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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

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FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

## **Order Paper and Notices**

**of the Assembly**

**Tuesday, 21 May 2024 – No. 128**

*Ten a.m.*

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

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Part 1  
**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

- The Member for Berthier on the following subject: *Tribute – the 200th anniversary of La Chasse-Galerie*
- The Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce on the following subject: *Underline the community involvement of Ms. Pauline and Mr. Sam Ducharme.*
- The Member for Saint-Jean on the following subject: *A medal from the Member of the National Assembly for Ms. Nicole Martin-Verenka, a true Acadian patriot!*
- The Member for Taschereau on the following subject: *Tribute to Mr. Stéphan La Roche.*
- The Member for Châteauguay on the following subject: *Recognition of healthcare workers by the Fondation Anna-Laberge.*
- The Member for Laurier-Dorion on the following subject: *Life is too expensive: an awareness campaign by the CDC Solidarités Villeray.*
- The Member for Rimouski on the following subject: *Underline the 45th edition of the Déjeuner des agents de la paix.*
- The Member for Blainville on the following subject: *The 50th anniversary of Art-Tisanes de Blainville.*
- The Member for Anjou–Louis-Riel on the following subject: *The organization CAP St-Barnabé wins the Coup de cœur award at the 2024 Gala ESTim.*
- The Member for Saint-Jérôme on the following subject: *Let's celebrate summer in Saint-Jérôme.*
- The Member for Lotbinière-Frontenac on the following subject: *The 40th anniversary of Coalia and inauguration of its expansion.*
- The Member for Laporte on the following subject: *The 50th anniversary of the Réseau de transport de Longueuil.*

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**PRESENTING** (a) Papers  
(b) Reports from committees  
(c) Petitions

**ORAL ANSWERS TO PETITIONS**

**COMPLAINTS OF BREACH OF PRIVILEGE OR CONTEMPT AND  
PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS**

**ORAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**DEFERRED DIVISIONS**

**MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

**NOTICES OF PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEES**

**INFORMATION ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY**

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 61\*  
An Act enacting the Act respecting Mobilité Infra Québec and amending certain provisions relating to shared transportation  
Introduced by the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility on **9 May 2024**
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- \* Recommendation of the Lieutenant-Governor**
- (3) Bill 62  
An Act mainly to diversify the acquisition strategies of public bodies and increase their agility in carrying out infrastructure projects  
Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Infrastructure on **9 May 2024**

*Committee Stage*

- (4) 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
- (5) 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
- (6) 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
- (7) 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

- (8) Bill 56  
An Act respecting family law reform and establishing the parental union regime  
Introduced by the Minister of Justice on 27 March 2024  
Report from the Committee on Institutions (consultations) tabled on 7 May 2024  
Passed in principle on **8 May 2024**, and  
Referred to the Committee on Institutions
- (9) 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  
Report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain (consultations) tabled on 7 May 2024  
Passed in principle on **7 May 2024**, and  
Referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

*Report Stage*

- (10) Bill 50  
An Act to enact the Act respecting civil protection to promote disaster resilience and to amend various provisions relating in particular to emergency communication centres and to forest fire protection  
Introduced by the Minister of Public Security on 31 January 2024  
Report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain (consultations) tabled on 21 March 2024  
Passed in principle on 26 March 2024  
Report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain tabled on **8 May 2024** (amend. handed in under Standing Order 252)

*Passage*

- (11) 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  
Passed in principle on 2 May 2024  
Report from the Committee on Public Finance adopted on **9 May 2024**

## II. Private Members' Public Bills

### *Passage in Principle*

- (12) 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**
  
- (13) 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**
  
- (14) 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**
  
- (15) 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**
  
- (16) 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**
  
- (17) 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**
  
- (18) 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**

- (19) 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**
- (20) Bill 199  
An Act to better protect consumers against abusive credit contracts  
Introduced by the Member for Saint-Laurent on **23 February 2023**
- (21) 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**
- (22) 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**
- (23) 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**
- (24) Bill 393  
An Act to combat food waste  
Introduced by the Member for Verdun on **6 April 2023**
- (25) 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**
- (26) 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**

- (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**
- (49) Bill 697  
An Act to combat waste  
Introduced by the Member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine on **23 April 2024**
- (50) Bill 791  
An Act to allow public transit authorities to develop real estate projects near or above their public transit infrastructures  
Introduced by the Member for Nelligan on **1 May 2024**

*Committee Stage*

- (51) Bill 194  
An Act to establish a presumption of consent to organ or tissue donation after death  
Introduced by the Member for Pontiac on 26 April 2023  
Passed in principle on **9 June 2023**, and  
Referred to the Committee on Health and Social Services

*Report Stage*

*Passage*

**III. Private Bills**

*Hearings and Clause-by-Clause Consideration*

- (52) 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
- (53) 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  
and  
Referred to the Committee on Institutions
- (54) Bill 208  
An Act respecting certain alienations involving the maison Robert-Jellard  
Introduced by the Member for Joliette on **19 April 2024**, and  
Referred to the Committee on Culture and Education

*Passage in Principle*

*Passage*

**IV. Government Motions**

**V. Estimates of Expenditure**

**VI. Statutory Debates**

**BUSINESS STANDING IN THE NAME OF MEMBERS IN OPPOSITION**

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**

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

## COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

### Orders of reference

#### Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 208**, An Act respecting certain alienations involving the maison Robert-Jellard (Order of reference given on 9 May 2024).

## COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY

### Orders of reference

#### Consideration of Bills:

- **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 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

#### Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 56**, An Act respecting family law reform and establishing the parental union regime (Order of reference given on 8 May 2024).
- **Bill 203**, An Act respecting the objects and powers of the Roman Catholic Archbishopial corporation of Montreal (Order of reference given on 19 April 2023).

### Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

#### Interpellation:

- By the Member for Jean-Lesage to the Minister Responsible for Canadian Relations and the Canadian Francophonie on the following subject: *Québec's independence as the only adequate leverage to ensure sufficient funding for our public services, meet the challenge of our climate ambitions, and make Québec culture and identity flourish* (notice given on 9 May 2024).

## 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*

(129) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **21 May 2024**  
To the Minister Responsible for Social Services

Although the Government has recognized that Québec's youth centres are essential, and they are often identified as key partners, they nevertheless suffer from severe underfunding that threatens their mission in support of teens.

It is crucial that youth centre workers have access to decent salaries, and this is for the well-being of teens. To maintain a strong and trusting relationship with youth, it is essential to ensure the stability of work teams, in particular by reducing the turnover rate and increasing the attractiveness of their work environments through better salaries and working conditions.

According to a fall 2023 survey of its members conducted by the Regroupement des maisons de jeunes du Québec, the situation of youth centres in Québec is dire:

- The average hourly rate for youth centre workers is approximately \$20.
- Last year, 66% of youth centres were forced to temporarily close or reduce their regular opening hours due to staff shortages.
- The turnover rate was 33.7%, whereas, according to the Ministère de l'Économie, de l'Innovation et de l'Énergie, the rate should be between 4% and 5% in Québec.
- Over 55% of youth centres say they have found it more difficult than before to maintain the stability of their work teams, mainly due to salaries and working conditions.
- For more than 80% of youth centres, recruitment of personnel has been an issue in the past year.

- According to data from the Programme de soutien aux organismes communautaires, the average funding for a youth centre is \$157,000, which is less than a third of its operating needs.

Unfortunately, there is no longer any doubt that youth centres, under the current financial conditions, are struggling to meet the needs expressed by youth and communities. To date, the only funding that youth centres receive for their mission comes from the Programme de soutien aux organismes communautaires. Because of their holistic approach, youth centres do not receive funding from sectoral programs or specific projects, despite the key role they play in these fields.

The current funding keeps youth centres in a critical situation that is only getting worse by the year, while the needs of young people are increasing. The role of prevention, awareness-raising, and support that youth centres play in Québec society is essential, now more than ever.

My question is the following: what concrete measures does the Government intend to take to improve the funding of Québec youth centres, in particular with regard to teams' salaries and working conditions?

(130) Ms. Garceau (Robert-Baldwin) – **21 May 2024**  
To the Minister of Culture and Communications

On 5 October 2023, the Government announced that it was granting \$975,000 over three years to the organization MétaMusique to support the promotion of Québec culture on the Web.

However, when we asked the Ministère for information on the organization's use of the funding, we learned, through Question 91 in the special information document for the Official Opposition, that the Ministère had not yet received the accountability report, and that it would be received no later than 5 April 2024.

Can the Minister of Culture and Communications tell us if he has received the accountability report, and send it to us?

(131) Ms. Lakhoyan Olivier (Chomedey) – **21 May 2024**

To the Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy

Three former elected officials from the Côte-de-Beaupré region are urging the government to break the impasse at the Mont-Sainte-Anne ski resort, whose dilapidated state has been denounced for several years.

They would like Québec to consider the offer from the Franco-Swiss e-Liberty Group and certain regional investors, who say they are ready to acquire the mountain and invest millions of dollars in its revitalization.

The Minister indicated last month that the Government was prepared to give financial assistance to Resorts of the Canadian Rockies to revitalize Mont-Sainte-Anne. However, no plan or investment have been announced by Québec or the company since then.

When will new developments be announced to save Mont-Sainte-Anne?

(132) Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) – 21 May 2024

To the Minister of Higher Education

To encourage applications from the regions, a college R Score (CRC) bonus is currently extended to students who completed their high school studies in a remote region. Given the shortage of doctors in rural areas, it is questionable whether this bonus is a sufficient measure to increase the proportion of applicants from these regions in medical school cohorts. The R Score bonus has its limits. Students from the regions are 2 to 4 times more likely to practice in the regions. This correlation, while not negligible, is not perfect, since a significant number of students from the regions will practice in urban areas. It should also be noted that students from the regions currently follow the same admission process as candidates from urban areas, which does not allow us to adequately assess their interest in practicing in the regions.

It would be more effective to select students during the admission process who know they want to practice medicine in the regions. Programs of this kind have been implemented in several other jurisdictions with great success. The Physician Area Shortage Program (PSAP) at Jefferson Medical College in Pennsylvania is an example often cited in the literature. Although students in this program represent only 1% of medical students enrolled in Pennsylvania, they account for 27% of family physicians practicing in rural areas in the state. 84% of graduates from this program practice in rural areas, and the retention rate for rural practice between 5 and 10 years is an excellent 87%. The program's selection process is based on three factors, which predict with 80% accuracy which students will choose to practice in a rural area: rural background, interest in practicing in a rural area, and interest in becoming a family physician. As part of the application process, students are also required to submit three letters of support from individuals in their local community, to help assess their sense of belonging to their community. Lastly, the training program includes several measures designed to encourage regional practice, such as a closely monitored mentorship program and mandatory internships in the regions.

With its R Score bonus system, the Québec model evaluates only one of the three factors studied in the literature, that is, a student's background. In other words, interest in rural practice and family medicine is excluded from the current system, which we believe is a mistake. The current shortage of regional medical staff is forcing the government to fund costly stopgap programs. These programs do not ensure long-term staff retention, which is essential to ensure the continuity and quality of care. A better-targeted admissions program would therefore not only reduce the current shortage of regional staff, but also ease the burden on public finances.

In the Québec university context, the creation of a new, specific cohort reserved for students preparing for regional practice could be considered. Québec universities already have several specific cohorts, including the First Nations and Inuit of Quebec (PNIQ) cohort and the Programme militaire d'études en médecine cohort. Cohorts have several advantages over R Score bonuses. First of all, they make it possible to use a different evaluation process for candidates from the specific cohort than for those from the regular cohort; for example, in the case of the PNIQ, an individual interview is required in addition to the multiple mini-interviews used for all candidates applying in medicine, which allows a better assessment of the candidate's profile. A specific regional medicine cohort would enable better assessment of background and interest in

regional practice and family medicine when selecting candidates. Based on the literature, selected candidates would be more likely to practice in the regions after their training. It should also be noted that the shortage of doctors in remote or isolated regions includes specialists other than family doctors, which could affect the admission criteria for such a cohort. A cohort also makes it possible ensure that a minimum number of students interested in practicing in the regions are trained each year, which is not guaranteed under the current system. In order not to penalize students from rural areas, it would be best to allow them to apply for both the regular and specific cohorts: this is already the case for the PNIQ and other cohorts. It seems to us that, properly implemented, this type of cohort would make it possible to partially alleviate the shortage of medical personnel in the regions and ensure better long-term retention of the professionals who choose this practice.

My questions to the Minister of Higher Education are the following:

1. In the context of Québec universities, is the creation of a new cohort reserved for students preparing for regional practice being considered?
2. What other options are being considered to increase the number of doctors in rural areas?

(133) Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) – **21 May 2024**  
To the Minister of Health

To encourage applications from the regions, a college R Score (CRC) bonus is currently extended to students who completed their high school studies in a remote region. Given the shortage of doctors in rural areas, it is questionable whether this bonus is a sufficient measure to increase the proportion of applicants from these regions in medical school cohorts. The R Score bonus has its limits. Students from the regions are 2 to 4 times more likely to practice in the regions. This correlation, while not negligible, is not perfect, since a significant number of students from the regions will practice in urban areas. It should also be noted that students from the regions currently follow the same admission process as candidates from urban areas, which does not allow us to adequately assess their interest in practicing in the regions.

It would be more effective to select students during the admission process who know they want to practice medicine in the regions. Programs of this kind have been implemented in several other jurisdictions with great success. The Physician Area Shortage Program (PSAP) at Jefferson Medical College in Pennsylvania is an example often cited in the literature. Although students in this program represent only 1% of medical students enrolled in Pennsylvania, they account for 27% of family physicians practicing in rural areas in the state. 84% of graduates from this program practice in rural areas, and the retention rate for rural practice between 5 and 10 years is an excellent 87%. The program's selection process is based on three factors, which predict with 80% accuracy which students will choose to practice in a rural area: rural background, interest in practicing in a rural area, and interest in becoming a family physician. As part of the application process, students are also required to submit three letters of support from individuals in their local community, to help assess their sense of belonging to their community. Lastly, the training program includes several measures designed to encourage regional practice, such as a closely monitored mentorship program and mandatory internships in the regions.

With its R Score bonus system, the Québec model evaluates only one of the three factors studied in the literature, that is, a student's background. In other words, interest in rural practice and family medicine is excluded from the current system, which we believe is a mistake. The current shortage of regional medical staff is forcing the government to fund costly stopgap programs. These programs do not ensure long-term staff retention, which is essential to ensure the continuity and quality of care. A better-targeted admissions program would therefore not only reduce the current shortage of regional staff, but also ease the burden on public finances.

In the Québec university context, the creation of a new, specific cohort reserved for students preparing for regional practice could be considered. Québec universities already have several specific cohorts, including the First Nations and Inuit of Quebec (PNIQ) cohort and the Programme militaire d'études en médecine cohort. Cohorts have several advantages over R Score bonuses. First of all, they make it possible to use a different evaluation process for candidates from the specific cohort than for those from the regular cohort; for example, in the case of the PNIQ, an individual interview is required in addition to the multiple mini-interviews used for all candidates applying in medicine, which allows a better assessment of the candidate's profile. A specific regional medicine cohort would enable better assessment of background and interest in

regional practice and family medicine when selecting candidates. Based on the literature, selected candidates would be more likely to practice in the regions after their training. It should also be noted that the shortage of doctors in remote or isolated regions includes specialists other than family doctors, which could affect the admission criteria for such a cohort. A cohort also makes it possible ensure that a minimum number of students interested in practicing in the regions are trained each year, which is not guaranteed under the current system. In order not to penalize students from rural areas, it would be best to allow them to apply for both the regular and specific cohorts: this is already the case for the PNIQ and other cohorts. It seems to us that, properly implemented, this type of cohort would make it possible to partially alleviate the shortage of medical personnel in the regions and ensure better long-term retention of the professionals who choose this practice.

My questions to the Minister of Health are the following:

3. In the context of Québec universities, is the creation of a new cohort reserved for students preparing for regional practice being considered?
4. What other options are being considered to increase the number of doctors in rural areas?

(134) Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) – **21 May 2024**

To the Minister of Health

As we all know, the state of the health network means we are forced to think about how we can improve it. There are several options, and one of them would involve Québec chiropractors, by including them in public referral services such as the Primary Care Access Point and the Info-Santé 811 phone line.

When it tabled its 2024–2025 budget, the Québec government reaffirmed its wish to continue developing the Primary Care Access Point in order to effectively address Quebecers' health needs. The inclusion of chiropractors in public referral services dovetails with this objective.

Currently, when a user browses public referral service platforms for neuromusculoskeletal conditions, they are prompted to contact their family doctor or an outpatient professional. However, the same referral services, but in the area of mental health, make a broader recommendation, including a recommendation for consultation in a private clinic. It would be a good idea to apply what works in mental health to physical health.

In a spirit of complementarity between professions and broadening of practices, the inclusion of chiropractors in public referral services would promote more effective care for people suffering from neuromusculoskeletal problems. In addition, including chiropractic services in the public referral services would not only considerably improve access to care but also help relieve the pressure on our public health system, reduce duplication of consultations and lessen the administrative burden.

In this context, my questions to the Minister for Health are the following:

- Does the government recognize the potential contribution chiropractors could make to Québec's health network?
- Does the Québec government intend to include chiropractors in its public referral services, such as the Primary Care Access Point and the Info-Santé 811 phone line?

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) 8 May 2024  
An Act to enhance the presence of the flag of Québec – *Member for Matane-Matapédia*

**Private Bills**

**II. NOTICES APPEARING FOR THE FIRST TIME**

- (aa) An Act to establish the Musée national de l'histoire du Québec – *Minister of Culture and Communications*
- (bb) An Act to limit lessors' right of eviction and to enhance the protection of senior lessees – *Minister Responsible for Housing*
- (cc) An Act to extend to users sheltered in a continuous assistance residence the application of the Regulation respecting the terms governing the use of monitoring mechanisms by a user sheltered in a facility maintained by an institution operating a residential and long-term care centre – *Member for D'Arcy-McGee*