



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Order Paper and Notices

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 1 May 2024 – No. 123

Nine forty a.m.

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

Part 1
ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

- The Member for Masson on the following subject: *Club de patinage artistique L'Oiseau bleu de Mascouche.*
- The Member for Bourassa-Sauvé on the following subject: *Underline International Workers' Day.*
- The Member for Lotbinière-Frontenac on the following subject: *First forum on immigration in the MRC des Appalaches.*
- The Member for Verdun on the following subject: *The youth of Verdun ask that we do more to protect our planet.*
- The Member for Saint-François on the following subject: *Tribute to Mr. Hicham Nor Barouti, young volunteer recipient of the Prix Claude-Masson award.*
- The Member for D'Arcy-McGee on the following subject: *Underline Mental Health Week.*
- The Member for Joliette on the following subject: *The Maison Antoine-Lacombe, heritage site.*
- The Member for Saint-Jean on the following subject: *Giant bike sale this Saturday for professional integration at the CJE Iberville/Saint-Jean.*
- The Member for Portneuf on the following subject: *No Mow May: the Dandelion Challenge, a Portneuf initiative.*
- The Member for Vachon on the following subject: *Tribute to Mr. Donald Scott.*
- The Member for Hull on the following subject: *The 50th anniversary of the Philharmonique Notre-Dame-de-Fatima.*
- The Member for Verchères on the following subject: *The 30th anniversary of the Société de généalogie de La Jemmerais.*

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

Motion moved by the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility for the passage 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

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

NOTICES OF PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEES

INFORMATION ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Part 2

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUSINESS HAVING PRECEDENCE

- (1) Limited debate on the reports from the committees that considered the Estimates of Expenditure for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2025
Reports tabled on **30 April 2024**

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 56
An Act respecting family law reform and establishing the parental union regime
Introduced by the Minister of Justice on **27 March 2024**
- (4) 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
Introduced by the Minister of Municipal Affairs on **10 April 2024**

- (5) Bill 59
An Act to interrupt the electoral division delimitation process
Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Democratic Institutions on
24 April 2024
- (6) Bill 60
An Act to authorize the making of collective agreements with a term of
more than three years in the public and parapublic sectors
Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and
Chair of the Conseil du trésor on **24 April 2024**

Committee Stage

- (7) 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
- (8) 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
- (9) 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**

- (10) 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
- (11) 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
- (12) 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
- (13) 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
Passed in principle on **10 April 2024**, and
Referred to the Committee on Public Finance

Report Stage

Passage

- (14) 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 adopted on 10 April 2024
Vote deferred on **30 April 2024**
- (15) 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
Report from the Committee on Public Finance adopted on **30 April 2024**
- (16) 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 from the Committee on Citizen Relations (consultations) tabled on 10 April 2024
Report from the Committee on Citizen Relations adopted on **30 April 2024**

II. Private Members' Public Bills

Passage in Principle

- (17) 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**

- (18) 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**
- (19) 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**
- (20) 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**
- (21) 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**
- (22) 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**
- (23) 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**
- (24) 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**
- (25) Bill 199
An Act to better protect consumers against abusive credit contracts
Introduced by the Member for Saint-Laurent on **23 February 2023**

- (26) 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**
- (27) 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**
- (28) 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**
- (29) Bill 393
An Act to combat food waste
Introduced by the Member for Verdun on **6 April 2023**
- (30) 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**
- (31) Bill 395
An Act to replace the name of the electoral division of Matane-Matapédia by Matane-Matapédia-Mitis
Introduced by the Member for Matane-Matapédia on **11 April 2024**
- (32) 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**
- (33) 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**

- (34) 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**
- (35) 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**
- (36) 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**
- (37) 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**
- (38) Bill 492
An Act to combat waste
Introduced by the Member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine on **18 April 2023**
- (39) 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**
- (40) 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**
- (41) 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**

- (42) 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**
- (43) Bill 499
An Act to establish a new electoral system
Introduced by the Member for Jean-Lesage on **5 October 2023**
- (44) 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**
- (45) 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**
- (46) 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**
- (47) 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**
- (48) 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**
- (49) 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**

- (50) 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**
- (51) 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**
- (52) 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**
- (53) Bill 695
Parliamentary Budget Officer Act
Introduced by the Member for Nelligan on **14 March 2024**
- (54) Bill 697
An Act to combat waste
Introduced by the Member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine on **23 April 2024**

Committee Stage

- (55) 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

- (56) 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
- (57) 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

VI. Statutory Debates

BUSINESS STANDING IN THE NAME OF MEMBERS IN OPPOSITION

- (58) 30 April 2024
Motion moved by the Member for Rosemont

THAT the National Assembly recognize that the long-term viability and quality of health care in Québec requires a strong public health system with the means to attract and retain caregivers.

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.
- Hearing of the Tribunal administratif du logement on its administrative management, on its financial commitments and on the annual report of the Public Protector.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

Interpellation:

- By the Member for Pontiac to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, on the following subject: *Québec agriculture turned into a wasteland by the CAQ government.* (Notice given on 25 April 2024).

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Orders of reference

Special Consultations:

- **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 (Order of reference given on 24 April 2024).

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 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 10 April 2024).

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

Orders of reference

Special Consultations:

- **Bill 56**, An Act respecting family law reform and establishing the parental union regime (Order of reference given on 11 April 2024).

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

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*

(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?

(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.)?

(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?

(119) Mr. Fortin (Pontiac) – **11 April 2024**
To the Minister of Health

On 9 February 2024, a *La Tribune* article entitled “97 % des besoins en pharmaciens en dialyse ne sont pas comblés au CIUSSS de l’Estrie-CHUS” stated that it is almost impossible to have access to a pharmacist for some of the CIUSSS de l’Estrie-CHUS’ dialysis services due to the critical staff shortage in this area.

The article reveals that in the fields of dialysis, emergency care, intensive care and oncology, the shortage rates in the Estrie region range from 16% for oncology to 97% for dialysis. The shortage rates for emergency care and intensive care range from 37% to 52%, respectively.

Can the Minister quickly take the necessary corrective action to ensure that the population of the Estrie region has access to care which, in many cases, can be essential for the patient?

(120) Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) – **17 April 2024**
To the Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy

In Québec, energy access issues are invisible, but a significant number of households are in a state of energy poverty. This means that they are struggling to pay their electricity bill and must deprive themselves of other essentials to pay the bill or reduce their electricity consumption to below what is required for their basic needs.

Each year, Hydro-Québec enters into hundreds of thousands of payment arrangements with its residential customers and carries out tens of thousands of service interruptions. For example, in 2019, Hydro-Québec entered into nearly 379,000 payment arrangements with its residential customers. That same year, the homes of 57,000 customers in collections were affected by service interruptions, a number that is equivalent to the population of Saint-Hyacinthe. In 11% of the cases, the customer experienced a service interruption lasting more than a week. During a time of extreme cold or heat, not having electricity for multiple days can jeopardize these people’s health.

Consuming energy in your home is not a choice: it is necessary to meet your basic needs, such as eating, heating, washing and staying healthy. Furthermore, access to energy is a condition that must be met for everyone to fully enjoy their fundamental human rights. Energy poverty is therefore a serious problem with very serious consequences.

Poorly ventilated, badly heated, or inadequately insulated housing is a danger to the health and safety of those living in it. The lack of electricity or heating has major impacts on health. For example, cold and damp homes that are inadequately heated increase the rates of mortality and morbidity among vulnerable households. Cold weather and heating issues increase the risk of developing diseases and excess mortality. The same goes for hot weather and air conditioning issues.

Various studies have identified three main families of conditions related to energy poverty: respiratory diseases, cardiovascular diseases and mental illnesses. Energy poverty also increases the risk of infections (due to poor food or personal hygiene) and accidents (due to, among other things, inadequate lighting).

Energy poverty issues also affect people's ability to eat well. How can you preserve and cook your food when your fridge or stove isn't working? To avoid having to eat unsafe food, some households resort to ready-to-eat meals, which significantly increase grocery expenses.

My question is the following:

Although electricity rates are relatively low in Québec, an increasing number of households are struggling to pay their electricity bill. One in seven people (16% of the population of Québec) is experiencing energy poverty. What is the Minister's plan to ensure that the bill to regulate clean energies he has promised to table does not result in more energy poverty in Québec?

(121) Mr. Grandmont (Taschereau) – **24 April 2024**

To the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility

Under standard 4202 for hot mix asphalt formulated according to the Laboratoire des chaussées formulation method, the percentage of recycled road surfacing may not exceed 20%, with a limit of 10% for motorway surface layers.

The Québec road construction industry agrees that the percentage of recycled material varies between 14% and 17%, depending on the year. As reported by the US National Asphalt Pavement Association, the road surface recycling rate is 32% in Ohio, 29% in Michigan, 24% in Minnesota, 21% in Wisconsin, and 24% in Idaho, the northernmost states. France recycles 22% of its roads and Germany 28%, according to the European Asphalt Pavement Association. Lastly, Japan recycles 47% of its roads.

Asphalt has been proven to be a 100% recyclable material, and increasing the percentage of recycled asphalt aggregates presents numerous advantages. First, asphalt recycling offers substantial financial savings for taxpayers, simply because the resource (aggregates) to be recycled is already extracted and coated with a bituminous binder and is often available in nearby construction sites. Second, it reduces the GHG emissions resulting from the production process (extraction, production, and transport). Lastly, increasing the volume of recycled aggregates means that the same volume of recycled material is not extracted from Québec's natural resources: quarries, gravel pits and sand pits. Recycling saves natural resources that are not extracted.

Furthermore, road recycling techniques can be carried out *in situ* or “on site”. *In situ* road recycling entails all the work involved: collection of existing asphalt, crushing, screening, heating, mixing with binder and reinstallation of the asphalt in a single pass. Finally, the surface is compacted before being reopened to traffic. These techniques are widely used in Ontario (more than a million square metres each year). They are rarely used in Québec (around 100,000 square metres). Yet it is widely accepted that these techniques, which require minimal transport of materials, result in further financial savings, lower GHG emissions and very few untapped natural resources. The Ontario Ministry of Transportation regularly reports at specialized conferences that the quality and service life of existing recycling techniques are identical to or better than those of road construction using new materials.

My questions to the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility are the following:

- What are the targets of the Ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable with respect to road recycling?
- What is the recycling trajectory of the Ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable, and what are its aims and timeframe?
- Will the Ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable impose on site recycling techniques across all its territorial divisions?

(122) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **30 April 2024**

To the Minister of Education

The dropout rate for students who fall behind is close to 40%; in fact, more than one in ten students drop out of the regular education system before obtaining a high school diploma.

How does the Minister intend to address this situation?

Can the Minister of Education provide details on its program to support partners in education?

Do we know when the selected organizations will be contacted by the Ministère?

Will the Minister commit to funding the network of special education environments and the Alliance des milieux adaptés de scolarisation du Québec, which provide special education and psychosocial support services for those who are most vulnerable and have not obtained a high school diploma?

(123) Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) – **30 April 2024**

To the Minister of Culture and Communications

For several years, many organizers of the National Holiday festivities have raised serious issues of underfunding from the financial assistance program for local celebrations.

Organizers and volunteers say they have had to significantly scale down their events in order to fund them with the limited resources available. Others have given up on organizing for the National Holiday, and many have decided to turn to federal funding for their events. This suggests that the future of Québec's National Holiday festivities in our cities and towns is now in the hands of Canadian Heritage.

My questions are the following:

- What is the total annual amount allocated for this program for each year from 2018 to 2024?
- Does the Government intend to increase the financial assistance from this program for 2025?
- If so, what will be the amount for the program for 2025?

Part 6
NOTICES

I. NOTICES PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

Government Bills

Private Members' Public Bills

- (a) 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*
- (b) 25 avril 2024
An Act to allow public transit authorities to develop real estate projects near or above their public transit infrastructures – *Member for Nelligan*

Private Bills

II. NOTICES APPEARING FOR THE FIRST TIME