



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Order Paper and Notices

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 27 March 2024 – No. 111

Nine forty a.m.

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

Part 1
ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

- The Member for Blainville on the following subject: *Ms. Albina Lemay, centenarian.*
- The Member for Chomedey on the following subject: *Underline Newroz, the Kurdish New Year.*
- The Member for Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata on the following subject: *The 30th anniversary of Ligne de vie.*
- The Member for Jean-Lesage on the following subject: *For the remuneration of internships.*
- The Member for Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré on the following subject: *Ms. Julie Gauthier: Master of living tradition.*
- The Member for Acadie on the following subject: *Tribute to Mr. Philippe Rachiele, co-founder of the Journal des Voisins newspaper.*
- The Member for Saint-François on the following subject: *Paying tribute to the Thivierge volunteer family.*
- The Member for Joliette on the following subject: *The Maison de la musique René-Charette.*
- The Member for Saint-Jean on the following subject: *Hats off to the environment committee of Hôpital du Haut-Richelieu for its green operating rooms project.*
- The Member for Bellechasse on the following subject: *Ms. Simone Laflamme, an exceptional citizen.*
- The Member for Portneuf on the following subject: *Québec and Ireland, a relationship deeply rooted in our history.*
- The Member for Bertrand on the following subject: *A festive year for the municipality of Saint-Donat.*

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

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INFORMATION ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Part 2

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUSINESS HAVING PRECEDENCE

- (1) Pursuant to Standing Orders 275 and 276, continuation of the debate on the motion by the Minister of Finance, –That this Assembly approve the budgetary policy of the Government,

And on the motions stating a grievance moved by:

The Member for Marguerite-Bourgeoys:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for announcing a record deficit of \$11B in its budget without presenting any plan to restore fiscal balance.

The Member for Maurice-Richard:

THAT the National Assembly censure the CAQ government for a budget that fails to prepare for the future by addressing the housing crisis, adapting to climate change and raising new revenue to support State finances.

The Member for Jean-Talon:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ Government for its 2024–2025 budget, which does not account for the financial cost associated with Canada’s refusal of Québec’s legitimate financial requests.

The Leader of the Official Opposition:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for tabling a 2024–2025 budget that sums up six years of mismanagement without providing for the return to a balanced budget in a context where Quebecers are not receiving the services to which they are entitled.

The Member for Jean-Lesage:

THAT the National Assembly censure the CAQ government for its lack of compassion toward Québec artists, whom it has let down and condemned to disgraceful conditions of life and artistic creation, thus destroying the very core of the Québec's identity that it had promised to defend.

The Member for D'Arcy-McGee:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for its 2024–2025 which does not provide the resources or means needed to ensure the sustainability of social services for the population.

The Member for Sherbrooke:

THAT the National Assembly censure the Government for its inability to prepare Québec for an aging population.

The Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for failing to provide resources to meet the service delivery needs of community organizations.

The Member for Mille-Îles:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for failing to grasp the extent of the housing crisis and tabling yet another budget that includes no provisions to increase the housing supply or promote access to property.

The Member for Laurier-Dorion:

THAT the National Assembly censure the CAQ government and the Minister Responsible for Housing for their budget, which provides no new investments for social and community housing and no measures to alleviate the impacts of the housing crisis, control the spiralling inflation and speculation in the rental housing sector, promote access to property, and stimulate the construction of new housing.

The Member for La Pinière:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for tabling a budget that fails Québec's intermediate resources, responsible for housing the most vulnerable members of our society, by neglecting to sufficiently fund them in 2024.

The Member for Verdun:

THAT the National Assembly censure the CAQ government for its 2024–2025 budget, which lets down farmers facing the climate crisis and fails to prepare Québec for the adaptation to and the fight against climate change.

The Member for Jacques-Cartier:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for tabling a budget that offers nothing to help citizens buy solar panels and home storage systems.

The Member for Taschereau:

THAT the National Assembly censure the CAQ government for the considerable financial burden it has imposed on the citizens of Québec by underinvesting in urban and intercity public transit in the 2024–2025 budget, in view of the fact that transportation is the second biggest budget item for Québec families.

The Member for Nelligan:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for tabling a budget that offers no solution to the public transit funding crisis.

The Member for Robert-Baldwin:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for its inaction with regard to the construction of shelters for women who are victims of domestic violence and for blocking the funds it has promised since 2021 to the organizations responsible for these shelters

The Member for Mercier:

THAT the National Assembly censure the CAQ government and the Minister Responsible for Housing for blocking the construction of shelters for women and children who are victims of domestic violence.

The Member for Bourassa-Sauvé:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for ignoring the principles of intergenerational equity by passing on the burden of its debt to future generations and depriving itself of the budgetary margin necessary to address the challenges facing young Quebecers, such as the development of strategic workforce skills, business takeover and remuneration of internships in the public sector.

The Member for Rosemont:

THAT the National Assembly censure the CAQ government for using public funds to build private mini-hospitals.

The Member for Mont-Royal–Outremont:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for undermining land use and economic development by breaking its promise to invest \$470 million in the development of small communities and villages to support local services.

The Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for its budgetary measures that continue and enhance the offer of accelerated training in the construction industry, jeopardizing the Diploma of Vocational Studies (DVS), while the consensual alternative is work-study programs.

The Member for Pontiac:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for its sixth consecutive budget that hinders the improvement of health services by providing no amount specifically for the intensive training, retention and recruitment of health and social services personnel.

The Member for Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ for its 2024–2025 budget, which breaks the promise of the Grand chantier pour les familles project and deprives Québec families of the means required to develop socially and economically.

The Member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine:

THAT the National Assembly censure the CAQ government for its 2024–2025 budget, which does not include any new funding for the construction of new social or affordable housing in the coming year, and fails to include strong measures to accelerate construction, promote access to property, curb speculation and limit rent increases.

The Member for Marquette:

THAT the National Assembly severely censure the CAQ government for its budget, which does not include any funding dedicated to human capital in sports and physical activity organizations.

URGENT DEBATES

DEBATES ON REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

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 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**

- (4) Bill 53
An Act to enact the Act respecting protection against reprisals related to the disclosure of wrongdoings and to amend other legislative provisions
Introduced by Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, on **15 February 2024**

Committee Stage

- (5) 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

- (6) 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
Report from the Committee on Health and Social Services (consultations)
tabled on 13 February 2024
Passed in principle on **14 February 2024**, and
Referred to the Committee on Health and Social Services
- (7) Bill 44
An Act to amend mainly the Act respecting the Ministère de l’Économie et
de l’Innovation with respect to research
Introduced by the Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy on
7 February 2024
Passed in principle on **20 February 2024**, and
Referred to the Committee on Labour and the Economy
- (8) 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
Report from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment
(consultations) tabled on 13 February 2024
Passed in principle on **20 February 2024**, and
Referred to the Committee on Transportation and the Environment
- (9) 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
Introduced by the Minister of Finance on **8 February 2024**
Passed in principle on **20 February 2024**, and
Referred to the Committee on Public Finance

- (10) 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
Report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain (consultations) tabled on 21 March 2024
Passed in principle on **26 March 2024**, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain
- (11) Bill 51
An Act to modernize the construction industry
Introduced by the Minister of Labour on 1 February 2024
Report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy (consultations) tabled on 20 March 2024
Passed in principle on **21 March 2024**, and
Referred to the Committee on Labour and the Economy
- (12) 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
Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Laicity on 8 February 2024
Passed in principle on **20 February 2024**, and
Referred to the Committee on Citizen Relations

Report Stage

Passage

- (13) Bill 47
An Act to reinforce the protection of students, including with regard to acts of sexual violence (*modified title*)
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
Report (amended) from the Committee on Culture and Education adopted on **26 March 2024**

- (14) Bill 54
An Act to follow up on the Table Justice-Québec with a view to reducing processing times in criminal and penal matters and to make the administration of justice more efficient
Introduced by the Minister of Justice on 20 February 2024
Passed in principle on 12 March 2024, and
Referred to the Committee on Institutions
Report from the Committee on Institutions (consultations) tabled on 14 March 2024
Report from the Committee on Institutions adopted on **26 March 2024**

II. Private Members' Public Bills

Passage in Principle

- (15) 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**
- (16) 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**
- (17) 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**
- (18) 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**
- (19) 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**

- (20) 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**
- (21) 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**
- (22) 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**
- (23) Bill 199
An Act to better protect consumers against abusive credit contracts
Introduced by the Member for Saint-Laurent on **23 February 2023**
- (24) 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**
- (25) 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**
- (26) 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**
- (27) Bill 393
An Act to combat food waste
Introduced by the Member for Verdun on **6 April 2023**

- (28) 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**
- (29) 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**
- (30) 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**
- (31) 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**
- (32) 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**
- (33) 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**
- (34) 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**
- (35) Bill 492
An Act to combat waste
Introduced by the Member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine on **18 April 2023**

- (36) 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**
- (37) 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**
- (38) 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**
- (39) 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**
- (40) Bill 499
An Act to establish a new electoral system
Introduced by the Member for Jean-Lesage on **5 October 2023**
- (41) Bill 591
An Act mainly to reinforce Members' oversight of government action by recognizing their right to visit administrative institutions
Introduced by the Member for Sherbrooke on **21 March 2024**
- (42) 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**
- (43) 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**

- (44) 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**
- (45) Bill 599
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
Introduced by the Member for Maurice-Richard on **20 February 2024**
- (46) 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**
- (47) 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**
- (48) Bill 693
An Act to foster the active contribution to society of recipients under the Social Solidarity Program
Introduced by the Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce on **22 February 2024**
- (49) Bill 694
An Act to amend the Highway Safety Code to more effectively fight drinking and driving
Introduced by the Member for Nelligan on **19 March 2024**
- (50) Bill 695
Parliamentary Budget Officer Act
Introduced by the Member for Nelligan on **14 March 2024**

Committee Stage

- (51) 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

- (52) Bill 498
An Act to proclaim National Maple Day
Introduced by the Member for Beauce-Sud on 8 December 2023
Passed in principle on 21 February 2024
Report from the Committee on Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources tabled on **14 March 2024**

III. Private Bills

Hearings and Clause-by-Clause Consideration

- (53) 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
- (54) 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

Passage

IV. Government Motions

- (55) 26 March 2024
Motion moved by the Minister of Justice:

THAT the National Assembly:

Concur in the reservations expressed by the Government in its reply tabled in the National Assembly on 21 March 2024, to the report from the Committee on the Remuneration of Criminal and Penal Prosecuting Attorneys for the period 2023–2027, tabled in the National Assembly on 17 October 2023;

Approve the 23 recommendations mentioned in sections I to V of the report from the Committee on the Remuneration of Criminal and Penal Prosecuting Attorneys for the period 2023–2027.

V. Estimates of Expenditure

- (56) Estimates of Expenditure for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2025 tabled by the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor on 12 March 2024 and referred for consideration to the standing committees on **13 March 2024**.

VI. Statutory Debates

BUSINESS STANDING IN THE NAME OF MEMBERS IN OPPOSITION

- (57) 26 March 2024
Motion moved by the Leader of the Third Opposition Group

THAT the National Assembly note that an Australian study published on 4 March 2024 in the scientific journal *JAMA Pediatrics* confirms that screen time is harmful to young children’s development;

THAT it underline that the Institut de la Statistique du Québec's longitudinal study has also established a correlation between exposure to screen time at a young age and academic performance in elementary school;

THAT it acknowledge that overexposure to screen time has a proven impact on children's development of cognitive abilities, health, in particular vision problems, and attention and behavioural problems;

THAT it note that many countries, including France, the Netherlands and the Scandinavian countries, have taken measures to address this issue;

THAT it affirm that children's overexposure to screen time is a public health issue;

THAT it note that the Digital Action Plan for Education and Higher Education, which has been out of date since 2023, is insufficient and must be improved to effectively address the negative impacts of children's overexposure to screen time;

THAT, accordingly, the National Assembly ask the Government to table a new and improved Digital Action Plan for Education and Higher Education to better limit children's exposure to screen time, and that the plan be implemented for the start of the next school year.

Part 3

BILLS PASSED

(Bills awaiting Royal Assent)

Bill 41

An Act to enact the Act respecting the environmental performance of buildings and to amend various provisions regarding energy transition

Passed on **26 March 2024**

Bill 42

An Act to prevent and fight psychological harassment and sexual violence in the workplace

Passed on **21 March 2024**

Bill 46

An Act to improve the protection of children receiving educational childcare services

Passed on **26 March 2024**

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

Special Consultations:

- **Bill 45**, An Act to amend the Act respecting safety in sports mainly to better protect the integrity of persons in recreation and sports (Order of reference given on 12 March 2024).

Consideration of Bills:

- **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 (Order of reference given on 26 March 2024).
- **Bill 201**, An Act respecting Municipalité de Morin-Heights (Order of reference given on 20 April 2023).

[COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION](#)

[COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY](#)

Orders of reference

Special Consultations:

- **Bill 44**, An Act to amend mainly the Act respecting the Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation with respect to research (Order of reference given on 12 March 2024).

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 44**, An Act to amend mainly the Act respecting the Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation with respect to research (Order of reference given on 20 February 2024).
- **Bill 51**, An Act to modernize the construction industry (Order of reference given on 21 March 2024).

[COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE](#)

Orders of reference

Special Consultations:

- **Bill 53**, An Act to enact the Act respecting protection against reprisals related to the disclosure of wrongdoings and to amend other legislative provisions (Order of reference given on 19 March 2024).

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).
- **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 (Order of reference given on 20 February 2024).

Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

- Continuation of the debate on the budget speech.

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 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 (Order of reference given on 26 March 2024).

Consideration of Bills:

- **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 (Order of reference given on 20 February 2024).

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Orders of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 37**, An Act respecting the Commissioner for Children’s Well-Being and Rights (Order of reference given on 14 February 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).

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

Consideration of Bills:

- **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 20 February 2024).

Part 5

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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

- (98) Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) – **15 February 2024**
To the Minister of Education

The teacher shortage is very real and its impacts are devastating. The quality of the teaching provided to our children is being affected, but even worse is the fact that in many cases teaching is not happening at all. And “no teaching” means “no evaluation”.

This is the case for many students at École secondaire des Échos in Vaudreuil-Dorion. In their report cards for the first term of the 2023–2024 school year, no results were entered for French, the only reason being that the students have not been evaluated.

These students are preparing for college and are very worried about the negative impacts on their applications. Will their grade point average be negatively affected? Will they be less likely to be accepted by a college?

We therefore ask the Minister of Education to clarify this matter for us. First of all, can the Minister explain why some students have not been evaluated?

Secondly, can the Minister explain what measures he intends to implement in order to not adversely affect the overall average of high school students, in particular that of graduates?

Furthermore, to reassure students and their parents, can the Minister confirm that CEGEP applications will be accepted despite the absence of certain evaluations?

- (100) Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) – **22 February 2024**
To the Minister of Health

The Minister of Health is aware: the population of the greater Vaudreuil-Soulanges region finds his unilateral decision to build a surface parking lot at the new Vaudreuil-Soulanges hospital incomprehensible.

Rather than building a multi-level parking lot as was initially agreed, the Government decided to move ahead with an enormous 5-hectare parking lot located in an agricultural area.

Guy Pilon, mayor of Ville de Vaudreuil-Dorion, and Olivier Van Neste, director general of that municipality, publicly spoke out against that decision, as have the MRC de Vaudreuil-Soulanges, the Union des municipalités du Québec, the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal, the Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de Vaudreuil-Soulanges and the Conseil régional de l'environnement de la Montérégie.

Representatives from numerous environmental protection organizations are going in the same direction. In particular, Marie-Janick Robitaille, a researcher in Université Laval's geography department who collaborated on the mapping of heat islands around the site of the future Vaudreuil-Soulanges hospital, Dany Doiron, an associate researcher at the MUHC research centre, and the Direction de la santé publique.

La Presse reported, on 19 February 2024, that Santé publique had issued a scientific opinion, a three-page argument dated April 2019, and produced a fact sheet on responsible parking. All these documents favour a multi-level parking lot. However, the Minister has never referred to these numerous documents that go against his decision to keep the surface parking lot. Accordingly, could the Minister of Health make public the three previously cited documents as well as any other document concerning the construction of the parking lot for the new Vaudreuil-Soulanges hospital?

(101) Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) – **22 February 2024**

To the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility

The population of the greater Vaudreuil-Soulanges region finds the Government's unilateral decision to build a surface parking lot for the new Vaudreuil-Soulanges hospital incomprehensible.

Rather than building a multi-level parking lot, as was initially agreed, the Government decided to move ahead with an enormous 5-hectare parking lot located in an agricultural area.

Given that the need for parking space at the Vaudreuil-Soulanges hospital is directly related to the lack of a structuring public transit network in the region, as established by expert Jean-Michel Champagne, can the Minister tell us, first of all, how and when she intends to improve support to the municipality of Vaudreuil-Dorion, which will have to increase its offer of public transport services heading to the new hospital?

Though the arrival of the new Vaudreuil-Soulanges hospital has been eagerly awaited for a long time, it will generate considerable automobile traffic. Traffic which the city's current layout will be unable to manage. As underlined in the 19 February 2024 *La Presse* article entitled "Un état exemplaire (quand ça adonne)", the marginal place of public transport is indeed baffling. Not only will the Île-aux-Tourtes bridge not have any lanes reserved exclusively for public transportation, but the project to integrate the REM on the new Île-aux-Tourtes bridge and to build a REM station in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region appears to be stalled. According to Guy Pilon, mayor of Vaudreuil-Dorion, the situation is absurd and unacceptable. Given that these two ridings are undergoing an explosion in population, can the Minister explain which studies the Government and the REM project sponsor, CDPQ Infra, used to dismiss the extension of the REM toward Vaudreuil-Dorion?

(102) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) – **22 February 2024**

To the Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks

In 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) reviewed its air quality guidelines for certain major air pollutants: fine particulate matter (PM 2.5 and PM 10), ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide.

Given that the Clean Air Regulation (CAR) was passed in 2011, the standards applicable in Québec were compared with the reference values developed by the WHO in 2005 and not with those developed in 2021.

In January 2023, the Groupe de travail sur les contaminants atmosphériques (GTCA), established by the Minister, made public its report on the air quality in the Limoilou–Basse-Ville sector entitled *Rapport sur le portrait de la qualité de l'air du secteur Limoilou-Basse-Ville, propositions de mesures d'atténuation et recommandations*. The GTCA targets fine particulate matter as pollutants that are a priority and especially harmful. It also identified total suspended particulates (TSP) as a priority. The report *Mon environnement, ma santé*, presented by the Direction de santé publique de la Capitale-Nationale on 13 March 2023, also points to fine particulate matter.

Note that the CAR does not contain any PM 10 standards, and has no annual standards for PM 2.5 or TSP.

On 6 February 2024, the Association québécoise des médecins pour l'environnement published a frame of reference for healthy air entitled *Cadre de référence pour un air sain*. The Association asks, among other things, for the update of the toxicity threshold of certain air pollutants, including fine particulate matter of 2.5 micrometers.

My questions to the Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks are the following:

1. Does the Minister intend to follow the experts' recommendations and reduce the particulate matter (PM 2.5), ozone, nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide standards to be in line with the WHO's new guidelines?
2. Does the Minister intend to set a standard (daily and annual) for PM 10, according to the guideline levels from the WHO?
3. Does the Minister plan to add a high season standard for ozone, a 24-hour standard for carbon monoxide and an annual standard for PM 2.5, all based on the guideline levels from the WHO?
4. Does the Minister intend to set an annual standard for total suspended particulates?

(104) Mr. Morin (Acadie) – **12 March 2024**

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

Last 12 and 13 September, special consultations and public hearings were held on Bill 32, An Act to establish the cultural safety approach within the health and social services network.

Since then, we have heard nothing about the bill.

Can the Minister tell us what his intentions are for the future of this bill?

- (105) Mr. Ciccone (Marquette) – **12 March 2024**
To the Minister of Health

On 11 January 2024, an article on vaping published in *La Presse* entitled “Vapotage — Y a des limites à se faire niaiser” reported that, although the sale of non-tobacco flavoured vaping products has been banned since 31 October 2023, the Minister of Health’s new regulation misses the mark.

Many dépanneurs and specialty shops are flouting the rules by selling a plethora of flavour concentrates that can easily be mixed with a neutral e-liquid base. Considering that merchants admit to not knowing what exactly is in these flavours, with some suggesting the products may be carcinogenic if inhaled, does the Minister have a plan to ensure compliance with his regulation, and especially, to protect the health of young Quebecers?

- (106) Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) – **13 March 2024**
To the Minister Responsible for Social Solidarity and Community Action

As the Minister knows, people experiencing homelessness who take advantage of the provisions of subsidized housing programs, such as the Rent Supplement Program or low-rental housing, benefit from social support that allows for better reintegration.

However, at the moment, women victims of conjugal violence have no levers for support once they leave the family home. Considering the housing crisis, many women are currently forced to stay in their toxic environment for lack of affordable housing, and especially, housing suitable for their families. In addition to this issue, as mentioned, is the absence of support when they access the Rent Supplement Program or low-rental housing, which greatly reduces their chances of success.

The consequences are disastrous. In the Vaudreuil riding, some women have lost their access to social housing because of a lack of support. It is likely that they and their children have had to return to their toxic environment where violence prevails.

To help the women and children stuck in these situations, we ask that, first, the Minister explain to us the services available to women victims of conjugal violence who are rebuilding their lives in subsidized housing.

In addition, is it possible to improve the support services offered to women victims of conjugal violence and the organizations responsible for managing subsidized housing?

(107) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – 13 March 2024
To the Minister of Higher Education

For more than thirty years now, the École nationale du meuble et de l'ébénisterie de Montréal (ENME) has offered a unique collegiate woodworking training program.

Gifted with a competent team and modern equipment, the ENME is a true jewel. Its students thrive in programs that are adapted to the business and professional network.

The decision of the Cégep de Victoriaville's board of directors to close the Montréal campus in 2027 seems ill-advised. For the good of our metropolis and its cultural and economic influence, a solution to this closure must be found.

The idea that the Montréal college network could lose such an institution is inconceivable. The ENME is responsible for an important portion of the increasingly needed succession for the carpentry industry in Québec.

As the ENME is in the Mercier riding, which I represent, I can anticipate the impacts of this closure, which will first be felt by the teaching staff, the school support staff and the professional who work at the school, as well as the students. However, this closure will also impact the furniture sector as a whole.

My question to the Minister of Higher Education is the following:

Does the Minister intend to support the École nationale du meuble et de l'ébénisterie de Montréal to prevent its closure? Does she intend to propose alternative solutions to keep the school open?

(108) Mr. Marissal (Rosemont) – **14 March 2024**

To the Minister of Health

In Québec, the *Act respecting prescription drug insurance* provides that patients must pay a portion of the costs related to the purchase of prescription drugs. This contribution includes a deductible amount and a coinsurance payment.

For most people, the maximum annual contribution is \$1,196, and this must be adhered to by the RAMQ and private insurers alike, without exception. For patients insured by the RAMQ, this amount is spread over 12 months, with a monthly maximum contribution. This means that patients do not pay more than \$99.65 per month (for a total of \$1,196 per year).

However, when a patient has private insurance, the insurer does not spread the amount payable over 12 months (because there is no monthly maximum contribution) and payment is required in full at the time of purchase at the pharmacy. Since the amount owed depends on the cost of the medication itself and the percentage of the coverage under the patient's plan, there is often a significant amount to be paid for several consecutive months at the start of the year.

This situation can impose a heavy financial burden on vulnerable patients with private insurance compared to patients covered by the public prescription drug insurance plan.

My questions to the Minister of Health are the following:

What measures does the Minister intend to take to require private insurers to set up a process for the monthly distribution of deductible and coinsurance payments similar to that of the RAMQ?

If so, does the Minister intend to apply the Act so as to guarantee that every patient in Québec, regardless of whether they are covered privately or by the RAMQ, can have their deductible and coinsurance payments spread over 12 months?

(109) Mr. Derraji (Nelligan) – **19 March 2024**

To the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility

The Assembly recently held its consideration of Interim Supply for 2024–2025 during which I asked the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility questions about public transit bus electrification. However, several questions have yet to be answered.

Can the Minister tell us the cost of one all-electric bus and the range of a battery?
Can she also tell us the cost of retrofitting or building a garage for electric buses for each public transit authority?

(110) Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) – **20 March 2024**
To the Minister of Labour

It is now well known that the rising cost of living and the housing crisis have a significant impact on seniors, as they live mainly on fixed incomes. This precarious situation also includes seniors who were victims of work accidents or occupational diseases during their working lives and who now collect a retirement pension at the age of 65.

Currently, however, the *Act respecting the Québec Pension Plan* (AQPP) and the *Act respecting industrial accidents and occupational diseases* (AIAOD) unfairly penalize victims of work accidents and occupational diseases who receive income replacement indemnities over a long period. Indeed, many of them receive a lower pension amount than they would have otherwise received had they not been victims of an employment accident or an occupational disease. This situation is contrary to the purpose of the AIAOD to provide compensation for victims of employment injuries or occupational diseases.

The AQPP does not provide for victims of employment injuries and occupational diseases to fully contribute to the Québec Pension Plan while they receive income replacement indemnities. The AQPP only takes into account an individual's working income to determine their pensionable salary, which excludes income replacement indemnities.

As for the AIAOD, contributions made to the Québec Pension Plan are subtracted from income replacement indemnities without being paid into the Québec Pension Plan. To calculate the net income and the income replacement indemnity equal to 90% of that net income, the CNESST subtracts all contributions made from the gross income. Victims of work accidents and occupational diseases are therefore deprived of their Québec Pension Plan contributions, as well as those made by their employer, for the duration of their total disability. The pensions of victims who hold suitable employment and receive income replacement indemnities to make up for the wage difference between their pre-injury occupation are similarly affected. It is important to point out that this second type of indemnity represents the vast majority of long-term indemnities.

As a result, the vast majority of victims of work accidents and occupational diseases cannot benefit from the exclusion measures provided for in the AQPP and are instead penalized when they retire. In many cases, this can represent a loss of several hundreds of dollars per month. However, a solution that has already been considered by the CNESST, or the CSST as it was called at the time, could easily resolve this issue.

Indeed, before the passage of the AIAOD in 1985, injured workers received indemnities from the CSST until their death. These life pensions were abolished with the introduction of the AIAOD. In the 1981 draft bill on compensation for employment injuries, the CSST had considered a measure to make up for the abolition of the life pensions. The draft bill provided that the CSST would pay the pension contribution subtracted from the income replacement indemnity, and the employer's contribution, directly into the Québec Pension Plan. It was agreed that the amounts deducted for this purpose would be taken from the CSST's accident fund. The following excerpt from the draft bill clearly shows the CSST's vision at the time: "The beneficiary of an income replacement indemnity contributes to the pension plan provided for in the *Act respecting the Québec Pension Plan* (chapter R-9) as if they had continued to work. The Commission deducts the worker's share from the indemnity and assumes the employer's share (...) the worker is then in the same situation they would have been in had they continued to work. This prevents the worker from suffering further harm because of their injury." [Translation]

In other words, it would be possible to apply the CSST's reasoning and amend the AIAOD and the AQPP, in particular sections 63 and 45 respectively, so that victims of work accidents and occupational diseases are no longer unfairly penalized upon their retirement.

Considering the above, my questions are the following:

1. Will the Minister of Labour acknowledge that the housing crisis and rising cost of living particularly affect seniors, including seniors who have been victims of work accidents and occupational diseases?
2. Will the Minister of Labour acknowledge that, in such circumstances, effective measures must be considered to support seniors?

3. Can the Minister of Labour tell us if the CNESST has estimated the costs of implementing the above-mentioned solution, that is, having the CNESST pay the worker and the employer's contributions into the Québec Pension Plan?
4. If not, can the Minister of Labour ask the CNESST to estimate the costs of such a measure?
5. Will the Minister of Labour commit to legislating so that victims of work accidents and occupational diseases are no longer unfairly penalized upon retirement?

(111) Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) – **20 March 2024**

To the Minister Responsible for Youth

We all know that the Maisons des jeunes (youth centres) play an important role for young people.

How does the Minister Responsible for Youth plan to support the infrastructure and equipment needs of the youth centres that are members of the Regroupement des maisons des jeunes du Québec, so that they can provide young people with a safe and stimulating environment?

Similarly, with a view to maintaining and developing the Maisons des jeunes du Québec, does the Minister plan to adopt specific measures to facilitate access for the Maisons des jeunes to funds dedicated to social innovation and the implementation of experimental projects addressing emerging youth issues?

(112) Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) – **21 March 2024**

To the Minister of Finance

In August 2023, the Premier admitted that more needed to be done with regard to housing, in particular for those most in need.

Though he claimed he would consider all measures to be undertaken, the budget tabled on 12 March 2024 indicates that this is not the case.

According to the Office régional d'habitation de Vaudreuil-Soulanges (ORHVS), families are the main victims of the housing crisis. There is no supply of 5 ½, 6 ½, or 7 ½-unit apartments. As a result, in 2023, the ORHVS had to house families with young children in hotels.

Consequently, the housing crisis rages on and stakeholders in the field are questioning more than ever the initiatives ignored by the Government, in particular those intended to promote the construction of affordable housing.

Housing parents and children in hotels is not a sustainable solution, nor is it healthy for the mental health of families, not to mention the fact that the costs of these supposedly temporary accommodations are remarkably high.

Accordingly, the Government's tax measures to stimulate and possibly accelerate housing construction must take into account avoidable expenses such as hotel costs.

A study commissioned by the Association des professionnels de la construction et de l'habitation du Québec indicates that suspending the QST would help turn unprofitable rental projects into profitable development projects. Does the Minister intend to follow in the footsteps of the federal government and other Canadian provinces and grant a tax holiday?

Can the Minister explain what measures taken in his budget will make it possible for families housed in hotels of the Vaudreuil and Soulanges region to be relocated as early as 2024?

Part 6
NOTICES

I. NOTICES PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

Government Bills

- (a) 26 March 2024
An Act respecting family law reform and establishing the parental union regime – *Minister of Justice*

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*

Private Bills

II. NOTICES APPEARING FOR THE FIRST TIME