



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Thursday, 8 February 2024 — No. 97

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

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

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Members

Ms. Caron (La Pinière) made a statement to underline the Lunar New Year and the Year of the Wood Dragon.

Ms. Mallette (Huntingdon) made a statement to congratulate Parc Safari in Hemmingford for its silver ranking in the *Best of Montreal* magazine.

Mr. Grandmont (Taschereau) made a statement to underline the 70th anniversary of the Québec Winter Carnival.

Ms. Bogemans (Iberville) made a statement to underline the work of volunteers at the Carnaval Iber-Neige.

Mr. Benjamin (Viau) made a statement to underline the 10th anniversary of the Fonds 1804 for school perseverance.

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Mr. Dufour (Abitibi-Est) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Claude Richard.

Ms. Schmaltz (Vimont) made a statement to express solidarity with and support for the families and friends of the victims of the Garderie éducative Sainte-Rose tragedy.

Ms. Boivin Roy (Anjou–Louis-Riel) made a statement to underline the 30th anniversary of the organization Décllic — Initiatives for youth training and employment.

Ms. Jeannotte (Labelle) made a statement to pay tribute to Dr. Michel Massé.

Mr. Lemieux (Saint-Jean) made a statement to underline the dynamism of the Chambre de commerce et de l'industrie du Haut-Richelieu.

Mr. Lacombe (Papineau) made a statement to congratulate the organizing committee of the Tournoi provincial de la Lièvre.

At 9:54 a.m., Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

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The proceedings resumed at 10:02 a.m.

Moment of reflection

Introduction of Bills

Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following bill:

49 An Act to give effect to fiscal measures announced in the Budget Speech delivered on 21 March 2023 and to certain other measures

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 49 was introduced in the Assembly.

Mr. Roberge, Minister Responsible for Laicity, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following bill:

52 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

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 52 was introduced in the Assembly.

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Presenting Petitions

Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on the zoning change and social acceptability process for the Cité du cinéma project in Laval, signed by 248 citizens of Québec.
(Sessional Paper No. 1294-20240208)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

At the request of the President, Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles) withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

At the request of the President, Mr. Charette, Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks, withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

Deferred Divisions

The Assembly took the division, which had been deferred at the sitting of 7 February 2024, on the motion moved by Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition.

This motion reads as follows:

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;

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THAT it recognize that the phenomenon of blind bidding wars can contribute to rising 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.

The motion was negated on the following vote:

(Division No. **195** in Appendix)

Yeas: **11** Nays: **96** Abstentions: **4**

Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Ms. Lakhoyan Olivier (Chomedey), together with Ms. Proulx, Minister of Tourism, Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage), Mr. St-Pierre Plamondon, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the 70th edition of the Québec Winter Carnival;

THAT it underscore the importance of this key event as a driver of winter tourism activity in the city of Québec and the Capitale-Nationale region;

THAT it recall that the traditions associated with the Québec Winter Carnival, such as red clothing, carnival songs, the arrow sash, Bonhomme's Effigy and the famous caribou, are deeply rooted in Québec culture;

THAT it recall that Bonhomme Carnaval is a proud ambassador of Québec's nordicity and joie de vivre;

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THAT, lastly, it warmly congratulate all those who made this 70th edition, and the previous editions, possible.

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. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage), together with Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia), moved:

THAT the National Assembly be concerned about the recent acts of censorship against Québec children's books;

THAT it affirm its support for Québec writers Élise Gravel and Myriam Daguzan Bernier and illustrator Cécile Gariépy, whose books were recently subject to censorship;

THAT the National Assembly reaffirm its commitment to freedom of opinion, freedom of expression and the free circulation of ideas.

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

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **196** in Appendix)

Yeas: **106** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia), together with Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard), moved a motion on a project to help decarbonize the economy at Saguenay Port; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

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Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Minister of Justice, together with Mr. Cliche-Rivard (Saint-Henri-Sainte-Anne), moved a motion on how imperative it is for Québec to defend the sovereignty of its Parliament; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 143, Mr. Caire, Deputy Government House Leader, convened the following committee:

- the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 48, An Act to amend mainly the Highway Safety Code to introduce provisions relating to detection systems and other highway safety-related provisions;

He then convened the following committees:

- the Committee on Health and Social Services, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 37, An Act respecting the Commissioner for Children’s Well-Being and Rights;
- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to undertake clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 42, An Act to prevent and fight psychological harassment and sexual violence in the workplace.

Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, gave the following notices:

- the Committee on Institutions shall hold a deliberative meeting to discuss the possibility of examining a petition on the adoption of the reform of Québec’s voting system for the implementation of a mixed proportional voting system;

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- the Committee on the National Assembly shall hold a public meeting to examine the preliminary report of the Commission de la représentation électorale;
- the Committee on Public Finance shall hold a deliberative meeting to discuss the possibility of examining a petition on abolishing penalties applied to the retirement pensions of disability pension beneficiaries.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, informed the Assembly that on Friday, 16 February 2024, Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke) would question Ms. Bélanger, Minister Responsible for Seniors, during an interpellation on the CAQ government's lack of preparation to prepare for an aging population and to ensure that every Quebecer has the opportunity to age with dignity.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been adjourned on 7 February 2024, on the motion moved by Mr. Charette, Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks, that Bill 41, An Act to enact the Act respecting the environmental performance of buildings and to amend various provisions regarding energy transition, do now pass in principle.

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After debate thereon, the motion was carried, and Bill 41 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mr. Caire, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 41 be referred to the Committee on Transportation and the Environment for clause-by-clause consideration.

The motion was carried.

Ms. Roy, Minister of Families, moved that Bill 46, An Act to improve the protection of children receiving educational childcare services, do now pass in principle.

A debate arose thereon.

Debates upon Adjournment

At 1:00 p.m., the Assembly held two debates upon adjournment:

- the first, on a question from Ms. Prass (D'Arcy-McGee) to Mr. Carmant, Minister Responsible for Social Services, about funding required for L'Arche du Québec homes;
 - the second, on a question from Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys) to Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, about the Minister of Finance's optimistic economic forecasts. Mr. Caire, Minister of Cybersecurity and Digital Technology, replaced the Minister for this debate.
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At 1:25 p.m., Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 2:30 p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 2:30 p.m.

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Government Bills

Passage in Principle

The Assembly continued the debate on the motion moved by Ms. Roy, Minister of Families, that Bill 46, An Act to improve the protection of children receiving educational childcare services, do now pass in principle.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried, and Bill 46 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mr. Caire, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 46 be referred to the Committee on Citizen Relations for clause-by-clause consideration.

The motion was carried.

Report Stage

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 31, An Act to amend various legislative provisions with respect to housing, together with the amendments transmitted by Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles), Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) and Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine).

The amendments were declared in order.

A debate arose thereon.

At 4:29 p.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Tuesday, 13 February 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

NATHALIE ROY

President

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On the motion moved by Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage), together with Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia):

(Division No. 196)

YEAS - 106

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