



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Order Paper and Notices **of the Assembly**

Wednesday, 10 April 2024 – No. 114
Nine forty a.m.

President of the National Assembly:
Madam Nathalie Roy

Part 1
ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

- The Member for Saint-Hyacinthe on the following subject: *Thanks to the residents of Les Maskoutains for 10 years of trust.*
- The Member for La Pinière on the following subject: *Underline the 50th anniversary of the Club de patinage artistique de Brossard.*
- The Member for Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata on the following subject: *40th anniversary of Maison Le Puits in MRC Les Basques.*
- The Member for Verdun on the following subject: *The youth of École secondaire Monseigneur-Richard ask for funding for schools.*
- The Member for Saint-François on the following subject: *Tribute to Professor Andrew Paul MacDonald for his contribution to contemporary music.*
- The Member for Pontiac on the following subject: *Underline Daffodil Month for the fight against cancer.*
- The Member for Joliette on the following subject: *The Knights of Columbus – Council 1468.*
- The Member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine on the following subject: *150th anniversary of the Île-d'Entrée and L'Étang-du-Nord lighthouses.*
- The Member for Vimont on the following subject: *Visit by the youth parliament of École secondaire l'Odyssée-des-Jeunes.*
- The Member for Saint-Jean on the following subject: *News from Cégep Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, which has finished expanding from the inside!*
- The Member for Bellechasse on the following subject: *Saint-Lazare-de-Bellechasse, 175 years of history.*
- The Member for Les Plaines on the following subject: *Tribute to Mr. Richard Landry.*

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

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 (b) Reports from committees
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**COMPLAINTS OF BREACH OF PRIVILEGE OR CONTEMPT AND
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ORAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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Part 2

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUSINESS HAVING PRECEDENCE

URGENT DEBATES

DEBATES ON REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

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 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
Report from the Committee on Public Finance (consultations) tabled on **9 april 2024**
- (3) Bill 56
An Act respecting family law reform and establishing the parental union regime
Introduced by Minister of Justice on **27 March 2024**

Committee Stage

- (4) 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
- (5) 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
- (6) 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
Report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy (consultations) tabled on **28 March 2024**
- (7) 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
Report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain (consultations) tabled on 28 March 2024
Passed in principle on **9 April 2024**, and
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

- (8) 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
- (9) 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
- (10) 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
- (11) 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

(12) 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

Report from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment tabled on **9 April 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**
Resuming the debate adjourned in the name of the Member for Vimont on **28 March 2024**
- (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 499
An Act to establish a new electoral system
Introduced by the Member for Jean-Lesage on **5 October 2023**
- (39) 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**
- (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 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**
- (44) 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**
- (45) 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**
- (46) 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**
- (47) 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**
- (48) Bill 695
Parliamentary Budget Officer Act
Introduced by the Member for Nelligan on **14 March 2024**

Committee Stage

- (49) 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

- (50) 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
- (51) 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

V. Estimates of Expenditure

- (52) 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

(53) 9 April 2024

Motion moved by the Member for Bourassa-Sauvé

THAT the National Assembly take note of the demands of Québec college and university students who are denouncing unpaid internships in the public sector;

THAT it underline that the majority of the jobs affected by unpaid internships are female-dominated;

THAT it recall that the Minister of Higher Education stated during an 11 April 2023 interview that interns deserve to be paid;

THAT it recall the motion carried unanimously on 25 October 2023 asking to “implement remuneration for internships in the public sector as soon as possible”;

THAT, lastly, it ask the CAQ government to put its words into action and present a timeline for implementing remuneration for internships in the public sector and to do so by the end of this parliamentary session.

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

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 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 9 April 2024).
- **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

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

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).

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).

Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

Interpellation:

- By the Member for Robert-Baldwin to the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women on the following subject: *Dismantling trust: the CAQ government's broken promises to women* (notice given on 28 March 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

Part 5

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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

(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?

(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?

(113) Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) – **28 March 2024**

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

For several years, the MRC des Basques has been asking the Québec government to take action to buy the rights to the Club des Appalaches, the last private hunting and fishing club in Québec, in order to give all citizens access to the right to hunt and fish within its territory. Since 1901, only a small number of hunters and fishers have been authorized to engage in hunting and fishing activities in the unorganized territory of Lac-Boisbouscache, which is the property of the State. This request raises important issues related to environmental preservation, regional development, access to land and territorial governance.

My questions are the following:

Does the Québec government intend to take positive action in regard to this request from the MRC des Basques? If so, what are the details of the procedure? If not, why?

(114) Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) – **28 March 2024**

To the Minister of Health

Many residents of our regions have to travel long distances to access health services, without reaching the 200-km threshold required to receive financial assistance from the Ministère de la Santé for travel expenses.

For example, a resident of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, Tourelle sector, who travels 194 km to the Centre hospitalier de Rimouski is not reimbursed under the travel expense policy. The situation is especially concerning considering the increased cost of fuel and accommodations and the centralization of health care. This often puts a financial strain on people who are sick and who have to travel frequently to obtain health care.

If the Government decides that there is not enough demand for specialized or highly specialized care in regions to warrant investment and, consequently, we make patients travel, the cost must be covered by the State. If Québec's health care system is universal, free and accessible to everyone in the territory, then those who live in remote regions should not have to unfairly carry a heavier financial burden because we decide not to provide health care in these areas. In this context, it is necessary to review the 200-km rule, which seems to be a purely arbitrary threshold.

My questions are the following:

- Will the Ministère de la Santé change its User Travel Policy to significantly reduce the minimum distance eligible for reimbursement?
- If yes, what will the new conditions be (new threshold, timetable, etc.)?

(115) Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) – **28 March 2024**

To the Minister of Culture and Communications

The École nationale de l'humour is a higher education institution unique in Québec that, thanks to support from the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, has trained more than 700 comedians, writers and screenwriters.

The school's current facilities on the corner of Rue Sherbrooke and Avenue De Lorimier no longer meet its needs or allow it to achieve its growth objectives. Moving to the heart of the Quartier Latin would allow it to be closer to cultural presenters, including the Espace St-Denis, the Maison de la chanson and the Bordel Comédie Club, and make a positive contribution to the revitalization of the Quartier.

Based on feasibility studies, the École nationale de l'humour's management identified two buildings in the Quartier Latin on Rue Saint-Denis that meet the institution's current and future needs. Ms. Louise Richer, Executive Director of the École nationale de l'humour, also submits that "the Quartier des Spectacles Partnership welcomes the eventual arrival of the school on Rue Saint-Denis as a pillar of revitalization". [Translation]

The École nationale de l'humour asked the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications for support to carry out the necessary work to adapt the building for its training purposes but has yet to receive a firm commitment. Furthermore, the budget documents and the Québec Infrastructure Plan tabled on 12 March 2024 make no mention whatsoever of the project.

My questions to the Minister of Culture and Communications are the following:

- 1- Does the Government intend to allocate funding in the current fiscal year to allow the l'École nationale de l'humour to acquire new facilities in the heart of the Quartier Latin and adapt the space for its teaching mission?
- 2- Does the Government recognize that this project will make a positive impact on the revitalization of the Quartier Latin in the short term, which is a goal of the Government, as stated by the Minister Responsible for the Metropolis and the Montréal Region?

(116) Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) – **28 March 2024**

To the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility

The Minister is well aware that the citizens of the Vaudreuil and Soulanges ridings are affected daily by the management of transportation and sustainable mobility.

Firstly, the construction project for a Highway 20 bypass route is stalling under the pretext that a BAPE study is required, unlike other governmental projects.

Secondly, sustainable mobility in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region has no hope of improving since the CAQ government still refuses to extend the REM to Vaudreuil-Dorion or even add lanes reserved for public transportation on the new Île-aux-Tourtes bridge.

Nothing is being done to help the citizens of Vaudreuil-Soulanges alleviate their daily frustrations. For months now, the riding offices of Vaudreuil and Soulanges have been receiving high volumes of calls, messages and comments related to the situation and traffic congestion. Every day, social media is flooded with statements from exasperated citizens.

Under these circumstances, it is unthinkable that citizens continue to endure this nightmare for three more years. The livelihood and family issues of many people are at stake, businesses are at risk, and moves and relocations are anticipated, not to mention the distress of the thousands of people who have no choice but to use the road network to get around every day.

Given this intolerable situation, it is imperative that mitigation measures be quickly implemented.

Can the Minister ensure that the work necessary to reinforce the current bridge be carried out as soon as possible so as to reopen the lanes and re-establish dynamic traffic management?

Could the Minister make access to Highway 30 free at all times?

Lastly, could the Minister ensure the optimal synchronization of traffic lights on Boulevard Harwood in Vaudreuil-Dorion?

(117) Mr. Fortin (Pontiac) – **9 April 2024**

To the minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Although grain producers have already begun modernizing their agri-environmental practices, they require the financial support of the State to continue and speed up this process, in order to keep pace with the legitimate expectations of society.

Despite the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's allocation to the first two cohorts of the Initiative on Compensating Agri-Environmental Practices and the amounts pledged as part of electoral promises, it is essential that stable funding be secured for the next five years.

Such a commitment would ensure sustainable funding and boost the confidence of grain producers, who are often forced to self-finance. Given the importance of agriculture, in particular the grain sector, and the effects of this necessary agri-environmental transition, the budgetary planning of agri-environmental compensation cannot be carried out on an irregular basis. Sustained financial support would contribute to the achievement of the government's objectives set out in the 2020–2030 sustainable agriculture plan entitled “Plan d’agriculture durable 2020-2030” with regard to sustainable development in the food sector.

- Given that the Minister had the chance to witness the scale of agri-environmental transition efforts during his visit to France, and that that country provides much more support compared to Québec, would the Minister be willing to provide an annual agri-environmental practices funding of \$50M to grain producers in order to facilitate this transition?
- Is the Minister in favour of implementing a visionary and sustainable initiative on compensating agri-environmental practices that no longer falls under her sole responsibility?

(118) Mr. Fortin (Pontiac) – **9 April 2024**
To the minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Grain producers working in remote regions must deal with significant issues: the distance from processors, high transport costs for grain sold and inputs purchased, the obligation to coordinate travel so that trucks are full both coming and going, a smaller number of buyers that produces a downward effect on prices and, lastly, weather and agronomic conditions that limit crop choices and the potential for profit.

For the grain sector to overcome these obstacles, it is imperative that the Ministère de l’Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l’Alimentation implement a program that is specifically aimed at producers in the regions concerned. The issues they face require appropriate economic levers, notably substantial investments to improve profitability, increase the competitiveness of the grain sector and maintain its appeal for future producers.

The Government uses data based on a generalization and a consideration of Québec agriculture in its entirety to demonstrate that remote regions perform as well as central regions. However, producers in remote regions are struggling to survive financially, which leads to abandoned land. In this regard, it would be both useful and relevant to implement investment tax credits intended for producers in peripheral regions to promote the development of their business infrastructure, and to comprehensively cover the crop rotations of these producers using income security programs.

Can the Minister of Agriculture tell us what he intends to do to financially support grain producers in remote regions so that they can continue their transition to sustainable agriculture and maintain their appeal for the next generation of farmers?

Part 6
NOTICES

I. NOTICES PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

Government Bills

- (a) 9 April 2024
An Act to enact the Act to protect elected officers and to facilitate the unhindered exercise of their functions and to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs – *Minister of Municipal Affairs*

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) 9 April 2024
An Act to replace the name of the electoral division of Matane-Matapédia by Matane-Matapédia-Mitis – *Member for Matane-Matapédia*

Private Bills

II. NOTICES APPEARING FOR THE FIRST TIME