a.m.*

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

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Part 1  
**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

- The Member for Saint-François on the following subject: *Tribute to Mr. Richard Caron, distinguished volunteer.*
- The Member for D’Arcy-McGee on the following subject: *International Overdose Awareness Day.*
- The Member for Saint-Jean on the following subject: *Last Friday’s summit on homelessness in Québec city and future follow-up actions in the Haut-Richelieu region.*
- The Member for Maurice-Richard on the following subject: *In memory of Mr. Eduardo Malpica.*
- The Member for Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré on the following subject: *Ferreol will soon make its sustainable skis available worldwide.*
- The Member for Chomedey on the following subject: *Underline the 40th anniversary of Association du troisième âge “Filia”.*
- The Member for Argenteuil on the following subject: *The Lalande family’s fourth generation of maple syrup producers.*
- The Member for Dubuc on the following subject: *The 75th anniversary of Saint-David-de-Falardeau.*
- The Member for Côte-du-Sud on the following subject: *Summer festivals in the Côte-du-Sud region.*
- The Member for Gaspé on the following subject: *The 175th anniversary of the Carricks shipwreck.*
- The Member for Châteauguay on the following subject: *First edition of the Fire Skatefest.*
- The Member for Lotbinière-Frontenac on the following subject: *The protection of Lac à la Truite by the citizens of Adstock.*

**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  
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**ORAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**DEFERRED DIVISIONS**

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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 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**
- (4) 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  
Report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy (consultations) tabled on **14 September 2023**
- (5) Bill 31  
An Act to amend various legislative provisions with respect to housing  
Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Housing on **9 June 2023**

- (6) 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  
Report from the Committee on Institutions (consultations) tabled on **14 September 2023**
- (7) Bill 33  
An Act respecting the collective agreements of the special constables and the bodyguards of the Gouvernement du Québec  
Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor on **13 September 2023**
- (8) Bill 34\*  
An Act to modernize the notarial profession and to promote access to justice  
Introduced by the Minister of Justice on **14 September 2023**
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- \* **Recommendation of the Lieutenant-Governor**

*Committee Stage*

- (9) 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
- (10) 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

- (11) 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  
Passed in principle on **13 September 2023**, and  
Referred to the Committee on Culture and Education
- (12) 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*

- (13) 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  
Report from the Committee on Public Finance tabled on **19 September 2023**

*Passage*

**II. Private Members' Public Bills**

*Passage in Principle*

- (14) 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**
- (15) 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**

- (16) 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**
- (17) 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**
- (18) 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**
- (19) 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**
- (20) 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**
- (21) 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**
- (22) Bill 199  
An Act to better protect consumers against abusive credit contracts  
Introduced by the Member for Saint-Laurent on **23 February 2023**
- (23) 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**



- (24) 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**
- (25) 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**
- (26) Bill 393  
An Act to combat food waste  
Introduced by the Member for Verdun on **6 April 2023**
- (27) 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**
- (28) 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**
- (29) 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**

- (30) 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**
- (31) 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**
- (32) Bill 491  
491, An Act amending the Public Infrastructure Act to submit projects included in the Québec infrastructure plan to a climate test  
Introduced by the Member for Taschereau on **14 September 2023**
- (33) Bill 492  
An Act to combat waste  
Introduced by the Member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine on **18 April 2023**
- (34) 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**
- (35) 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**
- (36) 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*

- (37) 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*

- (38) 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
- (39) 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**

- (40) 19 September 2023  
Motion by the Member for Taschereau

THAT the National Assembly recall that municipalities are autonomous with regard to the planification and implementation of public transit projects;

THAT it reiterate its support for Ville de Québec's current tramway and structuring network project;

THAT it ask the Government to commit to supporting this project, without interference, and to continue investing the sums necessary to carry it out.

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 Hydro-Québec on Chapter 5 of the Auditor General’s December 2022 report entitled “Hydro-Québec: maintenance des actifs du réseau de distribution d’électricité” (Hydro-Québec: Maintenance of electricity distribution network assets).
- Hearing of the Ministère de l’Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs, the Ministère de la Sécurité publique and the Ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable on Chapter 4 of the Sustainable Development Commissioner’s April 2023 report entitled “Adaptation aux changements climatiques: risques liés à l’érosion et à la submersion côtières” (Adapting to climate changes: Risks associated with coastal erosion and flooding).
- Hearing of the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, the CIUSSS de la Capitale-Nationale and the CIUSSS de l’Est-de-l’Île-de-Montréal on Chapter 4 of the Auditor General’s May 2023 report entitled “Santé mentale: efficacité du continuum de soins et de services pour les usagers ayant des troubles mentaux graves” (Mental health: Effectiveness of the continuum of care and services for users with serious mental health disorders).
- Hearing of the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, the CISSS de la Montérégie-Centre, the CIUSSS de l’Estrie-CHUS and the CIUSS de l’Ouest-de-l’Île-de-Montréal on Chapter 2 of the Auditor General’s May 2023 report entitled “Octroi de contrats de gré à gré : en vertu du décret d’urgence sanitaire, ou pour obtenir des places d’hébergement et de la main-d’œuvre indépendante” (Awarding untendered contracts: Under public health emergency orders, or to obtain residential and long term care beds and independent labour).
- 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

#### Orders of reference

##### Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 23**, An Act to amend mainly the Education Act and to enact the Act respecting the Institut national d'excellence en éducation (Order of reference given on 13 September 2023).

#### Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

##### Interpellation:

- By the Member for Saint-Laurent to the Minister of Education on the following subject: *The twelve labours of the Minister of Education* (notice given on 14 September 2023).

### 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).

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE

### Orders of reference

#### Consideration of Bills:

- **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

#### 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 Archiepiscopal corporation 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?

- (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:

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- 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?

(45) Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) – 19 September 2023

To the Minister of Labour

Currently in Québec, the wait times for injured workers to get a medical appointment are often long. This leads to delays in care and therefore increases the risk of chronic pain and prolongs the time it takes to return to work.

In this context, allowing injured workers to directly consult chiropractors could result in substantial savings for the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST) and for the Québec health network. The cost savings would be achieved by, among other things, reducing the compensation time, while respecting chiropractors' capacity to accept patients.

An analysis of Ontario data has shown that injured workers who initially consulted a chiropractor had shorter compensation periods than those who consulted a primary care doctor. By extrapolating these results to the Québec context, one can consider that if injured Québec workers suffering from back pain – the most common type of injury according to the Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail – had direct access to chiropractic care, there could be potential savings of \$11.8 million annually in wage compensation alone. Currently in Québec, these patients must first obtain a medical prescription from their doctor before consulting a chiropractor.

By offering direct access to chiropractic care, we could reduce the compensation time for Québec workers suffering from lower back pain. This would contribute to not only a faster return to work, but also a faster return to normal life for workers. This approach would help reduce health system costs through a better distribution of resources. It would also be consistent with the components of the health plan, including interdisciplinarity and breaking down professional silos – to the benefit of users.

After a work accident, prompt care for the victim may prevent their condition from worsening and becoming chronic. The long wait times for consultation may delay the return to work or to normal life, significantly affecting patients' quality of life.

The solution is for the CNESST to grant chiropractors, through regulation, the status of “health professional” under the *Act respecting industrial accidents and occupational diseases* – in order to promote access to chiropractic care for injured workers and thereby avoid a duplication of fees for consulting a doctor and then a chiropractor.

In this regard, we are calling on the Minister to obtain answers to the following questions:

1. Is the Minister open to allowing injured workers to directly access chiropractic care – in particular to enable a faster return to work, generate savings for the State and help reduce congestion in the health network?
2. Is the Minister in favour of granting – by the CNESST – the status of “health professional” to chiropractors under the *Act respecting industrial accidents and occupational diseases*?



Part 6  
**NOTICES**

**I. NOTICES PREVIOUSLY GIVEN**

**Government Bills**

**Private Members' Public Bills**

**(a)** 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*

**Private Bills**

**II. NOTICES APPEARING FOR THE FIRST TIME**

**(aa)** Anti-Farm Land Grabbing Act – *Member for Verdun*