



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Order Paper and Notices **of the Assembly**

Wednesday, 25 October 2023 – No. 72
Nine forty a.m.

President of the National Assembly:
Madam Nathalie Roy

Part 1
ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

- The Member for Joliette on the following subject: *The 65th anniversary of Harnois Énergies, a local business.*
- The Member for Robert-Baldwin on the following subject: *The Sober October challenge.*
- The Member for Saint-François on the following subject: *Tribute to Ms. Georgette Roy, very active and helpful at 88 years of age.*
- The Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve on the following subject: *The 40th anniversary of the ACEF.*
- The Member for Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré on the following subject: *A local artist recognized near and far.*
- The Member for Vaudreuil on the following subject: *Tribute to a distinguished artist and involved citizen of our community, Mr. Bernard Séguin-Poirier.*
- The Member for Laval-des-Rapides on the following subject: *Underline the volunteer work of Mr. Claude Mercier in the field of sports.*
- The Member for Vimont on the following subject: *Latin American Heritage Month and the Latin American community of Laval.*
- The Member for Beauharnois on the following subject: *Congratulations to the Fondation des Ressources Alternatives du Sud-Ouest.*
- The Member for Roberval on the following subject: *Tribute to the Trappist monks.*
- The Member for Taillon on the following subject: *Gathering of Aire ouverte.*
- The Member for Duplessis on the following subject: *Tribute to the recipients of the Gala du mérite touristique in the Côte-Nord.*

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO PETITIONS

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

ORAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DEFERRED DIVISIONS

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

NOTICES OF PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEES

INFORMATION ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Part 2

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUSINESS HAVING PRECEDENCE

URGENT DEBATES

DEBATES ON REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

OTHER BUSINESS

I. Government Bills

Passage in Principle

- (1) Bill 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
Report from the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources (consultations) tabled on **24 October 2023**
- (2) 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**
- (3) Bill 35
Act respecting the implementation of certain provisions of the Budget Speech of 21 March 2023 and amending other provisions
Introduced by the Minister of Finance on **5 October 2023**

Committee Stage

- (4) 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
- (5) 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
Passed in principle on **27 September 2023**, and
Referred to the Committee on Transportation and the Environment
- (6) 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
- (7) 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
- (8) 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

- (9) Bill 36
Opioid-related Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act
Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Social Services on 5 October 2023
Passed in principle on **17 October 2023**, and
Referred to the Committee on Citizen Relations

Report Stage

Passage

- (10) 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
Passed in principle on 27 September 2023
Report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy adopted on **24 October 2023**

II. Private Members' Public Bills

Passage in Principle

- (11) 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**
- (12) 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**
- (13) 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**

- (14) 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**
- (15) 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**
- (16) 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**
- (17) 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**
- (18) 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**
- (19) Bill 199
An Act to better protect consumers against abusive credit contracts
Introduced by the Member for Saint-Laurent on **23 February 2023**
- (20) 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**

- (21) 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**
- (22) 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**
- (23) Bill 393
An Act to combat food waste
Introduced by the Member for Verdun on **6 April 2023**
- (24) 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**
- (25) 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**
- (26) 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**

- (27) 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**
- (28) 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**
- (29) 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**
- (30) Bill 492
An Act to combat waste
Introduced by the Member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine on **18 April 2023**
- (31) Bill 493
An Act to amend the Québec Immigration Act to take temporary residents into account for immigration planning purposes
Introduced by the Member for Nelligan on **10 May 2023**
- (32) Bill 494
An Act to amend the Civil Code to render without effect the clauses of a lease of a dwelling tending to prohibit companion animals
Introduced by the Member for Laurier-Dorion on **25 May 2023**
- (33) Bill 495
Anti-Farm Land Grabbing Act
Introduced by the Member for Verdun on **26 September 2023**
- (34) 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**
- (35) Bill 499
An Act to establish a new electoral system
Introduced by the Member for Jean-Lesage on **5 October 2023**

- (36) Bill 593
An Act to amend the Civil Code to prohibit evictions carried out with a view to converting a dwelling into short-term tourist accommodation
Introduced by the Member for Mille-Îles on **4 October 2023**
- (37) Bill 595
An Act to proclaim Québec Perinatal Bereavement Awareness Day
Introduced by the Member for Ms. McGraw (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) on **5 October 2023**
- (38) Bill 596
An Act amending mainly the Act respecting land use planning and development so that municipalities may adopt a differentiated zoning by-law aimed at increasing and sustaining the supply of social housing or affordable housing
Introduced by the Member for Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles) on **24 October 2023**

Committee Stage

- (39) 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

- (40) 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

(41) 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

(42) 24 October 2023

Motion moved by the Member for Mille-îles

THAT the National Assembly acknowledge that differentiated zoning
can ensure a faster return on investment for social and community housing
projects in Québec and therefore increase their number and pace of
construction;

THAT, to promote more housing for citizens, it ask the CAQ
government to take the necessary legislative measures for municipalities
to implement differentiated zoning for social and community housing
projects.

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 in compliance with the Standing Orders

Interpellation:

- By the Member for Maurice-Richard to the Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy on the following subject: *The CAQ government's lack of transparency as regards the battery industry* (Notice given on 19 October 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 203**, An Act respecting the objects and powers of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Montreal (Order of reference given on 19 April 2023).

COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN RELATIONS

Orders of reference

Special Consultations :

- **Bill 36**, Opioid-related Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act (Order of reference given on 17 October 2023).

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 36**, Opioid-related Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act (Order of reference given on 17 October 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

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 22**, An Act respecting expropriation (Order of reference given on 27 September 2023).

Part 5

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Questions already placed on the Order Paper
are published each Wednesday

(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.

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

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- 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 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?

(52) Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) – **28 September 2023**
To the Minister of Health

I have called on the Minister of Health for years now with regard to the implementation of hemodialysis services in the Matanie and Matapédia regions, services that are vital to the citizens of my riding. Unfortunately, they must travel more than a hundred kilometres, three times a week, to access these services. We are talking about an hour-long trip each way. The financial consequences are significant, as is the impact on the health, security and families of patients.

In eastern Québec, only the Matanie and Matapédia regions do not have access to such a service. Rivière-du-Loup and Rimouski to the west and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts and Maria to the east do have access to hemodialysis services. Patients in the Matanie and Matapédia regions are therefore the only ones who must travel so far to obtain this essential care.

Not only does the current situation have a direct impact on the quality of the services provided to patients, but it once again illustrates the disparity and inequality in the provision of health care to patients in the regions, such as those in the Matanie and the Matapédia.

My questions are the following:

- Why has no hemodialysis service been implemented in these two regions?
- Will the Ministère de la Santé implement hemodialysis services in hospital centres for the residents of the Matanie and Matapédia regions and, if so, what is its timeframe to do so?

(53) Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) – **28 September 2023**
To the Minister of Health

Currently, multidisciplinary councils bring together all the technicians and professionals who exercise functions directly related to health services, social services, research or teaching (excluding physicians, dentists, nurses and midwives) and their primary mandate is to give opinions and make recommendations directly to the board of directors and the president and executive director of their health institution. The tabling of Bill 15, An Act to make the health and social services system more effective, in particular with the creation of the Santé Québec agency, will bring a paradigm shift to the health and social services field. The bill will have a direct impact on the participative management of all the network's technicians and professionals.

The bill as it is currently introduced proposes that all the professional councils, in particular the multidisciplinary councils, now issue their opinions and recommendations to the interdisciplinary council for the evaluation of trajectories and clinical organization, which will include physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurses and representatives of the two multidisciplinary councils. This interdisciplinary council would henceforth be the main body mandated to make recommendations directly to the president and executive director of a health institution.

However, as an essential part of direct services to users, the multidisciplinary councils currently allow professionals in the field to express themselves directly to administrators, in order to contribute and positively influence the decisions regarding the services offered and the best practices to put forward. This makes it possible to avoid intermediaries and ensure the neutrality and independence necessary for the opinions and recommendations submitted by the multidisciplinary council.

Inclusion of those professionals in the field and their expertise in an interdisciplinary council formalizes in the structure the direct link with the president and executive director and the departments concerned. However, it is important that multidisciplinary councils be able to report to the president and executive directors of the institution councils in order to ensure independence and neutrality in their mandates. The multidisciplinary councils act as a real filter for health professionals' recommendations to the president and executive director of their institution. Clearly, continuity must be preserved in the current consultation model.

My questions are the following:

- Does the Minister recognize that, through the multidisciplinary councils currently established—consisting of professionals in the field at each institution—significant interprofessional collaboration is already present and useful in the network?
- Is the Minister open to the existing councils that are currently multidisciplinary reporting directly to the president and executive director?

(55) Mr. Grandmont (Taschereau) – **3 October 2023**

To the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility

The Ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable as well as Ville de Longueuil have been questioned several times by citizen groups on the noise barrier project, which would run parallel to Route 116, along Rue Raoul in the borough of Saint-Hubert.

Following an information session about the project held on 29 June 2023, Ville de Longueuil tried to convince its citizens they had to put their health on the line so that it could recover the sums planned for the noise barrier for the construction of parks, soccer fields and a bike path along Route 116. Furthermore, the only solution to carry out the noise barrier project would be a proposed sectorial tax targeting only 265 homes.

Twenty-five years have gone by since 1998, and neither the Ministère nor Ville de Longueuil seem to be taking the situation seriously. During phase I in 2014, which was a pilot project and to which the Ministère financially contributed, the residents affected did not have to pay a sectorial tax.

The Ministère has a policy on road noise that includes a corrective approach and an integrated planning approach. Regarding the noise barrier along Route 116, the Ministère is responsible for carrying out corrective measures, as it is the one that transformed Boulevard Sir Wilfrid-Laurier into Route 116, resulting in an increase in traffic. Future work on Autoroute 30 will also have an impact on the traffic flow of Route 116. It is in this regard that the Ministère is responsible for integrated planning.

Lastly, it seems that ever since the election of the CAQ government, the Ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable has refused to revise its share of funding of 50%, whereas other municipalities received up to 75% in funding. In that respect, citizen committees will be submitting an access to information request on the financial breakdown of all noise barriers built since 2018.

These committees suggested many ideas to Ville de Longueuil and the Ministère, namely:

- Build the barrier over many phases;
- Seek funding from the federal government as well as private businesses established along Route 116, since they contribute to noise pollution;
- Reduce the speed of traffic in the affected residential sector;
- Self-finance the barrier through advertising billboards;
- Demand a contribution from CN, which is also responsible for noise pollution; and
- Following the increase in the costs of living and construction, perhaps review the Ministère's policy on the construction of noise barriers.

The World Health Organization and the Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ) ruled that noise was a public health issue and that it has detrimental effects on the well-being and health of individuals. Given the current situation, both the Ministère and Ville de Longueuil appear to be contesting this notion, despite the INSPQ's definition being very clear.

My questions to the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility are the following:

- Why has no common budgetary solution between the Ministère and Ville de Longueuil been submitted following the recent granting of a loan by-law?
- Has the Ministère received a grant application from Ville de Longueuil under the *Act respecting the Société de financement des infrastructures locales du Québec* (c. S-11.0102)?

- If noise is universally considered a public health issue, why must 265 homes bear the costs for the health of the entire population of the neighbourhood? Does public health not fall under provincial jurisdiction?
- Why does the Ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable not increase the funding it allocates to municipalities (75%) to reduce the impact of noise on its own national roads, such as Route 116?

(56) Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) – **17 October 2023**

To the Premier

The Abitibi-Témiscamingue region is represented by three Coalition avenir Québec Members, namely the Member for Abitibi-Est, the Member for Abitibi-Ouest, and the Member for Rouyn-Noranda-Témiscamingue.

My question is the following:

Why is the minister responsible for the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region not an elected Member from this region, as is the case for other regions of Québec?

(57) Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) – **17 October 2023**

To the Premier

The Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine region is represented by two Coalition avenir Québec Members, namely the Member for Gaspé and the Member for Bonaventure.

My question is the following:

Why is the minister responsible for the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine region not an elected Member from this region, as is the case for other regions of Québec?

(58) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) – **17 October 2023**

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

On 22 December 2021, the Government adopted a regulation to increase the daily nickel standard from 14 ng/m³ to 70 ng/m³, five times the previous standard.

On 28 April 2022, despite increased citizen mobilization and numerous experts and groups voicing their opinion against it, the new standard came into effect. The researcher mandated by the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte aux changements climatiques to assess the change in standard proposed a daily standard of 40 ng/m³. However, the Minister opted instead for a 70 ng/m³ standard—almost double that proposed by the researcher—claiming that this was a threshold value, rather than a target value.

On 17 December 2022, the Vieux-Limoilou station recorded 120 ng/m³ of nickel (171% of the 70 ng/m³ standard).

On 29 December 2022, the Vieux-Limoilou station recorded 130 ng/m³ of nickel (186% of the standard).

On 6 January 2023, 151 ng/m³ of nickel were recorded, still at the Vieux-Limoilou station (216% of the standard).

On 23 March 2023, the Ministère sent a nickel concentration graph to the members of the Comité de vigilance des activités portuaires (CVAP). This graph shows several instances where the new nickel standard was exceeded between June 2022 and January 2023.

On 13 April 2023, during a CVAP meeting, an officer of the Ministère made a presentation on the presence of nickel in ambient air. The two December 2022 exceedances were discussed in the presence of the director of community relations of the Port of Québec.

On 29 August 2023, the CEO of the Port of Québec, Mr. Mario Girard, the Minister of the Environment, and the mayor of Ville de Québec, Mr. Bruno Marchand, held a press conference on air quality in the city of Québec's downtown area.

- At this press conference, the CEO of the Port of Québec stated that there had been no exceedances of the nickel standard during the previous year. However, the minutes of the 13 April CVAP meeting prove that this statement is false.
- The Minister of the Environment did not deny the Port of Québec CEO's assertion, even though his own department notified the CVAP in April of several instances where the nickel standard was exceeded.

On 21 September 2023, Québec solidaire tabled the minutes of the 13 April 2023 meeting of the CVAP and demanded answers from the Government.

During Question Period, the Leader of the Second Opposition Group confronted the Premier with proof that the Ministère de l'Environnement was aware of the exceedances of the nickel standard in Limoilou between June and December 2022. The proof was the minutes of the 13 April 2023 CVAP meeting, during which the Ministère informed the Port of Québec of these exceedances.

The Minister of the Environment finally confirmed that he was aware of the exceedances, but that since the question had not been put to him directly at the 29 August press conference, he had not seen fit to contradict the Port of Québec's claims.

Lastly, the information we have thus far – reported in the media – is that the Minister of the Environment has not yet sent any notices of non-compliance or fines to the Port of Québec for the three exceedances that occurred in December 2022 and January 2023.

In light of the information brought to the attention of the Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change, I would like him to answer the following questions:

1. To date, has the Minister sent notices of non-compliance or fines to the Port of Québec or the companies transshipping nickel on the Port of Québec grounds, or to both, for the three above-mentioned exceedances?
2. If not, why does the Minister not enforce the nickel standard he himself introduced?
3. According to the Minister, what is the difference between a target value and a threshold value?
4. Is the nickel standard of 70 ng/m³ a threshold value?
5. Does the Minister believe that the three nickel exceedances in December 2022 and January are attributable to the Glencore company's nickel transshipment operations (note that the company itself acknowledges its responsibility, citing hardware failure)?

- (59) Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) – **17 October 2023**
To the Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy

On 28 September 2023, the Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy announced the Northvolt project, continuing his series of announcements related to the battery industry. We support the implementation of such an industry in Québec, insofar as the batteries can play a role in reducing greenhouse gases emissions (GHGs) in Québec.

To do this, however, the development of the battery industry must be part of a broader strategy expressly and explicitly aimed at reducing GHGs. As we know, replacing every conventional vehicle in Québec with an electric car is not a solution to the ecological crisis, as half a car's ecological impact is tied to its construction. This is all the more true for electric vehicles, whose batteries require considerable quantities of resources and energy.

If the batteries we manufacture are not used here, if they are installed in large vehicles such as Hummers, if they are recharged on power grids that are still hydrocarbon-fuelled, or if they are only used to manufacture new vehicles to add to the existing fleet, rather than as a replacement, then I'm afraid this industry will not help reduce GHGs, either here or elsewhere.

My question is the following:

What is the specific GHG reduction target for the battery industry in Québec? What measures, conditions or strategies does the Minister intend to implement to ensure that the batteries we manufacture will truly help reduce GHGs?

- (60) Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) – **17 October 2023**
To the Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks

On 25 September 2023, Thomas Gerbet of Radio-Canada published an article announcing the Government's intention to not include "plexes" or houses in its future bill to rate buildings according to their energy performance. Indeed, the office of the Minister has confirmed that the bill will apply to institutional, commercial and multi-unit residential buildings.

However, energy efficiency in buildings is one of Québec's major environmental challenges, with buildings accounting for 10% of our GHG emissions. By including smaller dwellings, the rating system would cover a wider range of buildings and make it possible to achieve better energy efficiency more quickly.

My question is the following:

In a context where the Government is seeking to increase Québec's energy power, how can the Minister explain his decision to not include "plexes" or houses in the energy performance rating system?

(61) Ms. Lakhoyan Olivier (Chomedey) – **18 October 2023**
To the Minister of Tourism

Ms. Emmanuelle Legault, President and CEO of the Palais des congrès de Montréal, warned the Québec government of the consequences that await the Palais if its expansion project does not go ahead.

She wrote that the status quo condemns the Palais to a slow marginalization and a significant decrease in economic benefits generated, jobs created and tax revenues for the governments.

If nothing is done, the Palais could become a "second-class" centre, which would make the metropolis less attractive for international events, according to the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal.

This year alone, between January and July, the Palais des congrès de Montréal had to refuse 52 requests for conferences and events due to a "lack of availability or space".

Given that the Québec government has already spent over \$20 million to expropriate the required land east of Rue Saint-Urbain, can the Minister tell us how she intends to follow up on the President and CEO of the Palais des congrès de Montréal's appeal?

(62) Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke) – **24 October 2023**

To the Minister of Higher Education

In February 2023, during the 38th meeting of the caucus of the Quebec Student Union, the Minister of Higher Education expressed her intention to consult the student community for the purpose of leading a reform on student financial assistance.

In light of this, my questions are the following: who in the Ministère is responsible for this consultation, what is its timeframe, what are the terms of participation, and what is the precise mandate of the consultation?

(63) Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) – **24 October 2023**

To the Minister of the French Language

The 2022–2023 annual management report of the Ministère de la Langue française shows, on page 29, its expenditures by sector of activity.

According to the report, the 2022–2023 expenditure budget of the Secrétariat à la promotion et à la valorisation de la langue française was set at \$24.2 million and the expected expenditures for 31 March 2023 stood at \$18.7 million.

Can the Minister shed some light on the reasons why nearly \$5.5 million do not appear to have been invested, given the importance of promoting and valuing the French language?

(64) Mr. Derraji (Nelligan) – **24 October 2023**

To the Minister of Immigration, Francization and Integration

An article from the Le Devoir newspaper, published on 20 October 2023, indicated that immigration files can sit for up to four years on the shelves of the federal department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

Can the Minister inform us on the number of Québec files awaiting processing, as well as give us a breakdown by category, immigration program and waiting period in years?

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)** An Act respecting the Commissioner for Children's Well-Being and Rights – *Minister Responsible for Social Services*