



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 10 April 2024 — No. 114

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

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

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Members

Ms. Caron (La Pinière) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of the Club de patinage artistique de Brossard.

Ms. Dionne (Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata) made a statement to underline the 40th anniversary of Maison Le Puits.

Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun) made a statement to convey the message of students at École secondaire Monseigneur-Richard.

Ms. Hébert (Saint-François) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Andrew Paul MacDonald.

Mr. Fortin (Pontiac) made a statement to underline Daffodil Month.

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Mr. St-Louis (Joliette) made a statement to underline the welcoming ceremony of the Knights of Columbus of Joliette – Council 1468.

Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) made a statement to underline the 150th anniversary of the Entry Island and Étang-du-Nord lighthouses.

Ms. Schmaltz (Vimont) made a statement to underline the commitment of the students at École secondaire l’Odyssée-des-Jeunes who are members of the youth parliament.

Mr. Lemieux (Saint-Jean) made a statement to underline the progress of renovation work at Cégep Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu.

Ms. Lachance (Bellechasse) made a statement to underline the 175th anniversary of Municipalité de Saint-Lazare-de-Bellechasse.

Ms. Lecours (Les Plaines) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Richard Landry.

At 9:53 a.m., Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

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The proceedings resumed at 10:04 a.m.

Moment of reflection

Introduction of Bills

Ms. Laforest, Minister of Municipal Affairs, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following bill:

57 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

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 57 was introduced in the Assembly.

Presenting Reports from Committees

Ms. Lecours (Les Plaines), Committee Chair, tabled the following:

The report from the Committee on Citizen Relations, which held public hearings on 9 April 2024 within the framework of special consultations on 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.

(Sessional Paper No. 1499-20240410)

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Presenting Petitions

Mr. Fortin (Pontiac) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on maintaining Route 366 between La Pêche, in the Masham area, and the intersection of Route 301, signed by 18 citizens of Québec.
(Sessional Paper No. 1500-20240410)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke), together with Ms. Caron (La Pinière), Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly recognize that the housing crisis affects Québec seniors in particular;

THAT it acknowledge the appeals made by civil society to protect senior tenants from the effects of the housing crisis;

THAT it ask all the political parties represented in this House to commit to cooperating in good faith to improve the protection of senior tenants who are vulnerable to eviction.

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

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The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **254** in Appendix)

Yeas: **107** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine), together with Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles), Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly recognize that the Rivière Richelieu, main watercourse of the Montérégie region, is a prime habitat for several aquatic species and one of the last spawning grounds for the copper redhorse, a species we must preserve;

THAT it note that the Northvolt plant project is located on the shores of the Rivière Richelieu and may pose a risk for its ecosystems in the event of the spread of contaminated soil, for instance;

THAT, accordingly, it ask the Government to guarantee that the work and operations of the Northvolt plant pose no risk to the biodiversity of the Rivière Richelieu.

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

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **255** in Appendix)

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

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Mr. Roberge, Minister Responsible for Laicity, together with Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine), moved a motion on the *Act respecting the laicity of the State*; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Morin (Acadie), together with Ms. Biron, Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie, Mr. Cliche-Rivard (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne), Mr. Paradis (Jean-Talon) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda;

THAT it pay tribute to the memory of the hundreds of thousands of innocent men, women and children whose lives were taken;

THAT it applaud the courage and resilience of the Rwandan people and their will to coexist in a peaceful and democratic state based on the rule of law;

THAT, lastly, the National Assembly observe a minute of silence in memory of the victims.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

At the request of Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, the Assembly observed a minute of silence.

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Notices of Proceedings in Committees

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

- the Committee on Citizen Relations, to undertake clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 52, An Act to enable the Parliament of Québec to preserve the principle of parliamentary sovereignty with respect to the Act respecting the laicity of the State;
- the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of 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;
- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 44, An Act to amend mainly the Act respecting the Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation with respect to research.

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

- the Committee on Institutions shall hold a deliberative meeting to discuss the possibility of carrying out an order of initiative on the opening of a Québec government office in Tel Aviv.
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ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Report Stage

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 48, An Act to amend mainly the Highway Safety Code to introduce provisions relating to detection systems and other highway safety-related provisions, together with the amendments transmitted by Mr. Derraji (Nelligan) and Mr. Grandmont (Taschereau).

The amendments were declared in order.

After debate thereon, by leave of the Assembly, Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, read the text of the amendments proposed by Mr. Derraji (Nelligan) and Mr. Grandmont (Taschereau) before the question was put thereon.

First, the question was put on the amendment proposed by Mr. Derraji (Nelligan) introducing section 2.1.

The amendment was negatived.

The question was then put on the amendment proposed by Mr. Grandmont (Taschereau) to section 52.1.

The amendment was negatived.

Lastly, the question was put on the report from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment.

The report was concurred in.

Passage in Principle

Ms. LeBel, Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, moved that Bill 53, An Act to enact the Act respecting protection against reprisals related to the disclosure of wrongdoings and to amend other legislative provisions, do now pass in principle.

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After debate thereon, the motion was carried, and Bill 53 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 53 be referred to the Committee on Public Finance for clause-by-clause consideration.

The motion was carried.

At 12:53 p.m., at the request of Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, and by leave of the Assembly, Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 3:00 p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 3:00 p.m.

Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) moved:

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 predominantly held by women;

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

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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 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.

Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, informed the Assembly of the allocation of speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this limited debate: 10 minutes to the mover of the motion for her reply; 54 minutes 15 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Government; 29 minutes 27 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition; 18 minutes 36 seconds to the Second Opposition Group; 6 minutes 12 seconds to the Third Opposition Group; and 1 minute 30 seconds to the independent Member. Within this framework, any time not used by the independent Member or by a parliamentary group shall be redistributed among the parliamentary groups in the proportions established above. Lastly, individual addresses shall not be limited.

A debate arose thereon.

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

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

Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved the adjournment of the Assembly until Thursday, 11 April 2024 at 9:40 a.m.

The motion was carried.

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Accordingly, at 4:55 p.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 11 April 2024 at 9:40 a.m.

NATHALIE ROY

President

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APPENDIX

Electronic Divisions

On the motion moved by Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke), together with Ms. Caron (La Pinière), Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil):

(Division No. 254)

YEAS - 107

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Abou-Khalil (CAQ) | Cliche-Rivard (QS) | Jolin-Barrette (CAQ) | Poulet (CAQ) |
| Allaire (CAQ) | D'Amours (CAQ) | Julien (CAQ) | Poulin (CAQ) |
| Arseneau (PQ) | Derraji (QLP) | Kelley (QLP) | Proulx (CAQ) |
| Bachand (CAQ) | Déry (CAQ) | Labrie (QS) | Provençal (CAQ) |
| Beauchemin (QLP) | Dionne (CAQ) | Lachance (CAQ) | Reid (CAQ) |
| Bélanger (CAQ) | Dorismond (CAQ) | Laforest (CAQ) | Roberge (CAQ) |
| (Prévost) | Drainville (CAQ) | Laframboise (CAQ) | Rotiroti (QLP) |
| Bélanger (CAQ) | Dubé (CAQ) | Lafrenière (CAQ) | Rouleau (CAQ) |
| (Orford) | Dufour (CAQ) | Lakhoyan Olivier (QLP) | Roy (CAQ) |
| Bernard (CAQ) | (Abitibi-Est) | Lamontagne (CAQ) | Sainte-Croix (CAQ) |
| Bérubé (PQ) | Duranceau (CAQ) | LeBel (CAQ) | Schmaltz (CAQ) |
| Biron (CAQ) | Émond (CAQ) | Lecours (CAQ) | Schneeberger (CAQ) |
| Blais (CAQ) | Fitzgibbon (CAQ) | (Les Plaines) | Setlakwe (QLP) |
| Blanchette Vézina (CAQ) | Fontecilla (QS) | Lecours (CAQ) | Simard (CAQ) |
| Blouin (CAQ) | Fortin (QLP) | (Lotbinière-Frontenac) | Skeete (CAQ) |
| Bogemans (CAQ) | Fréchette (CAQ) | Leduc (QS) | St-Louis (CAQ) |
| Boivin Roy (CAQ) | Gagnon (CAQ) | Lefebvre (CAQ) | Tanguay (QLP) |
| Bonnardel (CAQ) | Gendron (CAQ) | Lemieux (CAQ) | Tardif (CAQ) |
| Bouazzi (QS) | Ghazal (QS) | Lévesque (CAQ) | Thouin (CAQ) |
| Boulet (CAQ) | Girard (CAQ) | (Chapleau) | Tremblay (CAQ) |
| Bussière (CAQ) | (Groulx) | Maccarone (QLP) | (Dubuc) |
| Cadet (QLP) | Girard (CAQ) | Malette (CAQ) | Tremblay (CAQ) |
| Caire (CAQ) | (Lac-Saint-Jean) | Marissal (QS) | (Hull) |
| Carmant (CAQ) | Grandmont (QS) | Martel (CAQ) | Zaga Mendez (QS) |
| Caron (QLP) | Groncin (CAQ) | McGraw (QLP) | Zanetti (QS) |
| (La Pinière) | Guilbault (CAQ) | Montigny (CAQ) | |
| Champagne Jourdain | Guillemette (CAQ) | Morin (QLP) | |
| (CAQ) | | | |
| Charest (CAQ) | Haytayan (CAQ) | Nadeau-Dubois (QS) | |
| Charette (CAQ) | Hébert (CAQ) | Nichols (IND) | |
| Chassin (CAQ) | Jacques (CAQ) | Paradis (PQ) | |
| Ciccone (QLP) | Jeannotte (CAQ) | Picard (CAQ) | |

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On the motion moved by Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine), together with Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles), Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil):

(Division No. 255)

YEAS - 105

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