



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 8 November 2023 — No. 78

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

The Assembly was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Members

Mr. St-Louis (Joliette) made a statement to underline the 20th anniversary of Matinées Lanaudoises.

Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles) made a statement to underline the 40th anniversary of the organization Groupe de Loisirs La Relance.

Ms. Hébert (Saint-François) made a statement to underline the 35th anniversary of the Coalition sherbrookoise pour le travail de rue.

Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of the Association pour la Défense des Droits Sociaux du Montréal Métropolitain.

Ms. Bourassa (Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré) made a statement to pay tribute to Canadian soldiers.

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Mr. Kelley (Jacques-Cartier) made a statement to congratulate the Pointe-Claire Oldtimers hockey league for their fundraising to benefit West Island community organizations.

Ms. Bogemans (Iberville) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Yvan Pinsonneault.

Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) made a statement to underline the 105th birthday of Ms. Yvette Renaud.

Ms. Tremblay (Hull) made a statement to underline the 25th anniversary of the École du Plateau elementary school.

Mr. Chassin (Saint-Jérôme) made a statement to underline the gala held to benefit the Fondation André-Boudreau.

Ms. Fréchette (Sanguinet) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. Margaux Belot and Mr. Samuel Leclerc.

Mr. Jolin-Barrette (Borduas) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. Guylaine Vachon.

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At 9:55 a.m., Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 10:04 a.m.

Moment of reflection

Presenting Papers

Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Government House Leader, tabled the following:

The reply to a written question from Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) on access to dental care – Question No. 47, *Order Paper and Notices* of 26 September 2023;
(Sessional Paper No. 1074-20231108)

The reply to a written question from Mr. Marissal (Rosemont) on the cost of deductibles related to certain medications – Question No. 51, *Order Paper and Notices* of 27 September 2023;
(Sessional Paper No. 1075-20231108)

The reply to a written question from Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) on access to hemodialysis services – Question No. 52, *Order Paper and Notices* of 28 September 2023;
(Sessional Paper No. 1076-20231108)

The reply to a written question from Mr. Grandmont (Taschereau) on the construction of a noise barrier along Route 116 – Question No. 55, *Order Paper and Notices* of 3 October 2023.
(Sessional Paper No. 1077-20231108)

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Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

At the request of the President, Mr. Derraji, Official Opposition House Leader, withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

Motions Without Notice

Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard), together with Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé), Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia), Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) and Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys), moved a motion on the terms of the loan from the Government to the company Northvolt; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia), together with Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé), Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard), Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) and Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys), moved a motion on the development of the battery industry; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Lafrenière, Minister Responsible for Relations with the First Nations and the Inuit, together with Mr. Morin (Acadie), Ms. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques), Mr. St-Pierre Plamondon, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) and Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys), moved:

THAT the National Assembly underline the contribution of Indigenous veterans on the occasion of their day, which is 8 November;

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THAT it also highlight the courage of the nearly 12,000 First Nations, Métis and Inuit men and women who served during the great conflicts of the 20th century;

THAT it pay tribute to the Indigenous veterans who have served the cause of freedom, justice and respect for human rights;

THAT it emphasize the fact that the Indigenous and Inuit peoples have had to overcome more challenges than others to wear a uniform because they have had to learn a new language, adapt to cultural differences and move away from their communities;

THAT, lastly, it observe a minute of silence so that we never forget our soldiers and veterans who died or were injured protecting democracy. Though they may have fallen, they will never be forgotten. I remember.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

At the request of Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, the Assembly observed a minute of silence.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Derraji, Official Opposition House Leader, together with Mr. Cliche-Rivard (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne), Mr. St-Pierre Plamondon, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) and Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys), moved:

THAT the National Assembly take note that the federal government has set an admission target of 6% for French-speaking immigrants outside Québec for 2024;

THAT it declare that this is clearly insufficient to promote the growth of French language in Canada;

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THAT, lastly, in solidarity with the Francophone communities of Canada and the Federation of Francophone and Acadian Communities of Canada, it ask the federal government to raise this target to 12% as early as 2024.

The question was put on this motion, and an electronic division was thereupon demanded.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **154** in Appendix)

Yeas: **111** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mr. Caire, 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;
- 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.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Report Stage

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 28, An Act to amend the Act respecting the marketing of agricultural, food and fish products and the Farm Producers Act.

After debate thereon, the report was concurred in.

At 11:30 a.m., at the request of Mr. Caire, Deputy Government House Leader, Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 3:00 p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 3:01 p.m.

Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard), moved:

THAT the National Assembly acknowledge the dramatic increase in food prices in Québec grocery stores;

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THAT it highlight that the Governor of the Bank of Canada recently stated, before a federal parliamentary committee, that he had noticed that in recent years, businesses are more likely to increase their prices, in particular in the grocery sector, and that consequently, “households are bearing the full inflationary impact much more”;

THAT it recall that on 26 July 2023, Statistics Canada noted that “rising margins at wholesalers and retailers all contributed to the steady increase in food prices”;

THAT, lastly, the National Assembly ask the Québec government to launch an inquiry into the profit margins of retailers in the grocery sector.

Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, informed the Assembly of the allocation of speaking time with respect to this limited debate: 10 minutes to the mover of the motion for his reply; 48 minutes 30 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Government; 23 minutes 37 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition; 28 minutes 53 seconds to the Second Opposition Group; 6 minute to the Third Opposition Group; and 1 minute 30 seconds to each independent Member. Within this framework, any time not used by the independent Members or by a parliamentary group shall be redistributed among the parliamentary groups in the proportions established above. Lastly, individual addresses shall not be limited.

A debate arose thereon.

During his address, Mr. Fortin (Pontiac) moved:

THAT the motion moved by Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) be amended as follows:

By adding the following paragraph after the third paragraph:

“THAT it ask the Québec government to produce a comprehensive portrait of the rising food costs across the entire production and supply chain, in order to explore possible solutions that may be proposed;”.

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The motion, as amended, would read as follows:

THAT the National Assembly acknowledge the dramatic increase in food prices in Québec grocery stores;

THAT it highlight that the Governor of the Bank of Canada recently stated, before a federal parliamentary committee, that he had noticed that in recent years, businesses are more likely to increase their prices, in particular in the grocery sector, and that consequently, “households are bearing the full inflationary impact much more”;

THAT it recall that on 26 July 2023, Statistics Canada noted that “rising margins at wholesalers and retailers all contributed to the steady increase in food prices”;

THAT it ask the Québec government to produce a comprehensive portrait of the rising food costs across the entire production and supply chain, in order to explore possible solutions that may be proposed;

THAT, lastly, the National Assembly ask the Québec government to launch an inquiry into the profit margins of retailers in the grocery sector.

The debate continued on the main motion moved by Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) and on the amendment motion moved by Mr. Fortin (Pontiac), subject to the permission of its author.

Pursuant to Standing Order 98.1, Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) accepted the amendment proposed by Mr. Fortin (Pontiac).

The debate being concluded, the question was put on this amendment motion, and an electronic division was thereupon demanded.

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At the request of Mr. Caire, Deputy Government House Leader, the divisions on the amendment motion proposed by Mr. Fortin (Pontiac) and on the motion moved by Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) were deferred until Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day.

Mr. Caire, Deputy Government House Leader, moved the adjournment of the Assembly until Thursday, 9 November 2023 at 9:40 a.m.

The motion was carried.

At 5:00 p.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 9 November 2023 at 9:40 a.m.

NATHALIE ROY

President

APPENDIX

Electronic Divisions

On the motion moved by Mr. Derraji, Official Opposition House Leader, together with Mr. Cliche-Rivard (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne), Mr. St-Pierre Plamondon, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) and Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys):

(Division No. 154)

YEAS - 111

Allaire (CAQ)	Cliche-Rivard (QS)	Jacques (CAQ)	Poulet (CAQ)
Arseneau (PQ)	D'Amours (CAQ)	Jeannotte (CAQ)	Poulin (CAQ)
Asselin (CAQ)	Derraji (QLP)	Jolin-Barrette (CAQ)	Prass (QLP)
Bachand (CAQ)	Déry (CAQ)	Julien (CAQ)	Provençal (CAQ)
Bélanger (CAQ)	Dionne (CAQ)	Kelley (QLP)	Reid (CAQ)
(Orford)	Dorismond (CAQ)	Labrie (QS)	Rivest (CAQ)
Bélanger (CAQ)	Drainville (CAQ)	Lachance (CAQ)	Roberge (CAQ)
(Prévost)	Dubé (CAQ)	Lacombe (CAQ)	Rotiroti (QLP)
Bernard (CAQ)	Dufour (CAQ)	Laforest (CAQ)	Rouleau (CAQ)
Bérubé (PQ)	(Abitibi-Est)	Laframboise (CAQ)	Roy (CAQ)
Biron (CAQ)	Dufour (QLP)	Lafrenière (CAQ)	Sainte-Croix (CAQ)
Blais (CAQ)	(Mille-Îles)	Lakhoyan Olivier (QLP)	Schmaltz (CAQ)
Blanchette Vézina (CAQ)	Duranceau (CAQ)	Lamontagne (CAQ)	Schneeberger (CAQ)
Bogemans (CAQ)	Émond (CAQ)	LeBel (CAQ)	Setlakwe (QLP)
Boivin Roy (CAQ)	Fitzgibbon (CAQ)	Lecours (CAQ)	Simard (CAQ)
Bonnardel (CAQ)	Fontecilla (QS)	(Les Plaines)	Skeete (CAQ)
Bouazzi (QS)	Fortin (QLP)	Lecours (CAQ)	St-Louis (CAQ)
Boulet (CAQ)	Fréchette (CAQ)	(Lotbinière-Frontenac)	St-Pierre Plamondon (PQ)
Bourassa (CAQ)	Gagnon (CAQ)	Leduc (QS)	Tanguay (QLP)
Bussière (CAQ)	Garceau (QLP)	Lefebvre (CAQ)	Tardif (CAQ)
Cadet (QLP)	Gendron (CAQ)	Lemay (CAQ)	Thouin (CAQ)
Caire (CAQ)	Ghazal (QS)	Lemieux (CAQ)	Tremblay (CAQ)
Carmant (CAQ)	Girard (CAQ)	Maccarone (QLP)	(Dubuc)
Caron (CAQ)	(Groulx)	Mallette (CAQ)	Tremblay (CAQ)
(Portneuf)	Girard (CAQ)	Martel (CAQ)	(Hull)
Caron (QLP)	(Lac-Saint-Jean)	Massé (QS)	Zaga Mendez (QS)
(La Pinière)	Grandmont (QS)	McGraw (QLP)	Zanetti (QS)
Champagne Jourdain (CAQ)	Grondin (CAQ)	Montigny (CAQ)	
Charest (CAQ)	Guilbault (CAQ)	Morin (QLP)	
Charette (CAQ)	Guillemette (CAQ)	Nichols (IND)	
Chassin (CAQ)	Haytayan (CAQ)	Paradis (PQ)	
Ciccone (QLP)	Hébert (CAQ)	Picard (CAQ)	