



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Order Paper and Notices

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 7 February 2024 – No. 96

Nine forty a.m.

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

Part 1
ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

- The Member for Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré on the following subject: *Mr. Serge Payette – the “teenager” of the Grands Sages awards!*
- The Member for Westmount–Saint-Louis on the following subject: *Underline Black History Month.*
- The Member for Saint-François on the following subject: *Université de Sherbrooke in the top 10 for research in Canada.*
- The Member for Mercier on the following subject: *The organization SORIF’s important contribution for women in Montréal.*
- The Member for Saint-Jean on the following subject: *Thanks to the firefighters in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu for responding on Sunday morning at a CHSLD where a person was unfortunately the victim of a fire.*
- The Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce on the following subject: *Underline the extraordinary community involvement of Ms. Janet King.*
- The Member for Hull on the following subject: *The 40th anniversary of Accompagnement des femmes immigrantes de l’Outaouais.*
- The Member for Jean-Talon on the following subject: *Underline Black History Month.*
- The Member for Lavolette–Saint-Maurice on the following subject: *The Fondation pour la Santé du Haut Saint-Maurice celebrates its 40th anniversary.*
- The Member for Saint-Jérôme on the following subject: *Mr. Michel Métivier, a pillar of Saint-Jérôme.*
- The Member for Vachon on the following subject: *Tribute to Ms. Martine Loiselle.*
- The Member for Lévis on the following subject: *Congratulate Ms. Djénébou Drabo, recipient of the 2023 Council of the Federation Literacy Award.*

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 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**
- (2) 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**
- (3) 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
Report from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment (consultations) tabled on **6 February 2024**
- (4) 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
Report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy (consultations) tabled on **6 February 2024**

- (5) Bill 45
An Act to amend the Act respecting safety in sports mainly to better protect the integrity of persons in recreation and sports
Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Sports, Recreation and the Outdoors, on **6 February 2024**
- (6) Bill 46
An Act to improve the protection of children receiving educational childcare services
Introduced by the Minister of Families on **7 December 2023**
- (7) Bill 48
An Act to amend mainly the Highway Safety Code to introduce provisions relating to detection systems and other highway safety-related provisions
Introduced by the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility on **8 December 2023**
- (8) Bill 50*
An Act to enact the Act respecting civil protection to promote disaster resilience and to amend various provisions relating in particular to emergency communication centres and to forest fire protection
Introduced by the Minister of Public Security on **31 January 2024**
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- * Recommendation of the Lieutenant-Governor**
- (9) Bill 51
An Act to modernize the construction industry
Introduced by the Minister of Labour on **1 February 2024**

Committee Stage

- (10) 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

- (11) Bill 47
An Act to reinforce the protection of students
Introduced by the Minister of Education on 6 December 2023
Report from the Committee on Culture and Education (consultations) tabled on 1 February 2024
Passed in principle on **6 February 2024**, and
Referred to the Committee on Culture and Education

Report Stage

- (12) 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
Report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain tabled on **6 February 2024** (Amend. handed in under Standing Order 252)

Passage

II. Private Members' Public Bills

Passage in Principle

- (13) Bill 190
An Act to recognize the Members' oath to the people of Québec as the sole oath required for Members to take office
Introduced by the Member for Jean-Lesage on **1 December 2022**
- (14) Bill 191
An Act to amend the Act respecting safety in sports to prohibit fighting in sports activities in which persons under 18 years of age participate
Introduced by the Member for Marquette on **8 December 2022**
- (15) Bill 192
An Act to ensure student health and safety in the classroom by regulating ambient air quality in schools
Introduced by the Member for Saint-Laurent on **7 December 2022**

- (16) Bill 193
An Act to amend the Charter of human rights and freedoms to recognize the right to a healthful environment as a fundamental right
Introduced by the Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce on **1 February 2023**
- (17) Bill 195
An Act to amend the Consumer Protection Act to fight planned obsolescence and assert the right to repair goods
Introduced by the Member for Saint-Laurent on **2 February 2023**
- (18) Bill 196
An Act to amend the Educational Childcare Act to guarantee the right to receive childcare services
Introduced by the Member for Robert-Baldwin on **14 March 2023**
- (19) Bill 197
An Act to improve the quality of care through the setting of ratios in certain institutions governed by the Act respecting health services and social services
Introduced by the Member for Pontiac on **6 December 2022**
- (20) Bill 198
An Act to amend the Civil Code to ensure greater protection of seniors as lessees against repossession of dwellings and evictions
Introduced by the Member for Sherbrooke on **21 February 2023**
- (21) Bill 199
An Act to better protect consumers against abusive credit contracts
Introduced by the Member for Saint-Laurent on **23 February 2023**
- (22) Bill 390
An Act to promote taking gender equality and diversity in an intersectional perspective into account in the budgetary process
Introduced by the Member for Mercier on **21 March 2023**
- (23) Bill 391
An Act to amend the Education Act to enshrine the right to free special school projects offered in schools providing preschool or elementary and secondary education and to limit the distance between immovables of a school with a special project
Introduced by the Member for Saint-Laurent on **16 March 2023**

- (24) Bill 392
An Act respecting the suspension of the issuing of new mining claims and ending the precedence of mining and gas rights over other land uses
Introduced by the Member for Verdun on **18 April 2023**
- (25) Bill 393
An Act to combat food waste
Introduced by the Member for Verdun on **6 April 2023**
- (26) Bill 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
Resuming the debate adjourned in the name of the Member for Jonquière on **31 January 2024**
- (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 498
498, An Act to proclaim National Maple Day
Introduced by the Member for Beauce-Sud on **8 December 2023**
- (39) Bill 499
An Act to establish a new electoral system
Introduced by the Member for Jean-Lesage on **5 October 2023**
- (40) 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**

- (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 597
An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act to establish a right of citizen initiative in environmental matters and reinforce the powers and independence of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement
Introduced by the Member for Matane-Matapédia on **1 February 2024**
- (43) 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
Resuming the debate ajourned on **7 December 2023**
- (44) Bill 691
An Act to amend various legislative provisions regarding financial assistance for education expenses
Introduced by the Member for Matane-Matapédia on **7 December 2023**

Committee Stage

- (45) 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

- (46) 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
- (47) 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

- (48) Bill 204
An Act respecting Ville de Longueuil
Introduced by the Member for Laporte on 9 November 2023
Report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain tabled and
adopted on **6 February 2024**

Passage

IV. Government Motions

V. Estimates of Expenditure

VI. Statutory Debates

BUSINESS STANDING IN THE NAME OF MEMBERS IN OPPOSITION

(49) 6 February 2024
Motion moved by the Member for Laurier-Dorion

THAT the Assembly recognize that Québec is experiencing a serious housing crisis;

THAT it recognize that the significant increase in real estate prices is an obstacle to home ownership for young families in Québec;

THAT it recognize that the phenomenon of blind bidding wars can contribute to the increase in home prices;

THAT the National Assembly ask the Government to put an end to blind bidding in real estate by making it mandatory to disclose simultaneous promises to purchase the same property.

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

Statuary Order

- Examining the preliminary report of the Commission de la représentation électorale.

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 201**, An Act respecting Municipalité de Morin-Heights (Order of reference given on 20 April 2023).

Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

Interpellation:

- By the Member for Mille-Îles to the Minister Responsible for Housing on the following subject: *Housing in Québec, another CAQ failure* (Notice given on 1 February 2024).

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

Orders of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 47, An Act to reinforce the protection of students** (Order of reference given on 6 February 2024).
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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 203**, An Act respecting the objects and powers of the Roman Catholic Archiepiscopal corporation of Montreal (Order of reference given on 19 April 2023).

COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN RELATIONS

Orders of reference

Special consultations:

- **Bill 46**, An Act to improve the protection of children receiving educational childcare services (Order of reference given on 30 January 2024).

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Orders of reference

Special consultations:

- **Bill 37**, An Act respecting the Commissioner for Children’s Well-Being and Rights (Order of reference given on 30 January 2024).

Consideration of Bills:

- **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).

Orders of initiative

- The ways to facilitate organ and tissue donation, in particular the adoption of presumed consent to organ and tissue donation.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Orders of reference

Special consultations:

- **Bill 48**, An Act to amend mainly the Highway Safety Code to introduce provisions relating to detection systems and other highway safety-related provisions (Order of reference given on 30 January 2024).

Part 5

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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

- (75) Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) – **29 November 2023**
To the 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?

(85) Mr. Morin (Acadie) – **8 December 2023**

To the Minister Responsible for Relations with the First Nations and the Inuit

I recently met with union representatives whose members work in the north, including some in Indigenous communities.

Sadly, they are experiencing staff retention issues in the health and education sectors, which is notably caused by the limited or insufficient access to health services in remote regions. These resignations have a negative impact on the educational success of students in Indigenous and Inuit communities and worsen the problem of access to healthcare in those communities.

Still on the subject of health, many people struggle with difficulties in accessing medications for treatment. They have no choice but to leave their community for the major centres and obtain their medications themselves, all while being ill.

Furthermore, the representatives have told me of the major drinking water supply issue faced by the Inuit and Cree communities. The crisis is so serious that some use snow or non-potable river water and get sick as a result.

What actions does the Minister intend to take to improve access to health services, drinking water and education in the northern regions and in the First Nations and Inuit communities?

- (86) Mr. Kelley (Jacques-Cartier) – **8 December 2023**
To the Minister for the Economy

During the interpellation by the Member for Jacques-Cartier to the Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy on “Energy challenges: an issue for our society and our economy”, the Minister for the Economy mentioned that in order to quickly build new sources of energy production, we would have to resist the forces of inaction.

Can the Minister for the Economy explain what forces of inaction are present in Québec with regard to the construction of new energy sources, and what does he intend to do to resist them?

- (88) Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) – **30 January 2024**
To the Minister of Finance

The viable income index, which has been developed by the Institut de recherche et d’informations socioéconomiques (IRIS), allows us to precisely and exhaustively determine the income required to meet basic needs (food, clothing, housing, transportation and other staple goods), and thus enables Québec households to enjoy a decent life free of poverty. In 2023, this income ranged from \$27,047 to \$37,822 for a single person, depending on their region of residence.

In November 2022, the Association québécoise de défense des droits des personnes retraitées et préretraitées (AQDR) and the Observatoire québécois des inégalités published an alarming report in which they revealed that 49.2%, or nearly half of seniors aged 60 and older, live below the viable income threshold. In 2023, the IRIS published a study entitled “Vieillir au Québec, constats et solutions pour un meilleur système de retraite” (“aging in Québec: findings and solutions for a better retirement system”), in which it was revealed that 409,860 people aged 65 and older were living on less than a “viable income”.

Tax measures such as the senior assistance tax credit, the solidarity tax credit and the tax credit for home-support services for seniors are designed to effectively redistribute income to support seniors living in precarious situations. However, these measures do not guarantee a decent standard of living, despite the 2022 increase in the senior assistance tax credit.

My questions are the following:

- Does the Minister take the viable income index into account in his tax policies?
- Considering that close to half of seniors live below the viable income threshold, does the Minister intend to extend the non-refundable tax credit to seniors under 70?
- What additional measures does the Minister intend to implement to ensure that every senior in Québec can live a decent life, free from poverty?

(89) Mr. Morin (Acadie) – **30 January 2024**

To the Minister of Immigration, Francization and Integration

Québec immigrant admission delays constitute a considerable issue. Indeed, according to files held by the federal government and the immigration targets set by the Québec government, several years may elapse between Québec's approval of an application and the arrival of the immigrants on our soil.

Can the Minister once again inform us on the number of Québec files awaiting processing by the federal department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, as well as give us a breakdown by category and immigration program so that we may monitor their progress?

(90) Ms. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) – **1 February 2024**

To the Minister Responsible for Relations with the First Nations and the Inuit

During the launch of the 2022–2027 Government Action Plan for the Social and Cultural Wellness of the First Nations and Inuit, the Minister Responsible for Relations with the First Nations and the Inuit announced his intention, as well as that of the Government, to take action on the matter of Indigenous languages. Then, on National Indigenous Peoples Day (21 June 2022), the Minister announced his interest in legislating on Indigenous languages in Québec. Accordingly, his Secrétariat established an interdepartmental committee (made up of at least seven different departmental teams) with the mandate of developing a strategy and a bill on Indigenous languages. This interest was also confirmed in the midst of the election campaign (on 30 September 2022) when the Premier promised that his Government would table a bill on Indigenous languages were he to be re-elected.

It is important to point out that the Secrétariat du ministre responsable des Relations avec les Premières Nations et les Inuit and the interdepartmental committee have established and implemented a strategy without having preliminarily consulted First Nations leaders and their associated bodies.

This was clearly denounced by Mr. Ghislain Picard, Chief of the Assembly of First Nations Québec-Labrador, in an open letter sent to the Premier and signed on 16 August 2022. Mr. Picard demands that the Québec government cease all operations aimed at legislating on First Nations languages in Québec and asks that the Government respect and that it not impede on First Nations jurisdiction (Mr. Picard to the Premier, 16 August 2022). First Nations leaders have repeatedly communicated their concerns about the Minister's intentions, including a denunciation by the First Nations Chiefs on 23 November 2022, another letter sent by Chief Picard to the Premier on 8 March 2023, and various communiqués and letters published between March and June 2023.

Despite this, the Minister chose to carry out a series of public representations (between March and June 2023) as the first step in collecting information on his intention to legislate on Indigenous languages.

The First Nations again voiced their discontent by pointing out the Government's paternalistic and colonialist approach and the lack of a co-development approach with First Nations leaders, which is contrary to Article 19 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: "States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them."

Though the Minister appears to have recently offered a path of dialogue to the elected officials and representatives of the First Nations, he has nevertheless tabled a bill on the cultural safety of Indigenous persons (Bill 32) that has been severely criticized both by First Nations leaders and experts.

The First Nations in Québec, just like Quebecers, are proud of their languages and their cultures, and they are therefore better able to solicit and devise the policies required to ensure the protection, the preservation, the strengthening, and the revitalization of their own languages. They hold ancestral rights to self-government and to language and culture, and these rights are recognized and protected under the *Constitution Act, 1982*, the 2019 *Indigenous Languages Act* and international law.

My questions to the Minister Responsible for Relations with the First Nations and the Inuit are the following:

Can the Minister tell us whether his Secrétariat continues to work on the development of a bill relating to Indigenous languages? Will the Minister put a stop to the strategy established by the interdepartmental committee of 2022, and will he commit to not issuing policies or legislating on First Nations languages without the free, prior and informed consent of First Nations leaders? Yes or no?

(91) Ms. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) – **7 February 2024**
To the Minister of Finance

Since November 2011, direct deposit registration has been a requirement to receive the solidarity tax credit. Even though the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse issued a public notice on the very next day after this requirement was imposed, stating that it infringed on economic and social rights, Mr. Charest's Liberal government did not even consider backtracking on this discriminatory practice.

I have been personally asked about this issue by citizens living below the poverty line. It doesn't matter if they meet the eligibility criteria for the solidarity tax credit; if they don't have access to direct deposit, Revenu Québec will deny them the tax credit. However, many people in Québec are illiterate, and even more have difficulty reading and do not have the skills required to complete the direct deposit application forms. This only makes things even more precarious for groups that are already economically vulnerable.

I wanted to know how many people are affected by this requirement each year and, accordingly, how much funding is not provided to the people who should be entitled to it. My team recently submitted an access to information request to Revenu Québec to know the extent of this discrimination.

I was stunned to learn that 55,561 households that were entitled to the solidarity tax credit in 2023 had not received it. This is over \$20 million in funds withheld from people living below the poverty line, funds which they are entitled to, and which remain in the coffers of the government. Of equal concern is the fact that Revenu Québec predicts that the issue will only be exacerbated in 2024. It will more than double, with 106,091 households being denied this financial support for the next tax season, for a total of more than \$47 million in unpaid solidarity tax credits.

In the context of a cost-of-living crisis, and with the new plan to combat poverty and the social assistance reform expected this spring, can people experiencing economic insecurity count on the Minister of Finance to show coherence and cooperate with his colleague, the Minister Responsible for Social Solidarity and Community Action, to put an end to the direct deposit registration requirement? Can the Minister commit to retroactively pay the sums to the people who are entitled to them?

(92) Ms. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) – **7 February 2024**

To the Minister Responsible for Social Solidarity and Community Action

Since November 2011, direct deposit registration has been a requirement to receive the solidarity tax credit. Even though the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse issued a public notice on the very next day after this requirement was imposed, stating that it infringed on economic and social rights, Mr. Charest's Liberal government did not even consider backtracking on this discriminatory practice.

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(93) Mr. Morin (Acadie) – **7 February 2024**

To the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor

For many years, the Association des microbiologistes du Québec has been asking for better oversight of their profession through the creation of a professional order.

The Chair of the Conseil du trésor will agree that microbiologists have an important public health role, in both the public and private spheres.

Unfortunately, the lack of oversight makes it possible for unqualified people to use the title of microbiologist, which presents a risk to Quebecers' health and safety.

An October 2023 survey showed that Quebecers shared the association's concerns about the risks to their health and safety due to the lack of oversight. In fact, 96% of respondents agreed that a professional order should be created for microbiologists.

Can the Chair of the Conseil du trésor tell us the status of the Association des microbiologistes du Québec's request for the creation of a professional order?

(94) Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) – **7 February 2024**
To the Minister of Labour

We recently learned from a *Journal de Montréal* article that many employees of the Commission de la construction du Québec (CCQ) have been dismissed in recent years for professional misconduct.

Examples given in the article to justify these dismissals include conflict of interest, time theft, misrepresentation, disrespectful behavior and even inappropriate language.

Given the CCQ's leading role in the Québec construction industry, we believe this is a troubling situation that must be addressed.

Can the Minister tell us what specific measures he intends to implement at the CCQ to ensure the highest standards of ethics and integrity?

Part 6
NOTICES

I. NOTICES PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

Government Bills

- (a) 6 February 2024
An Act to amend mainly the Act respecting the Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation with respect to research – *Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy*

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 give effect to fiscal measures announced in the Budget Speech delivered on 21 March 2023 and to certain other measures – *Minister of Finance*
- (bb) An Act to enable the Parliament of Québec to preserve the principle of parliamentary sovereignty with respect to the Act respecting the laicity of the State – *Minister Responsible for Laicity*