FIRST SESSION FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 21 February 2024 — No. 102

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

Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Jonas Lowa Kouassi.

Ms. Hébert (Saint-François) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. Marie-Pier Audet.

Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) made a statement to support Université Laval lecturers.

Mr. Bussière (Gatineau) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Jean-Pierre Groulx.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 54.1, Mr. Kelley (Jacques-Cartier) made a statement to underline the success of the Annual Valentine's Ball of the Teresa Dellar Palliative Care Residence.

Mr. St-Louis (Joliette) made a statement to underline the success of the seniors' residence project PAX Habitat.

Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) made a statement to ask the Government to fund the construction of a gymnasium at École Lévesque in Saint-Donat.

Mr. Lemieux (Saint-Jean) made a statement to underline the importance of supporting food aid organizations and to invite citizens to volunteer with them.

Ms. Blais (Abitibi-Ouest) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Roger Lebreux.

Ms. Haytayan (Laval-des-Rapides) made a statement to express solidarity with and support for the Ukrainian people.

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

The proceedings resumed at 10:03 a.m.

Moment of reflection

Presenting Papers

Ms. LeBel, Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, tabled the following:

The 2022–2023 report from the Chair of the Conseil du trésor and Minister Responsible for Government Administration on the application of the *Public Administration Act*;

(Sessional Paper No. 1370-20240221)

The 2023–2027 strategic plan of the Commission de la fonction publique.

(Sessional Paper No. 1371-20240221)

Mr. Fitzgibbon, Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy, tabled the following:

The 2023 annual report of Hydro-Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 1372-20240221)

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

The Government's reply to a petition tabled on 31 January 2024 by Ms. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) on protecting the rights of gender minorities.

(Sessional Paper No. 1373-20240221)

Presenting Petitions

Mr. Derraji (Nelligan) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on adding measures to prevent alcohol-impaired driving, signed by 1,137 citizens of Québec (French and English versions).

(Sessional Paper No. 1374-20240221)

Ms. Schmaltz (Vimont) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on protecting the Saint-Saëns Ouest woods in Laval, signed by 226 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 1375-20240221)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Mr. Legault, Premier, tabled the following:

A document on the variation of the key economic indicators entitled "Variation des principaux indicateurs économiques."

(Sessional Paper No. 1376-20240221)

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

Deferred Divisions

The Assembly took the division, which had been deferred at the sitting of 20 February 2024, on the motion moved by Ms. Duranceau, Minister Responsible for Housing, for the passage of Bill 31, An Act to amend various legislative provisions with respect to housing.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **205** in Appendix)

Yeas: **81** Nays: **30** Abstentions: **0**

Accordingly, Bill 31 was passed.

Motions Without Notice

Mr. Cliche-Rivard (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne) moved a motion on the Canada–Québec Accord relating to immigration matters and the selection of foreign nationals wishing to reside permanently or temporarily in Québec; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia), together with Mr. Fortin (Pontiac), Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved a motion on reserving hectares of public forests for maple syrup production; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Minister of Justice, together with Mr. Cliche-Rivard (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne), moved:

> THAT the National Assembly deplore the federal government's delays in filling 11 vacancies for judges at the Superior Court of Québec and one vacancy at the Court of Appeal of Quebec;
>
> THAT it recall that two of these positions were added by the Québec government in 2016, in the wake of the Jordan decision, and that they have never been filled by the federal government;
>
> THAT it reiterate that these vacancies result in considerable judicial delays and greatly impede victims' access to justice and recovery;
>
> THAT it underline that the federal government's inability to fill these positions has cost Québec taxpayers more than $3 million in additional spending since 2017;
>
> THAT it deplore the federal government's laxity on this matter despite the public complaints made by the Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Québec and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada;
>
> THAT it underline that the Québec government has expressed its desire to add seven new judge positions to the Superior Court of Québec in the regions, in the context of Bill 54;
>
> THAT, lastly, it deplore the inefficiency of the federal process for the appointment of judges and that it underline that Québec is ready to work with the federal government to find a sustainable and concrete solution to these unacceptable delays in appointments.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Ms. Prass (D'Arcy-McGee), together with Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard), Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

> THAT the National Assembly recall that the Cannabis Prevention and Research Fund is dedicated to the financing of monitoring and research activities and programs relating to the effects of cannabis on the health of the population, curative care in relation to cannabis use and cannabis harm prevention and health promotion activities and programs;
>
> THAT it recall that this Fund is not funded by the Government's consolidated revenue fund, but rather by the sources of income provided for in the *Cannabis Regulation Act*;
>
> THAT, lastly, the National Assembly demand that the CAQ government publicly disclose a detailed account of the measures, initiatives and projects funded by the Cannabis Prevention and Research Fund, and that it do so before the examination of the 2024–2025 estimates of expenditure.

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

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **206** in Appendix)

Yeas: **105** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

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

- the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 41, An Act to enact the Act respecting the environmental performance of buildings and to amend various provisions regarding energy transition;

- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 42, An Act to prevent and fight psychological harassment and sexual violence in the workplace;

- the Committee on Health and Social Services, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 37, An Act respecting the Commissioner for Children's Well-Being and Rights.

- the Committee on Culture and Education, to undertake clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 47, An Act to reinforce the protection of students.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Private Members' Public Bills

Passage in Principle

Mr. Poulin (Beauce-Sud) moved that Bill 498, An Act to proclaim National Maple Day, do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried, and Bill 498 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 498 be referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources for clause-by-clause consideration and that Mr. Lamontagne, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, be a member of the said Committee during its proceedings with respect to this order of reference.

The motion was carried.

At 11:40 a.m., at the request of Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, and by leave of the Assembly, Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 3:00 p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 3:00 p.m.

Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) moved:

> THAT the National Assembly recall that the recent tax cut for taxpayers earning more than $100,000 a year deprives the Québec State of more than $400 million per year;
>
> THAT the National Assembly recognize that this Government decision contributes to the deficit and undermines the funding of public services.

Ms. Soucy, First Vice-President, informed the Assembly of the allocation of speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this limited debate: 10 minutes to the mover of the motion for his reply; 49 minutes 15 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Government; 24 minutes 39 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition; 28 minutes 36 seconds to the Second Opposition Group; 6 minutes to the Third Opposition Group; and 1 minute 30 seconds to the independent Member. Within this framework, any time not used by the independent Member 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.

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

At the request of Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, the division on the motion moved by Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) was deferred until Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day.

Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved the adjournment of the Assembly until Thursday, 22 February 2024 at 9:40 a.m.

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, at 4:58 p.m., Ms. Soucy, First Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 22 February 2024 at 9:40 a.m.

ROYAL ASSENT

On Wednesday, 21 February 2024 at 3:05 p.m. in the Office of the Lieutenant-Governor, in the presence of Ms. Duranceau, Minister Responsible for Housing, Ms. Jeannotte (Labelle) and Mr. Rivest (Côte-du-Sud), Delegates of the Premier, and of Ms. Aubé, Sittings and Parliamentary Procedure Advisor and Delegate of the Secretary General, the Honourable Manon Jeannotte, Lieutenant-Governor of Québec, was pleased to assent to the following bill:

31 An Act to amend various legislative provisions with respect to housing

NATHALIE ROY

President

APPENDIX

Electronic Divisions

On the motion moved by Ms. Duranceau, Minister Responsible for Housing, for the passage of Bill 31, An Act to amend various legislative provisions with respect to housing:

(Division No. 205)

YEAS - 81

Abou-Khalil (*CAQ*)
Allaire (*CAQ*)
Asselin (*CAQ*)
Bachand (*CAQ*)
Bélanger (*CAQ*) (*Orford*)
Bélanger (*CAQ*) (*Prévost*)
Blais (*CAQ*)
Blanchette Vézina (*CAQ*)
Blouin (*CAQ*)
Bogemans (*CAQ*)
Boivin Roy (*CAQ*)
Boulet (*CAQ*)
Bourassa (*CAQ*)
Bussière (*CAQ*)
Caire (*CAQ*)
Carmant (*CAQ*)
Caron (*CAQ*) (*Portneuf*)
Champagne Jourdain (*CAQ*)
Charest (*CAQ*)
Charette (*CAQ*)
Chassin (*CAQ*)
D'Amours (*CAQ*)
Déry (*CAQ*)
Dionne (*CAQ*)
Dorismond (*CAQ*)
Drainville (*CAQ*)
Dubé (*CAQ*)
Dufour (*CAQ*) (*Abitibi-Est*)
Duranceau (*CAQ*)
Émond (*CAQ*)
Fitzgibbon (*CAQ*)
Fréchette (*CAQ*)
Gagnon (*CAQ*)
Gendron (*CAQ*)
Girard (*CAQ*) (*Lac-Saint-Jean*)
Girard (*CAQ*) (*Groulx*)
Grondin (*CAQ*)
Guilbault (*CAQ*)
Guillemette (*CAQ*)
Haytayan (*CAQ*)
Hébert (*CAQ*)
Jacques (*CAQ*)
Jeannotte (*CAQ*)
Jolin-Barrette (*CAQ*)
Julien (*CAQ*)
Lachance (*CAQ*)
Lacombe (*CAQ*)
Laforest (*CAQ*)
Laframboise (*CAQ*)
Lafrenière (*CAQ*)
Lamontagne (*CAQ*)
Lamothe (*CAQ*)
LeBel (*CAQ*)
Lecours (*CAQ*) (*Les Plaines*)
Lecours (*CAQ*) (*Lotbinière-Frontenac*)
Lefebvre (*CAQ*)
Legault (*CAQ*)
Lemay (*CAQ*)
Lemieux (*CAQ*)
Lévesque (*CAQ*) (*Chapleau*)
Mallette (*CAQ*)
Martel (*CAQ*)
Montigny (*CAQ*)
Picard (*CAQ*)
Poulet (*CAQ*)
Poulin (*CAQ*)
Proulx (*CAQ*)
Provençal (*CAQ*)
Reid (*CAQ*)
Rivest (*CAQ*)
Roberge (*CAQ*)
Rouleau (*CAQ*)
Schmaltz (*CAQ*)
Schneeberger (*CAQ*)
Simard (*CAQ*)
Skeete (*CAQ*)
St-Louis (*CAQ*)
Tardif (*CAQ*)
Thouin (*CAQ*)
Tremblay (*CAQ*) (*Dubuc*)
Tremblay (*CAQ*) (*Hull*)

NAYS - 30

Arseneau (*PQ*)
Beauchemin (*QLP*)
Bérubé (*PQ*)
Bouazzi (*QS*)
Cadet (*QLP*)
Caron (*QLP*) (*La Pinière*)
Ciccone (*QLP*)
Cliche-Rivard (*QS*)
Derraji (*QLP*)
Fortin (*QLP*)
Garceau (*QLP*)
Ghazal (*QS*)
Grandmont (*QS*)
Kelley (*QLP*)
Labrie (*QS*)
Lakhoyan Olivier (*QLP*)
Leduc (*QS*)
Maccarone (*QLP*)
Marissal (*QS*)
McGraw (*QLP*)
Morin (*QLP*)
Nadeau-Dubois (*QS*)
Nichols (*IND*)
Paradis (*PQ*)
Prass (*QLP*)
Rizqy (*QLP*)
Rotiroti (*QLP*)
Setlakwe (*QLP*)
St-Pierre Plamondon (*PQ*)
Zanetti (*QS*)

On the motion moved by Ms. Prass (D'Arcy-McGee), together with Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard), Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil):

(Division No. 206)

YEAS - 105

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