



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Order Paper and Notices

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 6 December 2023 – No. 88

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 great Joliette Christmas market.*
- The Member for Acadie on the following subject: *Celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Young Bar of Montreal.*
- The Member for Saint-François on the following subject: *Tribute to Mr. Yves Montour, the pride of the STS' paratransit services.*
- The Member for Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne on the following subject: *The 50th anniversary of Portage.*
- The Member for Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré on the following subject: *Ms. Johanne Leduc, a volunteer with a heart of gold.*
- The Member for Bourassa-Sauvé on the following subject: *Young medalists at the Québec Games.*
- The Member for Orford on the following subject: *Underline Villa Pierrot.*
- The Member for Jean-Talon on the following subject: *Applaud the entertainment offered in significant public places in the Jean-Talon riding during the holiday season.*
- The Member for Anjou–Louis-Riel on the following subject: *34th commemoration of the Polytechnique massacre of 6 December 1989.*
- The Member for Pointe-aux-Trembles on the following subject: *Underline the Université de Montréal Carabins' Vanier Cup victory.*
- The Member for Brome-Missisquoi on the following subject: *The 35th anniversary of the Association des personnes handicapées physiques de Brome-Missisquoi.*
- The Member for Borduas on the following subject: *Underline Mr. Normand L'Ecuyer's 35-year career.*

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO PETITIONS

**COMPLAINTS OF BREACH OF PRIVILEGE OR CONTEMPT AND
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ORAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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Part 2

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUSINESS HAVING PRECEDENCE

URGENT DEBATES

DEBATES ON REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

- (1) Report from the Committee on Public Administration, which met on 5 October and 7 November 2023 to hear 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 of Québec'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) and to hear 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 2 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). The report contains observations, conclusions and 8 recommendations.

Report tabled on **1 December 2023**

Subject to the provisions of the second paragraph of Standing Order 94, this report shall be taken into consideration not later than 16 December 2023.

OTHER BUSINESS

I. Government Bills

Passage in Principle

- (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 37
An Act respecting the Commissioner for Children’s Well-Being and Rights
Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Social Services on
26 October 2023
- (4) Bill 41
An Act to enact the Act respecting the environmental performance of
buildings and to amend various provisions regarding energy transition
Introduced by the Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate
Change, Wildlife and Parks on **22 November 2023**
- (5) Bill 42
An Act to prevent and fight psychological harassment and sexual violence in
the workplace
Introduced by the Minister of Labour on **23 November 2023**

Committee Stage

- (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 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 39
An Act to amend the Act respecting municipal taxation and other legislative provisions
Introduced by the Minister of Municipal Affairs on 2 November 2023
Report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain (consultations) tabled on 22 November 2023
Passed in principle on **28 November 2023**, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain
- (10) Bill 40
An Act mainly to reform municipal courts and to improve the justice system's efficiency, accessibility and performance
Introduced by the Minister of Justice on 9 November 2023
Report from the Committee on Institutions (consultations) tabled on 29 November 2023
Passed in principle on **30 November 2023**, and
Referred to the Committee on Institutions

Report Stage

Passage

- (11) Bill 23
An Act to amend mainly the Education Act and to enact the Act respecting the Institut national d'excellence en éducation
Introduced by the Minister of Education on 4 May 2023
Report from the Committee on Culture and Education (consultations) tabled on 8 June 2023
Passed in principle on 13 September 2023
Report from the Committee on Culture and Education adopted on 1 December 2023
Resuming the debate adjourned in the name of the Member for Matane-Matapédia on **5 December 2023**
- (12) 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
Report from the Committee on Public Finance (consultations) tabled on 28 November 2023
Passed in principle on 29 November 2023
Report from the Committee on Public Finance adopted on **5 December 2023**

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 394
394, An Act respecting the implementation of study-family-work balance policies in particular in higher education institutions
Introduced by the Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve on **5 December 2023**
- (27) Bill 396
An Act to amend the Act to reduce the debt and establish the Generations Fund to provide for the achievement of a capitalization of one hundred billion dollars
Introduced by the Member for Marguerite-Bourgeoys on **16 March 2023**

- (28) Bill 397
An Act to prevent and fight sexual violence in educational institutions that provide preschool education services, elementary school instructional services or secondary school instructional services in general or vocational education, including adult education services
Introduced by the Member for Mercier on **27 April 2023**
- (29) Bill 398
An Act to amend the Education Act to enshrine the right of handicapped students and students with social maladjustments or learning disabilities to receive educational services equivalent to those provided by the school
Introduced by the Member for Westmount–Saint-Louis on **20 April 2023**
- (30) Bill 399
An Act to amend the Act respecting the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec to require the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec to make and to report on investments with sustainable social and environmental impacts
Introduced by the Member for Maurice-Richard on **27 April 2023**
- (31) Bill 490
An Act to reinforce the qualified majority required for the appointment and removal of persons appointed by the National Assembly
Introduced by the Member for Nelligan on **18 April 2023**
- (32) Bill 491
491, An Act amending the Public Infrastructure Act to submit projects included in the Québec infrastructure plan to a climate test
Introduced by the Member for Taschereau on **14 September 2023**
- (33) Bill 492
An Act to combat waste
Introduced by the Member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine on **18 April 2023**
- (34) Bill 493
An Act to amend the Québec Immigration Act to take temporary residents into account for immigration planning purposes
Introduced by the Member for Nelligan on **10 May 2023**
- (35) Bill 494
An Act to amend the Civil Code to render without effect the clauses of a lease of a dwelling tending to prohibit companion animals
Introduced by the Member for Laurier-Dorion on **25 May 2023**

- (36) Bill 495
Anti-Farm Land Grabbing Act
Introduced by the Member for Verdun on **26 September 2023**
- (37) 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**
- (38) Bill 499
An Act to establish a new electoral system
Introduced by the Member for Jean-Lesage on **5 October 2023**
- (39) 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**
- (40) 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
- (41) 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 Mille-Îles on **24 October 2023**
- (42) Bill 690
An Act to amend the Act respecting the Québec Pension Plan to rectify an
inequity toward disabled retirees
Introduced by the Member for La Pinière on **23 November 2023**

Committee Stage

- (43) 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

- (44) 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
- (45) 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
- (46) Bill 204
An Act respecting Ville de Longueuil
Introduced by the Member for Laporte on **9 November 2023**, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

Passage in Principle

Passage

IV. Government Motions

- (47) 21 November 2023
Motion by the Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie

THAT, pursuant to section 22.3 of the *Act respecting the Ministère des Relations internationales*, the National Assembly approve the “Entente entre le gouvernement du Québec et l’Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) relative à l’établissement au Québec de la Représentation de l’OIF pour les Amériques (REPAM) ainsi qu’au siège de l’Institut de la Francophonie pour le développement durable (IFDD), concernant les exemptions, les exonérations et les prérogatives de courtoisie qui leur sont consenties, ainsi qu’à leurs membres du personnel”, signed in the city of Québec on 12 June 2023.

In compliance with section 22.3 of the *Act respecting the Ministère des Relations internationales*, this motion cannot be debated before 1 December 2023.

V. Estimates of Expenditure

VI. Statutory Debates

BUSINESS STANDING IN THE NAME OF MEMBERS IN OPPOSITION

Part 3

BILLS PASSED

(Bills awaiting Royal Assent)

Bill 38

An Act to amend the Act respecting the governance and management of the information resources of public bodies and government enterprises and other legislative provisions

Passed on **5 December 2023**

Bill 43

An Act respecting Apostilles for documents to be produced in a foreign State party to the Hague Convention of 5 October 1961 Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents

Passed on on **5 December 2023**

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 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 39**, An Act to amend the Act respecting municipal taxation and other legislative provisions (Order of reference given on 28 November 2023).
- **Bill 201**, An Act respecting Municipalité de Morin-Heights (Order of reference given on 20 April 2023).

- **Bill 204**, An Act respecting Ville de Longueuil (Order of reference given on 9 November 2023).

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY

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 40**, An Act mainly to reform municipal courts and to improve the justice system's efficiency, accessibility and performance (Order of reference given on 30 November 2023).
- **Bill 203**, An Act respecting the objects and powers of the Roman Catholic Archbishopial corporation of Montreal (Order of reference given on 19 April 2023).

COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN RELATIONS

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*

- (66) Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) – **2 November 2023**
To the Minister Responsible for the Montérégie Region

On 26 September 2023, the Government announced the creation of an expert committee whose mandate is to make recommendations for Québec to adapt to climate change. Mr. Alain Bourque, vice-chair of the committee, stated during an interview with Paul Arcand that the Government has the ability and the responsibility to fight climate change on multiple fronts at the same time, which include heat islands and the measures to prevent them.

A major project is currently underway in the Vaudreuil riding. The new Vaudreuil-Soulanges hospital is ranked among the 20 largest construction projects in North America. Although the parking lot for the new hospital was originally planned to be multi-level, the newest plans instead provide for a surface parking lot. This decision was taken unilaterally and solely based on financial considerations as a means to avoid a 3% increase in total project costs.

Furthermore, the surface parking lot with 1,869 spaces, which is equivalent to 5.7 hectares of multi-level parking, will be located in an agricultural area.

This project has been criticized by both the population and the elected officials of the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region. There is currently a petition on the National Assembly website on this issue. As Member for Vaudreuil, my riding office regularly receives complaints from the organizations and business people of the region, including those in the Soulanges riding.

I have questioned the Minister of Health on this matter several times, but neither the Member for Soulanges nor the Minister Responsible for the Montérégie Region has commented on the issue.

Accordingly, and to answer the many questions raised by citizens, can the Minister Responsible for the Montérégie Region tell us how we should respond to the complaints made by Soulanges constituents with regard to the new Vaudreuil-Soulanges hospital's surface parking lot located on farmland?

In addition, can the Minister Responsible for the Montérégie Region raise this issue with her colleague, the Minister of Health, in the name of not only the business community of the Vaudreuil riding, but also of the Soulanges riding?

- (68) Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) – **7 November 2023**
To the Minister of Employment

In the 2022–2023 annual management report of the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale, tabled in the National Assembly last September, we note on page 47 that the total number of employees in 2022–2023 is 7,211, which is 512 more than in the previous year's annual management report.

Given that the employees of the Ministère du Travail do not appear to be included in this statistic, can the Minister explain to us this considerable variance in the number of employees within her department?

- (69) Ms. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) – **7 November 2023**
To the Minister of Health

We recently learned, in an article published by La Presse on 25 September 2023, that the RAMQ confirmed that “lipodystrophy treatments using dermal filling agents for HIV patients are insured services within the meaning of the *Health Insurance Act*, since they are medically required”.

The article also mentions that talks have been going on for at least three years between the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux and the Fédération des médecins omnipraticiens du Québec, but that no agreement has been reached due to the treatment distribution issues. And yet, the article urges for the implementation of mechanisms for the distribution of the treatment in the public network!

The lipodystrophy syndrome was first described in a 1998 cross-sectional study aimed at documenting and specifying the bodily changes observed in a growing number of people under antiretroviral treatment (Carr et al., 1998).

We have known for a very long time that lipodystrophy causes irreversible bodily changes and that people with facial lipoatrophy live in precarious social, psychological and financial conditions. This situation leads to social disaffiliation, marked by a deterioration of social relationships and discrimination in employment. And since poverty makes access to dermal fillers difficult, it is a fact that people suffering from this condition have to turn to social assistance to meet their needs. Lastly, it must be said that all those affected by facial lipoatrophy, regardless of socioeconomic class, suffer discrimination in employment.

For too many years now, the HIV-AIDS movement has been reflecting on the issue of coverage for filler products, taking into account not only the indirect costs of facial lipoatrophy, but also the direct costs of this condition, which carries a heavy psychological burden. This burden leads to mental health problems and requires ongoing medical or even pharmacological treatment. In addition, there are the costs of the complications that can arise for immunocompromised individuals who undergo restorative treatment abroad or in conditions that endanger their health.

The time for reflection has passed. These filler products are not meant to embellish, but to correct the faces of people with facial lipoatrophy. Therefore, they are medically required and deemed necessary to correct this condition. In a society that promotes access to healthcare and inclusivity, this situation must be urgently reversed. With this in mind, I invite the Minister to understand that filler products are essential for reconstructing a lipoatrophic face, just as breast implants are essential for reconstructing the breast after a mastectomy.

My question to the Minister of Health is the following:

Does the Minister of Health commit to making lipodystrophy filler treatment available to HIV patients by 1 December 2023, on World AIDS Day?

(70) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) – **9 November 2023**

To the Minister Responsible for Canadian Relations and the Canadian Francophonie

At the end of October, the Francophone and Acadian communities said they were “deeply disappointed” by the Francophone immigration targets adopted by the federal government, which keep these communities in demographic decline.

Indeed, the Federation of Francophone and Acadian Communities of Canada called for the federal government to adopt a target of 12% for francophone immigration outside Québec by 2024, but the federal government instead settled on a target of 6% for the coming year.

The Minister Responsible for Canadian Relations and the Canadian Francophonie publicly supported the Francophone and Acadian communities’ call for a federal francophone immigration target of 12%, for which we thank him.

My question to the Minister Responsible for Canadian Relations and the Canadian Francophonie is the following:

What does the Minister intend to do to support the Canadian Francophonie in this moment of profound disappointment?

(71) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) – **9 November 2023**

To the Minister Responsible for Canadian Relations and the Canadian Francophonie

The Government recently decided to increase the tuition fees for out-of-province Canadian students.

Every year, thousands of francophones and francophiles from other provinces and territories study in French in Québec’s universities and CEGEPs.

Section 29.7 of Bill 96 provides that the Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology is responsible for contributing to “the mobility of francophone students across Canada”.

My questions to the Minister Responsible for Canadian Relations and the Canadian Francophonie are the following:

- 1) How will the increase in tuition fees, from \$9,000 to \$17,000 per year, contribute to the promotion of francophone students' mobility in the country?
- 2) How does the Minister reconcile this measure with Bill 96?
- 3) Was the Federation of Francophone and Acadian Communities of Canada consulted before this measure was adopted?

(72) Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) – **9 November 2023**

To the Minister of Higher Education

Thousands of Quebecers have seen the Radio-Canada report on the bullying of students at the Centre québécois de formation aéronautique.

A citizen of the Vaudreuil riding, worried about a family member who is planning to receive training at this institution, is asking for explanations.

We have learned that there has been frequent bullying, harassment and sexual abuse by certain instructors at this flight school affiliated with the Cégep de Chicoutimi. Unfortunately, the students cannot count on support from the administration, which is accused of being very complacent.

Québec can rely on the *Education Act*, and in this regard we ask that the Minister inform us whether the Centre québécois de formation aéronautique has an action plan to prevent and fight bullying and violence.

We would also like the Minister to provide the title of the person responsible for implementing this plan and to inform us whether the plan has been distributed to staff, students and parents of students who are minors.

As regards prevention, we would like the Minister to send us the data on the anti-bullying and anti-harassment training given to students, staff and the administration. We would like to know how many people have been trained and with what frequency.

And, lastly, can the Minister make public all the measures she intends to take, further to the report in question, to prevent such behaviour from happening again, identify the culprits, and ensure that they are held accountable for their actions?

(73) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **21 November 2023**
To the Minister of Culture and Communications

In 2018, following the election of the CAQ government, the new Minister of Culture and Communications decided to retain the 2018–2023 government action plan on culture introduced by the Quebec Liberal Party a few days prior to the end of the previous legislature. This action plan, tabled together with the new cultural policy, was long overdue.

The Minister of Culture and Communications improved the action plan by enhancing the content of school libraries and providing recurrent funding for school cultural outings, which was applauded by many. This action plan involved 34 departments and bodies committed to working with the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications and its network of 13 state-owned enterprises and bodies. It was designed to implement the objectives set out in the cultural policy.

This action plan will expire at the end of the year.

My question to the Minister of Culture and Communications is quite simple:

Does he intend to table a new government action plan on culture for the years 2024 to 2029?

(74) Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) – **22 Novembre 2023**
Minister Responsible for Housing

For several weeks now, mayors have noticed, through the media, that the provincial and federal governments have started discussions on funding for the construction of housing. To their great dismay, the mayors are excluded from these discussions, despite being key stakeholders.

It has been reported that the federal Housing Accelerator Fund aims to reduce administrative delays in the processing of requests from municipalities. Though no announcement has yet been made on this subject, it would seem that municipalities will have to cut red tape and review their zoning rules to promote the construction of housing near public transit services.

It is well known that in some cases, the federal government signs agreements directly with municipalities, enabling faster money transfers than transfers to the government of Québec. This situation is due to legislation that prevents the federal government and Québec municipalities from negotiating with each another.

Clearly, Québec municipalities would like to make up for lost time by asking the Government to provide that the rules governing the Québec program be as efficient and streamlined as those of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Housing Accelerator Fund program.

Based on the available information, many cities of Québec have applied to the Housing Accelerator Fund and are anxiously waiting for the provincial and federal levels of government to come to an agreement and decide to consider their applications. Some municipalities are even considering filling the gaps in the provincial program by creating new municipal programs.

Consequently, could the Québec government make public the breakdown of federal housing funding received since the tabling of the last budget in March 2023?

Furthermore, could the Québec government consult the municipalities before deciding on the rules of the future Québec housing construction program?

Out of respect for Québec municipalities who have been waiting for far too long, could the Québec government provide an official report on the situation?

Lastly, could the Québec government inform municipal governments of its actions before confronting them with a *fait accompli*?

(75) Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) – **29 November 2023**
Minister of Health

On 25 October 2023, we sent a letter to the Minister of Health to formally ask the Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux (INESSS) to address the disease called lipedema.

Lipedema is a disease that affects only women and which consists of an abnormal buildup of fat in the legs and intense chronic pain. The World Health Organization (WHO) has recognized it as a chronic disease since 2018.

For five years now, women with lipedema have been anxiously waiting for Québec to follow in the WHO's footsteps. Their daily lives are painful, which has impacts on their mental health, ranging from psychological distress to eating disorders.

The fact that lipedema has not yet been recognized as a condition in Québec means that women cannot get the medical care they need in Québec. We are referring to mitigation measures, such as the purchase of stockings and lymphatic drainage treatments, but also to making treatments such as surgery available. Currently, women with lipedema have very few options and they are very expensive. Testimonials in this regard show that treatments abroad lead to expenses of tens of thousands of dollars for women with this disease.

Québec does not have to start from scratch on this issue, as it can examine what has been done elsewhere, such as in Germany, which has been treating this disease for approximately fifteen years. We can also rely on the expertise of a leading expert on the subject in Québec, Dr. Michel Alain Danino, head of plastic surgery at the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal.

The Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux is responsible for deciding whether to cover the costs of treatments for a disease. However, the Ministère draws on the recommendations of the Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux. In this particular case, the INESSS has no recommendations for the Ministère, since it is currently waiting for a mandate from the Ministère to begin the analysis and assessment required to take a stance on the matter.

Too many women suffer from the effects of lipedema in their daily lives, and it is time for this situation to be remedied.

On behalf of all the women who suffer from this disease and who are helpless in the face of the many financial and human obstacles before them, can the Minister of Health formally mandate the INESSS to quickly address this disease and its treatments?

- (76) Ms. Maccarone (Westmount–Saint-Louis) – **29 November 2023**
Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie

At the end of August 2023, Global Affairs Canada issued updated travel advice for travellers to the United States, in which the department informed members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community that they could be victims of discrimination if they travel to certain states.

Can the Minister tell us whether she has taken measures to raise her American counterparts' awareness of the security risks that members of Québec's 2SLGBTQIA+ community may face when travelling in the United States?

- (77) Ms. Zaga-Mendez (Verdun) – **1 December 2023**
To the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

The torrential rains of July are a recent example of the ravages of climate change. Farmers are among the first to feel the adverse effects of climate change, as they face increasingly difficult conditions. To give an idea of the extent of the damage caused this summer, according to a La Presse article, “as of October 27, 7,064 damage claims had been filed with La Financière agricole du Québec – the province’s farm producer insurer – compared to 3,813 last year”.

Québec’s grain sector is particularly affected by adverse weather. Increasingly difficult conditions threaten the survival of farm businesses and, in turn, jeopardize the achievement of food self-sufficiency. It is essential to support the farming community, in particular the grain sector – which is the basis of all other forms of farm production – so that all may adapt to climate change with the perspective of modernising practices according to an agri-environmental approach.

As the Minister knows, the ecological transition comes at a great cost to agricultural producers, who are already dealing with the impacts of climate change. While support has been announced for the coming year, there is no sign of long-term support, even though agri-environmental practices take time to implement, and crops require extensive planning. In this regard, it is essential that the Ministerial Initiative on Compensating Agri-Environmental Practices (Initiative) receive a stable funding commitment over the next five years. This long-term support will ensure continuity of this commitment and boost the confidence of producers, who are often forced to self-finance. The budgetary planning of initiatives to compensate agri-environmental practices cannot be done haphazardly, given the importance of agriculture and the impacts arising from this transition. To date, the Minister has announced \$23.2M of the \$50M put forward in his election commitment.

Given the above, my questions to the Minister are the following:

1. Is there a plan to sustain the Ministerial Initiative on Compensating Agri-Environmental Practices?
2. Can the Minister specify when and how the \$23.2M announced to bolster the Initiative will be implemented, and what is to become of the remaining portion of the \$50M promised?
3. Can the Minister tell us what figures he is relying on when he puts forward that farms specialized in grains located in peripheral regions are as profitable as those located in central regions?

(78) Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) – **5 December 2023**
To the Minister of Public Security

The SPHÈRES project aims to support people aged 12 to 24 who are being sexually exploited. It does so through a personalized approach that focuses on their needs and aspirations. The project is a community initiative carried out in collaboration with several partners: the Marie-Vincent Foundation, L'Anonyme, En Marge 12–17, the SPVM and the CIUSSS du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal. These organizations have been able to generate a community practice and a social net tailored to supporting victims through a continuum of services.

This project is in line with several recommendations of the Select Committee on the Sexual Exploitation of Minors, on which I sat for many months during the previous legislature. For example, the SPHÈRES project meets recommendations 14, 19 and 20 of Chapter 3, Prevention and training. It also meets recommendations 49, 51, 54 and 56 of Chapter 5, Reconstruction and rehabilitation: breaking the cycle of exploitation.

In addition, the project has succeeded in joining both institutional and community practices for the well-being of young minors, which is already an important victory in the fight against this scourge that is sexual exploitation. To better depict the extent of the phenomenon, 95% of young people who access the project's support services are minors. Though it is a distressing statistic, it clearly shows that the project's target audience has been reached.

Lastly, there is the issue of the time required for a minor to break the cycle of sexual exploitation. The SPHÈRES project has existed for nearly 7 years now, and the lack of funding raises fears that the project will end. In the fight against the sexual exploitation of minors, the SPHÈRES project deserves all the support it needs.

Considering the above, my questions are the following:

1. The Government's goal is to protect young victims of sexual exploitation, and to do so, it created the Select Committee on the Sexual Exploitation of Minors. Having myself sat on this committee, I take pride in having done my work as a legislator in a non-partisan manner. Considering that the recommendations of the Select Committee line up with the SPHÈRES project as the path forward in the fight against the sexual exploitation of minors, how does the Minister intend to maintain the continuum of services?
2. The SPHÈRES project is extremely innovative, so much so that it has problems fitting into the frameworks of the different funding programs. Consequently, we are left with having to fund a project that has proven its worth with non-recurring funding. Will the Minister commit to finding a solution that provides recurring funding to the SPHÈRES project to the level required to protect our youth?

(79) Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) – **5 December 2023**
To the Minister of Labour

The goal of the CNESST's hearing aid program is to fulfill the needs of workers with hearing loss caused by exposure to noise in their work environment. In its current form, the program ensures that its beneficiaries have access to a variety of hearing aids that use disposable batteries.

However, the rechargeable hearing aid is a technology that will soon dominate that entire market. In other words, companies that make hearing aids will abandon the production of devices that use disposable batteries in the coming months.

Currently, there is nothing in the CNESST's hearing aid program to ensure that rechargeable hearing aids have the same certification and selection criteria as hearing aids that use disposable batteries.

Can the Minister tell us what specific measures he intends to put in place with the CNESST to ensure that the beneficiaries of the CNESST's hearing aid program can make the mandatory transition from hearing aids that use disposable batteries to rechargeable hearing aids as smoothly as possible?

Part 6
NOTICES

I. NOTICES PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

Government Bills

- (a) 5 December 2023
An Act to reinforce the protection of students – *Minister of Education*

Private Members' Public Bills

- (b) 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*
- (c) 5 December 2023
An Act to amend mainly the Act respecting the Québec Pension Plan to abolish the reduction of the retirement pension of a person who receives a disability pension between 60 and 65 years of age – *Member for Maurice-Richard*

Private Bills

II. NOTICES APPEARING FOR THE FIRST TIME

- (aa) An Act to improve the protection of children receiving educational childcare services – *Minister of Families*
- (bb) An Act to amend various legislative provisions regarding financial assistance for education expenses – *Member for Matane-Matapédia*