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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, 27 September 2023 – No. 63**

*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 Ms. Sylvie Gilbert Fowlis, mutual aid provider for anglophones and francophones.*
- The Member for La Pinière on the following subject: *International Day of Older Persons.*
- The Member for Hull on the following subject: *The 35th anniversary of Trait d'Union Outaouais.*
- The Member for Taschereau on the following subject: *Intergenerational cohabitation project at the Les Jardins Saint-Sacrement residence.*
- The Member for Saint-Jean on the following subject: *Wishing Ms. Ella-Rose Duval success at the World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals this week in Italy.*
- The Member for Robert-Baldwin on the following subject: *Underline International Safe Abortion Day.*
- The Member for Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré on the following subject: *Tribute to 12-year-old Théo Ferland, the hero of Île d'Orléans.*
- The Member for Vimont on the following subject: *The Alzheimer Society Laval.*
- The Member for Rousseau on the following subject: *Official inauguration of Boucherie fermière Rendez-vous cochon in Sainte-Marie-Salomé.*
- The Member for Vachon on the following subject: *Tribute to an Innu artist as part of the Day for Truth and Reconciliation.*
- The Member for Brome-Missisquoi on the following subject: *The 100th anniversary of the Knowlton Golf Club.*
- The Member for Duplessis on the following subject: *The 70th anniversary of the Sept-Îles Knights of Columbus Council.*

**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**

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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  
Report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy (consultations) tabled on **26 September 2023**
- (2) Bill 22  
An Act respecting expropriation  
Introduced by the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility on 25 May 2023  
Report from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment (consultations) tabled on **26 September 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 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**

*Committee Stage*

- (5) 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
- (6) 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
- (7) 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
- (8) 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  
Passed in principle on **21 September 2023**, and  
Referred to the Committee on Labour and the Economy
- (9) 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

- (10) Bill 31  
An Act to amend various legislative provisions with respect to housing  
Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Housing on 9 June 2023  
Report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain  
(consultations) tabled on 21 September 2023  
Passed in principle on **26 September 2023**, and  
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain
- (11) 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  
Passed in principle on **20 September 2023**, and  
Referred to the Committee on Public Finance
- (12) 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  
Passed in principle on **26 September 2023**, and  
Referred to the Committee on Institutions

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**\* Recommendation of the Lieutenant-Governor**

*Report Stage*

*Passage*

## **II. Private Members' Public Bills**

*Passage in Principle*

- (13) 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**
- (14) 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**





- (15) 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**
- (16) 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**
- (17) 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**
- (18) 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**
- (19) 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**
- (20) 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**
- (21) Bill 199  
An Act to better protect consumers against abusive credit contracts  
Introduced by the Member for Saint-Laurent on **23 February 2023**
- (22) 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**

- (23) 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**
- (24) 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**
- (25) Bill 393  
An Act to combat food waste  
Introduced by the Member for Verdun on **6 April 2023**
- (26) 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**
- (27) 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**
- (28) 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**

- (29) 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**
- (30) 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**
- (31) 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**
- (32) Bill 492  
An Act to combat waste  
Introduced by the Member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine on **18 April 2023**
- (33) 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**
- (34) 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**
- (35) Bill 495  
Anti-Farm Land Grabbing Act  
Introduced by the Member for Verdun on **26 September 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)** 26 September 2023

Motion moved by the Member for Saint-Laurent

THAT the National Assembly deplore the fact that Quebecers are paying the price for the CAQ government's improvisation and inability to carry out large-scale infrastructure projects in a timely manner, in particular in the health, childcare and transport sectors;

THAT, lastly, it urge the CAQ government to exercise greater rigour in the planning of infrastructure projects to deliver them with the utmost speed, in keeping with Quebecers' ability to pay.

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**

##### Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 31**, An Act to amend various legislative provisions with respect to housing (Order of reference given on 26 September 2023).
- **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).

### COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY

#### **Orders of reference**

##### Consideration of Bills:

- **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 21 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).
- **Bill 33**, An Act respecting the collective agreements of the special constables and the bodyguards of the Gouvernement du Québec (Order of reference given on 20 September 2023).

## COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

### Orders of reference

#### Special Consultations :

- **Bill 34**, An Act to modernize the notarial profession and to promote access to justice (Order of reference given on 26 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 34**, An Act to modernize the notarial profession and to promote access to justice (Order of reference given on 26 September 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).

### Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

#### Interpellation:

- By the Leader of the Third Opposition Group to the Premier on the following subject: *The unfulfilled promises of the CAQ government since its election.* (notice given on 21 September 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

Part 5

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

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

- (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?

(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?

(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*?

(46) Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun) – **21 September 2023**

To the Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks

The 23 March 2023 marked the fifth anniversary of an unfulfilled commitment by the Québec government: the creation of a public register to access essential environmental information with a single click. This register, provided under section 118.5 of the *Environment Quality Act*, is necessary to effectively protect the rights of the population and to promote a healthy environment.

March 2018 marked the coming into force of the revised *Environment Quality Act* after three years of work. One of the priorities of this reform was to improve public access to environmental information. Accordingly, the legislation provided for the creation of a register to record all requested or granted ministerial authorizations. This register is a considerable gain as regards access to environmental information and is a major added value of the reform. Five years later, however, it is the only component of the *Environment Quality Act* that has yet to be implemented.

Having timely and reliable access to key environmental information is a fundamental democratic right. It also serves as an important resource for the protection of ecosystems and the right to a healthy environment for all. In concrete terms, this online register would allow all citizens who want to be informed of a project’s environmental impacts on their living environment to do so with just one click. As things stand, the procedure for accessing this information remains too burdensome. Citizens must first submit an access to information request to the Ministère, wait a few weeks, possibly seek recourse before an administrative tribunal, namely the Commission d’accès à l’information and, in the event of such a scenario, wait several months before they can attend their hearing.

In March 2023 the Quebec Environmental Law Centre and over 80 organizations and public personalities signed an open letter asking the Government to implement this register in the following 30 days. Unfortunately, this request went unheeded.

Given the above, my question to the Minister is the following: when does the Government intend to implement the public register, which has been provided under section 118.5 of the *Environment Quality Act* for the past 5 years?

(47) Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) – **26 September 2023**  
To the Minister of Health

In August, in collaboration with the Association des chirurgiens-dentistes du Québec, I proposed some solutions to the Minister of Higher Education and the Minister of Health to address the shortage of dentists and dental hygienists and improve access to dental care in the regions. Lack of dental care is a burden on an increasing number of Quebecers, in particular those living in the regions. Long wait times and significant distances between patients and the nearest dental clinic interfere with access to care.

To address the shortage of dentists and dental hygienists, we propose the following measures:

- That the Québec government address the labour shortage in oral health care by attracting new employees in the field of dental medicine to the regions where services are lacking, and that it do so by implementing the financial incentives provided for in the framework agreement with the MSSS for dentists working in remote regions;
- That the Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur dedicate a number of spaces primarily for candidates from the regions affected by the shortage in the admission criteria of university dental medicine programs;
- That the Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur increase and support dental hygiene training in CEGEPs to better serve all of Québec;
- That the Government forgive the debts of dental medicine and dental hygiene students who choose to practise in rural and remote regions, and that dental hygiene students have access to incentives such as the Québec Perspective Scholarship program.

My question is the following: does the Minister of Health support these measures, and will his department implement those under its jurisdiction shortly?

(48) Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) – **26 September 2023**  
To the Minister of Higher Education

In August, in collaboration with the Association des chirurgiens-dentistes du Québec, I proposed some solutions to the Minister of Higher Education and the Minister of Health to address the shortage of dentists and dental hygienists and improve access to dental care in the regions. Lack of dental care is a burden on an increasing number of Quebecers, in particular those living in the regions. Long wait times and significant distances between patients and the nearest dental clinic interfere with access to care.

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- That the Government forgive the debts of dental medicine and dental hygiene students who choose to practise in rural and remote regions, and that dental hygiene students have access to incentives such as the Québec Perspective Scholarship program.

My question is the following: does the Minister of Higher Education support these measures, and will her department implement those under its jurisdiction shortly?

- (49) Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) – **26 September 2023**  
To the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility

The Côte-Nord region is geographically isolated and the ferry service is unpredictable. There are often long lines to take the ferry and the congestion must be improved. This is a major development issue for the Côte-Nord region. There is a regional consensus on the project to build a bridge over the Saguenay River, but the Québec government has been slow to present its studies and confirm its real intentions with respect to this project.

My question is the following: does the Québec government intend to build a bridge over the Saguenay River and, if so, what is the timeframe for its completion?

- (50) Mme Maccarone (Westmount–Saint-Louis) – **27 September 2023**  
To the Minister of Public Security

On 18 September, Radio-Canada revealed that between 2017 and August 2023, a total of 112 kg of fentanyl had been seized at the border and within Canada—enough to kill 56 million people.

In Montréal, in a single day, on 10 September 2023, 9 people had to be taken to hospital for overdoses potentially linked to fentanyl.

According to the Public Health Agency of Canada, 541 Quebecers died from an opioid overdose in 2022; according to Health Canada, fentanyl has been involved in 75% of overdose deaths since 2016. More than 350 criminal groups could now be active in the fentanyl market in the country, according to a memo from Public Safety Canada.

This data clearly illustrates the magnitude of the fentanyl trade and the overdose crisis that is affecting the country. In this context, my questions to the Minister of Public Security are the following:

1. Can the Minister provide the data and studies that he has on the prevalence, production and illegal trade of fentanyl in Québec?
2. What measures do the Québec government, the Ministère de la Sécurité publique and the Sureté du Québec currently have in place to fight the production and illegal trafficking of fentanyl in Québec?



3. Can the Minister provide a timeline and a summary of the concrete actions he intends to take to fight the increased trafficking and prevalence of fentanyl and to protect the health of Quebecers?

(51) Mr. Marissal (Rosemont)— **27 September 2023**  
To the Minister of Health

In June 2021, Health Canada approved Trikafta, a breakthrough medicine to treat people living with cystic fibrosis.

Cystic fibrosis is the most common fatal disease affecting Canadian children and young adults. It causes various effects on the body, but mainly affects the digestive system and lungs. The disease's persistence and chronic lung infection eventually lead to death in the majority of people with the disease.

A Canadian study published in the *Journal of Cystic Fibrosis* found that access to Trikafta as of 2021 would result in considerable health benefits for Canadians with the disease. By 2030, Trikafta could reduce the number of people living with severe lung disease by 60% and the number of deaths by 15%.

Health Canada's approval of Trikafta means that physicians can now prescribe the drug to their cystic fibrosis patients.

The RAMQ ensures the drug's reimbursement since September 2021, and in April 2022 Health Canada's approval was extended to children 6 to 11 years of age.

Obstacles still remain, however, as children 2 to 5 years of age await Health Canada's review on the use of Trikafta and the cost of deductibles for the drug remain excessive for families.

My question to the Minister of Health is the following: Does he intend to act in order to reduce the cost of deductibles related to medications such as Trikafta, and is he keeping an eye out for the response from Health Canada in order to ensure the shortest delay in accessibility to the drug, should its use be extended to 2 to 5-year-olds?

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**