



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Thursday, 18 April 2024 — No. 118

**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. Mallette (Huntingdon) made a statement to congratulate Ms. Valériane Besombes, recipient of a Hommage bénévolat-Québec award.

Mr. Benjamin (Viau) made a statement to underline the Séminaire des profs.

Mr. Asselin (Vanier-Les Rivières) made a statement to underline the work of the organization JeunesExplo.

Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) made a statement to underline the work of the Comité de lutte contre le racisme et la discrimination in the Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension borough.

Mr. Allaire (Maskinongé) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. Diane Charette.

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Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) made a statement requesting that the Government assist the Centre communautaire Ahuntsic.

Mr. Bonnardel (Granby) made a statement to underline National Volunteer Week.

Mr. Chassin (Saint-Jérôme) made a statement to underline the success of the 50th edition of the Revue sur glace presented by the Club de patinage artistique Saint-Jérôme.

Ms. Guillemette (Roberval) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. Lauraine Gagnon.

Mr. Girard (Groulx) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Roger Barrette.

Mr. Roberge (Chambly) made a statement on behalf of Ms. Bogemans (Iberville) to underline the excellence of the literacy support service provided by the organization Éduc à tout.

Mr. Montigny (René-Lévesque) made a statement to underline the 40th anniversary of the Regroupement des femmes de la Côte-Nord.

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At 9:55 a.m., Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 10:03 a.m.

Moment of reflection

Presenting Papers

Mr. Caire, Minister of Cybersecurity and Digital Technology, tabled the following on behalf of Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Minister of Justice:

The 2023–2027 report of the Comité de la rémunération des juges;
(Sessional Paper No. 1522-20240418)

An addendum to the 2023–2027 report of the Comité de la rémunération des juges.
(Sessional Paper No. 1523-20240418)

Mr. Caire, Deputy Government House Leader, tabled the following:

The Government's reply to a petition tabled on 14 March 2024 by Mr. Fortin (Pontiac) on maintaining Class 1 job titles under the *Act respecting bargaining units in the social affairs sector* in Bill 15;
(Sessional Paper No. 1524-20240418)

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The Government's reply to a petition tabled on 19 March 2024 by Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) on modernizing the concept of de facto union for social assistance recipients;

(Sessional Paper No. 1525-20240418)

The reply to a written question from Mr. Marissal (Rosemont) on private prescription drug insurance plans – Question No. 108, *Order Paper and Notices* of 14 March 2024;

(Sessional Paper No. 1526-20240418)

The reply to a written question from Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) on compensating victims of employment injuries – Question No. 110, *Order Paper and Notices* of 20 March 2024.

(Sessional Paper No. 1527-20240418)

The President tabled the following:

A letter, dated 17 April 2024, she had received from Mr. François Legault, Premier, informing her of the appointment of Mr. Mario Laframboise, Member for Blainville, as Chief Government Whip;

(Sessional Paper No. 1528-20240418)

A letter, dated 17 April 2024, she had received from Mr. François Legault, Premier, informing her of the appointment of Mr. François Jacques, Member for Mégantic, as Government Caucus Chair;

(Sessional Paper No. 1529-20240418)

The new seating plan of the National Assembly, dated 18 April 2024.

(Sessional Paper No. 1530-20240418)

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Presenting Petitions

Mr. Lemieux (Saint-Jean) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on assessing the health and environmental impacts of the new elementary school site in the Saint-Luc sector, in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, signed by 2,095 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 1531-20240418)

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, Mr. Cliche-Rivard (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne), together with Mr. Carmant, Minister Responsible for Social Services, Ms. Prass (D'Arcy-McGee), Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly take note that, according to the INSPQ's most recent data, there were 536 opioid-related overdose deaths between January and December 2023;

THAT it recall the essential role of peers in preventing and responding to overdoses;

THAT it acknowledge the grief of the families and loved ones of overdose victims;

THAT it encourage the Government to work closely with harm reduction community organizations and the persons concerned to put an end to this scourge;

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THAT the National Assembly ask the Québec government to formally recognize International Overdose Awareness Day, held annually on 31 August.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia), together with Mr. Fortin (Pontiac), Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved a motion on agricultural producers; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Ms. Déry, Minister of Higher Education, together with Ms. Setlakwe (Mont-Royal–Outremont), Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage), Mr. St-Pierre Plamondon, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly underline the 100th birthday of Mr. Guy Rocher, sociologist and great builder of modern Québec;

THAT it thank him for his invaluable contribution to advancing Québec society, notably through his participation in the Parent Commission and the drafting of the *Charter of the French language*;

THAT it also applaud his commitment as a key contributor to the secularization of the Québec State;

THAT it recall the crucial role he played in the creation of Cégeps and Université du Québec, to ensure the ever-greater access to higher education, in French, throughout Québec;

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THAT it reiterate that this mission is an essential condition for the economic, social, cultural and scientific development of Québec;

THAT, lastly, it pay tribute to this great Québec intellectual.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

Mr. Fortin (Pontiac), together with Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun), Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved a motion on Québec's agricultural sector; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

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

- the Committee on Institutions, to undertake examination of the “Access to Information” component of the 2024–2025 estimates of expenditure of the “Conseil exécutif” portfolio;
- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to undertake examination of the “SME” component of the 2024–2025 estimates of expenditure of the “Économie, Innovation et Énergie” portfolio;
- the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources, to undertake examination of the 2024–2025 estimates of expenditure of the “Agriculture, Pêcheries et Alimentation” portfolio;
- the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, to undertake examination of the “Sports, Recreation and the Outdoors” component of the 2024–2025 estimates of expenditure of the “Éducation” portfolio;

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- the Committee on Health and Social Services, to undertake examination of the “Social Services” component of the 2024–2025 estimates of expenditure of the “Santé et Services sociaux” portfolio;
- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to undertake examination of the “Social Economy” component of the 2024–2025 estimates of expenditure of the “Économie, Innovation et Énergie” portfolio;
- the Committee on Citizen Relations, to undertake examination of the “Fight Against Racism” component of the 2024–2025 estimates of expenditure of the “Conseil exécutif” portfolio;
- the Committee on Public Finance, to undertake examination of the “Conseil du trésor” component of the 2024–2025 estimates of expenditure of the “Conseil du trésor et Administration gouvernementale” portfolio;
- the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, to undertake examination of the “Capitale-Nationale Region” component of the 2024–2025 estimates of expenditure of the “Conseil du trésor et Administration gouvernementale” portfolio;
- the Committee on Institutions, to undertake examination of the “Aboriginal Affairs” component of the 2024–2025 estimates of expenditure of the “Conseil exécutif” portfolio;
- the Committee on Institutions, to undertake examination of the “Professional Legislation” component of the 2024–2025 estimates of expenditure of the “Conseil du trésor et Administration gouvernementale” portfolio;
- the Committee on Culture and Education, to undertake examination of the 2024–2025 estimates of expenditure of the “Langue française” portfolio;
- the Committee on Public Finance, to undertake examination of the “Finance” component of the 2024–2025 estimates of expenditure of the “Finances” portfolio;
- the Committee on Public Finance, to undertake examination of the “Revenu Québec” component of the 2024–2025 estimates of expenditure of the “Finances” portfolio;

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- the Committee on Citizen Relations, to undertake examination of the “Family” component of the 2024–2025 estimates of expenditure of the “Famille” portfolio.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 282, Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, gave the following notice:

- the Committee on Public Administration shall hold a deliberative meeting to organize its proceedings.

At 11:17 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 282, Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Tuesday, 23 April 2024 at 1:40 p.m.

NATHALIE ROY

President