



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Friday, 31 May 2024 — No. 134

**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. Haytayan (Laval-des-Rapides) made a statement to underline the Journée nationale des préposées et préposés d'aide à domicile.

Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) made a statement to underline the 25th anniversary of Sickle Cell Anemia Association of Quebec.

Ms. Tardif (Laviolette-Saint-Maurice) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Paul-Émile Bourassa and underline the 100th anniversary of the Union musicale de Shawinigan.

Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) made a statement to underline Tourette's Awareness Month.

Ms. Grondin (Argenteuil) made a statement to underline Water Month.

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Ms. Rotiroti (Jeanne-Mance–Viger) made a statement to underline the 10th anniversary of the organization Mains Utiles.

Mr. Lemay (Masson) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Guillaume Filion.

Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Alexis Loiseau.

Ms. Jeannotte (Labelle) made a statement to underline the work of the historical societies of the Labelle riding.

Mr. Martel (Nicolet-Bécancour) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Michel Gagnon.

Mr. Jacques (Mégantic) made a statement to underline the 40th anniversary of the Journée Trippante in Disraeli.

Ms. Guilbault (Louis-Hébert) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of the Société historique de Cap-Rouge.

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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 10:04 a.m.

Moment of reflection

Introduction of Bills

Mr. Boulet, Minister of Labour, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following bill:

68 An Act mainly to reduce the administrative burden of physicians

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 68 was introduced in the Assembly.

Presenting Papers

Ms. LeBel, Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, tabled the following:

The 2019–2024 report concerning the application of the *Act respecting contracting by public bodies*.

(Sessional Paper No. 1613-20240531)

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Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Government House Leader, tabled the following:

The reply to a written question from Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) on the dropout rate for students who fall behind and the measures taken to address it – Question No. 122, *Order Paper and Notices* of 30 April 2024.

(Sessional Paper No. 1614-20240531)

Presenting Reports from Committees

Mr. Caron (Portneuf), Committee Vice-Chair, tabled the following:

The report from the Committee on Public Administration, which met on 30 April 2024 to hear 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). The report contains observations, conclusions and two recommendations.

(Sessional Paper No. 1615-20240531)

Mr. Schneeberger (Drummond-Bois-Francis), Committee Chair, tabled the following:

The report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, which met on 8, 9, 21, 22, 28, 29 and 30 May 2024 for clause-by-clause consideration of 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 report contains amendments to the bill, including an amendment to its title.

(Sessional Paper No. 1616-20240531)

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

The report from the Committee on Citizen Relations, which met on 30 May 2024 for clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 65, An Act to limit lessors' right of eviction and to enhance the protection of senior lessees. The report contains amendments to the bill.

(Sessional Paper No. 1617-20240531)

Presenting Petitions

Ms. Prass (D'Arcy-McGee) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on implementing measures concerning children's exposure to screen time, signed by 45 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 1618-20240531)

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. Massé (Sainte-Marie-Saint-Jacques), together with Ms. Garceau (Robert-Baldwin), Mr. St-Pierre Plamondon, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly recognize the unwavering social consensus in Québec on the right to abortion;

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THAT it be concerned about the rise of anti-abortion rhetoric from anti-choice organizations;

THAT it recall that access to abortion remains an issue in certain regions of Québec;

THAT the National Assembly ask the Québec government to commit to pursuing its efforts to ensure that abortion services are accessible and free to all women, no matter where they live in Québec.

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

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **293** in Appendix)

Yeas: **80** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

Mr. Paradis (Jean-Talon), together with Mr. Kelley (Jacques-Cartier), Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved a motion on regional operation centres as part of the modernization of Hydro-Québec's network; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Ms. Fréchette, Minister of Immigration, Francization and Integration, together with Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia), moved a motion on temporary immigration in Québec; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Tanguay, Leader of the Official Opposition, together with Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Minister of Justice, Mr. Marissal (Rosemont), Mr. Paradis (Jean-Talon), Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) and Mr. Lefebvre (Arthabaska), moved:

THAT the National Assembly pay tribute to the memory of Mr. Benoît Pelletier, who passed away on 30 March 2024;

THAT it recall that he was Member for Chapleau from 1998 to 2008 and that he held several ministerial positions, in particular those of Minister for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, Native Affairs, Francophones within Canada, the Reform of Democratic Institutions, the Agreement on Internal Trade and Access to Information, as well as Minister Responsible for the Outaouais Region and the Nord-du-Québec Region;

THAT it recall this exceptional professor, jurist and constitutional expert's contribution to public, political and academic life in Québec and Canada;

THAT it underline his trademark affability and the profound civic-mindedness that guided his public engagement and made him a politician appreciated and respected by all;

THAT it recall the numerous awards granted to Benoît Pelletier, in particular the title of Officer of the Ordre national du Québec, Member of the Order of Canada, Knight of France's Ordre national du Mérite, and the Medal of Honour of the National Assembly of Québec in 2022;

THAT it extend its most sincere condolences to his family and loved ones and express the gratitude of the Québec nation for a life dedicated to public service;

THAT, lastly, it observe a minute of silence in memory of this great Quebecer.

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. Caire, Deputy Government House Leader, convened the following committee:

- the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 45, An Act to amend the Act respecting safety in sports mainly to better protect the integrity of persons in recreation and sports.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

Mr. Julien, Minister Responsible for Infrastructure, moved that Bill 62, An Act mainly to diversify the acquisition strategies of public bodies and increase their agility in carrying out infrastructure projects, do now pass in principle.

A debate arose thereon.

The debate was adjourned in the name of Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé).

At 1:00 p.m., Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Tuesday, 4 June 2024 at 1:40 p.m.

NATHALIE ROY

President

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APPENDIX

Electronic Divisions

On the motion moved by Ms. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques), together with Ms. Garceau (Robert-Baldwin), Mr. St-Pierre Plamondon, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil):

(Division No. 293)

YEAS - 80

Abou-Khalil (CAQ)	Ciccone (QLP)	Jacques (CAQ)	Paradis (PQ)
Allaire (CAQ)	D'Amours (CAQ)	Jeannotte (CAQ)	Picard (CAQ)
Arseneau (PQ)	Derraji (QLP)	Jolin-Barrette (CAQ)	Prass (QLP)
Asselin (CAQ)	Déry (CAQ)	Julien (CAQ)	Roberge (CAQ)
Bachand (CAQ)	Dionne (CAQ)	Kelley (QLP)	Rotiroti (QLP)
Bélanger (CAQ)	Drainville (CAQ)	Lakhoyan Olivier (QLP)	Rouleau (CAQ)
(Orford)	Dubé (CAQ)	Lamontagne (CAQ)	Roy (CAQ)
Bernard (CAQ)	Dufour (QLP)	LeBel (CAQ)	Sainte-Croix (CAQ)
Biron (CAQ)	(Mille-Îles)	Lecours (CAQ)	Schmaltz (CAQ)
Blanchette Vézina (CAQ)	Duranceau (CAQ)	(Les Plaines)	Schneeberger (CAQ)
Blouin (CAQ)	Émond (CAQ)	Lecours (CAQ)	Setlakwe (QLP)
Boivin Roy (CAQ)	Fortin (QLP)	(Lotbinière-Frontenac)	Simard (CAQ)
Bonnardel (CAQ)	Fréchette (CAQ)	Leduc (QS)	Skeete (CAQ)
Bouazzi (QS)	Garceau (QLP)	Lemay (CAQ)	Tanguay (QLP)
Boulet (CAQ)	Gendron (CAQ)	Lemieux (CAQ)	Tardif (CAQ)
Bussière (CAQ)	Girard (CAQ)	Mallette (CAQ)	Thouin (CAQ)
Cadet (QLP)	(Groulx)	Marissal (QS)	Tremblay (CAQ)
Caire (CAQ)	Grandmont (QS)	Martel (CAQ)	(Dubuc)
Carmant (CAQ)	Grondin (CAQ)	Massé (QS)	Tremblay (CAQ)
Caron (CAQ)	Guilbault (CAQ)	McGraw (QLP)	(Hull)
(Portneuf)	Haytayan (CAQ)	Montigny (CAQ)	Zaga Mendez (QS)
Champagne Jourdain (CAQ)	Hébert (CAQ)	Nichols (IND)	Zanetti (QS)