



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Tuesday, 31 October 2023 — No. 74

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

The Assembly was called to order at 1:40 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Members

Ms. Prass (D'Arcy-McGee) made a statement to underline Children's Grief Awareness Day.

Ms. Gendron (Châteauguay) made a statement to congratulate the award recipients of the Gala Reconnaissance of the Chambre de commerce et d'industrie du Grand Roussillon.

Mr. Grandmont (Taschereau) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Benoit Gervais.

Mr. Lévesque (Chauveau) made a statement to congratulate the Club de Canoë-Kayak Lac-Beauport athletes who won medals at the Canada National Championships.

Ms. Lachance (Bellechasse) made a statement to congratulate the members of the organizing committee of the Senior AAA Bellechasse hockey club.

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Ms. Dorismond (Marie-Victorin) made a statement to underline the inauguration of new premises by the organization Académie Zénith.

Mr. Lemieux (Saint-Jean) made a statement to underline the military parade to be held on 11 November in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu.

Ms. Charest (Brome-Missisquoi) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Léon Courville.

Ms. Déry (Repentigny) made a statement to underline the 25th anniversary of the organization PANDA de la MRC L'Assomption.

Mr. Lefebvre (Arthabaska) made a statement to congratulate La Balade Gourmande, winner of a Global Culinary Travel Award.

At 1:52 p.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 2:02 p.m.

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At the request of the President, the Assembly observed a moment of silence in memory of Mr. René Serge Larouche, former Member for Anjou.

Presenting Papers

Mr. Lacombe, Minister of Culture and Communications, tabled the following:

The 2022–2023 annual report of the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts;
(Sessional Paper No. 1048-20231031)

The 2023–2027 strategic plan of the Société de télédiffusion du Québec.
(Sessional Paper No. 1049-20231031)

Mr. Caire, Deputy Government House Leader, tabled the following:

The reply to a written question from Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun) on the register provided under section 118.5 of the *Environment Quality Act* – Question No. 46, *Order Paper and Notices* of 21 September 2023;
(Sessional Paper No. 1050-20231031)

The reply to a written question from Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) on the project to build a bridge over the Saguenay River – Question No. 49, *Order Paper and Notices* of 26 September 2023;
(Sessional Paper No. 1051-20231031)

The reply to a written question from Ms. Maccarone (Westmount–Saint-Louis) on the fight against the increased trafficking and prevalence of fentanyl – Question No. 50, *Order Paper and Notices* of 27 September 2023;
(Sessional Paper No. 1052-20231031)

The reply to a written question from Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) on the minister responsible for the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region – Question No. 56, *Order Paper and Notices* of 17 October 2023;
(Sessional Paper No. 1053-20231031)

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The reply to a written question from Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) on the minister responsible for the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine region – Question No. 57, *Order Paper and Notices* of 17 October 2023;

(Sessional Paper No. 1054-20231031)

The Government's reply to a petition tabled on 13 September 2023 by Ms. Prass (D'Arcy-McGee) on a request to amend the regulations on international adoption;

(Sessional Paper No. 1055-20231031)

The Government's reply to a petition tabled on 20 September 2023 by Mr. Asselin (Vanier-Les Rivières) on choosing spouses' names after a marital union.

(Sessional Paper No. 1056-20231031)

The President tabled the following:

A copy of the notice of motion by Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) to be placed on the *Order Paper and Notices* of Wednesday, 1 November 2023 under Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition.

(Sessional Paper No. 1057-20231031)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

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Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Grandmont (Taschereau), together with Mr. Lacombe, Minister of Culture and Communications, Ms. Setlakwe (Mont-Royal–Outremont), Mr. Paradis (Jean-Talon), Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) and Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys), moved:

THAT the National Assembly highlight the recognition of the Augustines' Archives in the UNESCO Memory of the World International Register;

THAT it recognize the international benefit and immeasurable value of the Augustines' material heritage;

THAT, lastly, the National Assembly applaud the dedication, strength and leadership of these women, who are committed to passing on our collective memory to future generations.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia), together with Mr. Leduc, House Leader of the Second Opposition Group, moved:

THAT the National Assembly ask McGill University to continue contributing to efforts to protect the French language in Québec by maintaining its \$50-million investment in the implementation of its French-language teaching program for students, professors and staff, with the stated goal of helping members of McGill's university community to integrate fully into Québec society.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Dubé, Minister of Health, together with Mr. Fortin (Pontiac), Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage), Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine), Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) and Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys), moved:

THAT the National Assembly recall the major imbalance in the financing of the health network;

THAT it recall that Québec has exclusive jurisdiction over its health sector and is entitled to demand unconditional compensation for any new federal program;

THAT it endorse the approach initiated by the Québec government, supported by eight other Canadian provinces and the Yukon, to oppose the federal government's intention to draft a letter of reinterpretation of the *Canada Health Act*;

THAT it call on the federal government to do its fair share in funding the health network, without imposing conditions;

THAT it ask the federal government to quickly reach an agreement with the Québec government.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

Ms. McGraw (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce), together with Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun), Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine), Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) and Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys), moved a motion on the compliance inspections carried out by the Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 84.1 and pursuant to Standing Order 146, Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved:

THAT the National Assembly give effect to the order of reference given to the Committee on Institutions to hold special consultations and public hearings on the 2015–2019 report on the implementation of the *Code of ethics and conduct of the Members of the National Assembly* entitled “Incursion au cœur du code d’éthique et de déontologie : de la théorie à la pratique”, tabled by the President of the National Assembly on 5 December 2019, and on Tuesday, 21 November 2023 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. and after Notices of Proceedings in Committees from approximately 3:15 p.m. to 7:35 p.m.;

THAT, for this purpose, the Committee hear the following individuals and organizations:

- Ms. Ariane Mignolet, Ethics Commissioner
- Institut d’éthique appliquée, Université Laval
- Ms. Marie Deschamps, National Assembly
Jurisconsult
- Lobbyists Commissioner
- Chaire de management éthique, HEC
- Mr. Yves Boisvert, ÉNAP
- Cercle des ex-parlementaires de l’Assemblée
nationale du Québec;

THAT a period of 12 minutes be set aside for opening statements, allocated as follows: 6 minutes to the parliamentary group forming the Government, 3 minutes 36 seconds to the Official Opposition, 1 minute 12 seconds to the Second Opposition Group and 1 minute 12 seconds to the independent Member;

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THAT a period of 120 minutes be set aside for Ms. Ariane Mignolet, Ethics Commissioner, with 20 minutes set aside for the presentation and 100 minutes set aside for the exchange with the Committee members, allocated as follows: 50 minutes to the parliamentary group forming the Government, 30 minutes to the Official Opposition, 10 minutes to the Second Opposition Group and 10 minutes to the independent Member;

THAT a period of 60 minutes be set aside for the hearing of Ms. Marie Deschamps, National Assembly Jurisconsult, with 10 minutes set aside for the presentation and 50 minutes set aside for the exchange with the Committee members, allocated as follows: 25 minutes to the parliamentary group forming the Government, 15 minutes to the Official Opposition, 5 minutes to the Second Opposition Group and 5 minutes to the independent Member;

THAT, for the other groups, the presentation by each organization last no longer than 10 minutes and the exchange with the Committee members last no longer than 35 minutes, allocated as follows: 17 minutes 30 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Government, 10 minutes 30 seconds to the Official Opposition, 3 minutes 30 seconds to the Second Opposition Group and 3 minutes 30 seconds to the independent Member;

THAT a 5-minute interval be scheduled between discussions with each individual or organization.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, convened the following committees:

- the Committee on Culture and Education, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 23, An Act to amend mainly the Education Act and to enact the Act respecting the Institut national d'excellence en éducation;

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- the Committee on Health and Social Services, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 15, An Act to make the health and social services system more effective;
- the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 31, An Act to amend various legislative provisions with respect to housing;
- the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 22, An Act respecting expropriation.

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

- the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources shall hold deliberative meetings to discuss the possibility of carrying out orders of initiative on the adaptation of forest management to climate change and on the future of Québec's public forests;
- the Committee on Citizen Relations shall hold a deliberative meeting to discuss the possibility of examining a petition on the support offered to parents of disabled children with exceptional care needs.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, informed the Assembly that on Wednesday, 1 November 2023, during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, a debate would be held on the motion moved by Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent).

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This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly acknowledge that the proposed changes to tuition fees for out-of-province Canadian students will decrease the economic benefits generated by their presence in Québec, hinder the development of certain Québec universities and promote the growth of universities elsewhere in Canada, notably in Toronto;

THAT it note that no impact study supports this decision and that it is unreasonable for the Government to claim that this measure will help recover additional sums to fund the university network;

THAT, lastly, it ask the CAQ government to reconsider this measure.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Report Stage

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Citizen Relations on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 36, Opioid-related Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act, together with the amendment transmitted by Ms. Prass (D'Arcy-McGee).

The amendment was declared in order.

After debate thereon, by leave of the Assembly, Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, read the text of the amendment before the question was put on the amendment.

The amendment was negatived.

The report was concurred in.

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At 3:36 p.m., at the request of Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 6:30 p.m.

Debates upon Adjournment

At 6:30 p.m., the Assembly held two debates upon adjournment:

- the first, on a question from Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) to Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, about energy allocation criteria for industrial projects. Mr. Bonnardel, Minister of Public Security, replaced the Minister for this debate;
- the second, on a question from Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) to Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, about amounts for public transit in the economic update. Mr. Bonnardel, Minister of Public Security, replaced the Minister for this debate.

At 6:56 p.m., Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 1 November 2023 at 9:40 a.m.

ROYAL ASSENT

On Friday, 27 October 2023, at 9:35 a.m. in the Office of the Lieutenant-Governor, in the presence of Mr. Skeete, Minister for the Economy and Delegate of the Premier, and of Ms. Aubé,ittings and Parliamentary Procedure Advisor and Delegate of the Secretary General, the Honourable J. Michel Doyon, Lieutenant-Governor of Québec, was pleased to assent to the following bill:

- 17 An Act to amend various provisions for the main purpose of reducing regulatory and administrative burden

NATHALIE ROY

President

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