



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Order Paper and Notices

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 5 June 2024 – No. 136

Nine forty a.m.

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

Part 1
ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

- The Member for Huntingdon on the following subject: *The Lieutenant-Governor honours citizens in the Huntingdon riding.*
- The Member for Westmount–Saint-Louis on the following subject: *Congratulations to the Concordia University women’s hockey team, the Stingers, for their victory in the 2023–2024 season.*
- The Member for Deux-Montagnes on the following subject: *The retirement of Organisme de bassin versant de Lanaudière’s director, after 35 years of service.*
- The Member for Rosemont on the following subject: *Underline the initiative and work of Collège Rosemont’s Pôle santé et sciences.*
- The Member for Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré on the following subject: *Posthumous tribute to Mr. Jacques Blais!*
- The Member for Acadie on the following subject: *Tribute to Dr. Robert Lavigne, who received the Meritorious Service Medal from the Governor General of Canada.*
- The Member for Saint-François on the following subject: *Tribute to Ms. Kim Boutin, a Sherbrooke sports icon.*
- The Member for Matane-Matapédia on the following subject: *Ms. Elsie Redford, designated a historic figure under the Cultural Heritage Act.*
- The Member for Saint-Jean on the following subject: *The Haut-Richelieu welcomes you this summer with, among other things, the International Balloon Festival of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu in August.*
- The Member for Bellechasse on the following subject: *The newspaper La Voix du Sud, honoured by Hebdos Québec.*
- The Member for Joliette on the following subject: *The 70th anniversary of the choir Les Chanteurs de la Place Bourget.*
- The Member for Laval-des-Rapides on the following subject: *Statement to underline Ms. Sylvie Lessard’s contribution to Laval’s cultural sector.*

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 Responsible for Infrastructure for the passage in principle of Bill 62, An Act mainly to diversify the acquisition strategies of public bodies and increase their agility in carrying out infrastructure projects.

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

- (1) 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.
Report tabled on **31 May 2024**
Subject to the provisions of the second paragraph of Standing Order 94, this report shall be taken into consideration not later than **15 June 2024**.

OTHER BUSINESS

I. Government Bills

Passage in Principle

- (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**

*** 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
Report from the Committee on Public Finance (consultations) tabled on 30 May 2024
Vote deferred on **4 June 2024**

- (4) Bill 63
An Act to amend the Mining Act and other provisions
Introduced by the Minister of Natural Resources and Forests on **28 May 2024**
- (5) Bill 64
An Act to establish the Musée national de l'histoire du Québec
Introduced by the Minister of Culture and Communications on **22 May 2024**
- (6) Bill 66
An Act to reinforce the supervision of persons in respect of whom has been rendered a verdict of not criminally responsible by reason of mental disorder or of unfit to stand trial
Introduced by the Minister of Public Security on **30 May 2024**
- (7) Bill 67
An Act to amend the Professional Code for the modernization of the professional system and to broaden certain professional practices in the field of health and social services
Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor on **4 June 2024**
- (8) Bill 68
An Act mainly to reduce the administrative burden of physicians
Introduced by the Minister of Labour on **31 May 2024**

Committee Stage

- (9) 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
Passed in principle on **4 June 2024**, and
Referred to the Committee on Institutions

- (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

Report Stage

Passage

- (11) Bill 57
An Act to enact the Act to protect elected municipal officers and to facilitate the unhindered exercise of their functions and to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs (*modified title*)
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
Report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain adopted on **31 May 2024**
- (12) Bill 65
An Act to limit lessors' right of eviction and to enhance the protection of senior lessees
Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Housing on 22 May 2024
Passed in principle on 29 May 2024
Report from the Committee on Citizen Relations adopted on **4 June 2024**

II. Private Members' Public Bills

Passage in Principle

- (13) 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**

- (14) 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**
- (15) 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**
- (16) 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**
- (17) 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**
- (18) 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**
- (19) 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**
- (20) 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**
- (21) Bill 199
An Act to better protect consumers against abusive credit contracts
Introduced by the Member for Saint-Laurent on **23 February 2023**

- (22) 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**
- (23) 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**
- (24) 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**
- (25) Bill 393
An Act to combat food waste
Introduced by the Member for Verdun on **6 April 2023**
- (26) 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**
- (27) 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**
- (28) 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**
- (29) 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**

- (30) 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**
- (31) 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**
- (32) 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**
- (33) 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**
- (34) Bill 492
An Act to combat waste
Introduced by the Member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine on **18 April 2023**
- (35) 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**
- (36) 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**
- (37) 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**
- (38) 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**

- (39) Bill 499
An Act to establish a new electoral system
Introduced by the Member for Jean-Lesage on **5 October 2023**
- (40) 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**
- (41) 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**
- (42) 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**
- (43) 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**
- (44) 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**
- (45) 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**

- (46) 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**
- (47) 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**
- (48) 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**
- (49) Bill 695
Parliamentary Budget Officer Act
Introduced by the Member for Nelligan on **14 March 2024**
- (50) Bill 697
An Act to combat waste
Introduced by the Member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine on **23 April 2024**
- (51) Bill 699
An Act to amend the Charter of human rights and freedoms to enshrine the right to decent housing
Introduced by the Member for Laurier-Dorion on **4 June 2024**
- (52) Bill 790
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
Introduced by the Member for D'Arcy-McGee on **22 May 2024**
- (53) 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**

- (54) Bill 792
An Act to enhance the presence of the flag of Québec
Introduced by the Member for Matane-Matapédia on **30 May 2024**
- (55) Bill 796
An Act to replace the name of the electoral division of Arthabaska by the name “Arthabaska-L’Érable”
Introduced by the Member for Arthabaska on **30 May 2024**

Committee Stage

- (56) 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

- (57) 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
- (58) 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

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 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 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

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

Orders of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 32**, An Act to establish the cultural safety approach within the health and social services network (Order of reference given on 4 June 2024).
- **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 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*

(125) Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) – **9 May 2024**
To the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility

As part of the Programme d'aide à la voirie locale, the Ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable grants financial assistance according to the following criteria:

- eligibility;
- quality of documents submitted;
- budgetary availability.

In this context, can the Minister make public a list of the amounts granted under this program in 2023 and disclose all the municipalities that received support from the department and the dates on which each municipality presented its application and were informed of acceptance of their application?

Furthermore, can the Minister provide the evaluation chart for the “Quality of documents submitted” component?

(126) Mr. Fortin (Pontiac) – **9 May 2024**
To the Minister of Health

On 13 March 2024, during the consideration of Interim Supply for the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, the Minister noted that he still intends to make insulin pumps available to people with type 1 diabetes. After making the federal Minister of Health aware of the existence of a Québec program, he also said: “Give me the money, and I will be able to provide more pumps to more people.” [Translation].

On 19 March 2024, we learned that the Québec government and Ottawa had finally reached an agreement in principle on the increase of health transfer payments worth \$900 million.

Now that the Minister has received Ottawa's confirmation and his department is set to receive \$900 million annually over the next five years, can he commit to swiftly making the changes necessary to the insulin pump reimbursement program to include people aged 18 and over?

(127) Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) – **9 May 2024**

To the Minister of Education

The Minister is no doubt aware that traffic management in Montréal's West Island and the Vaudreuil and Soulanges regions is catastrophic.

Close to 87,000 vehicles cross the Île-aux-Tourtes bridge every day; as a result, the daily lives of thousands of citizens have been adversely affected for months, and there is no glimmer of hope. Not only will the new bridge not be available to road users until the end of 2026, but its opening will be gradual. What's more, the current bridge, which is in a state of disrepair, continues to deteriorate. The number of available lanes is reduced and closures are ongoing.

Despite certain mitigation measures, the government refuses to address the project for a Highway 20 bypass route as a matter of urgency under the pretext that a Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE) study is required. The disastrous consequences are piling up. Businesses are closing, citizens are losing job opportunities, and now, children are being directly affected.

According to numerous messages from parents and school staff sent to the offices of the Members for the Vaudreuil and Soulanges ridings, children are late for school on a regular basis. We are talking about thousands of students missing one hour a day of school, five days a week. This information is very worrying, in particular as the traffic situation is not about to improve, given the timeline for maintenance and construction of the bridge.

Consequently, it is essential that we measure the real impact of traffic management on the children in the Vaudreuil region, as well as the Soulanges region and Montréal's West Island. We therefore ask that the Minister take steps to gather information from each school on the percentage of students who are late, the recurrence of these late arrivals and the average amount of time the students are late.

In addition, we ask that the Minister measure the impact of these late arrivals on the work of school staff and on the quality of education provided to the children.

Lastly, will the Minister commit to ensuring that the schools, school service centres and school boards affected get involved to quickly and actively find a solution to the school transportation of students impacted by the partial closure of the Île-aux-Tourtes bridge?

(128) Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) – **9 May 2024**

To the Minister of Immigration, Francization and Integration

On 11 May 2022, we learned that new asylum seekers arriving in Québec via Roxham Road would have new accommodations following the signing of a \$49.9 million contract with the private firm Rodimax Inc. The lease came into force in January 2023 for a 10-year period.

Given the closing of Roxham Road on 25 March 2023, my questions to the Minister of Immigration, Francization and Integration are the following:

Is the contract still valid?

- a. If so, what is the private firm doing in exchange for this money?
- b. If not, what are the contract terms with regard to its termination?

(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?

(135) Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun) – **28 May 2024**
To the Minister of Education

Since 2017, amid growing demand, the community and authorities of the borough of Verdun-Île-des-Sœurs have mobilized for the construction of a third school on Île-des-Sœurs. Currently, the island has two elementary schools, but no high school, whereas the rest of the Verdun sector comprises six elementary schools and one high school. The situation is especially concerning for elementary school students. The case of École des Marguerite is a perfect example. Due to a glaring lack of space, in 2019 the school relocated its classes to a commercial space (Place du Commerce) close to the highway, on Île-des-Sœurs. Also, the school was operating at 138% capacity for the 2023–2024 school year and will be at 143% for the 2025–2026 school year, according to the forecasts of the Centre de services scolaire Marguerite-Bourgeoys (CSSMB). This situation underlines the pressing need for adequate school infrastructure.

The lack of a high school on Île-des-Sœurs puts considerable pressure on the high schools of Verdun and the surrounding areas. Currently, 82% of the youth from Île-des-Sœurs are forced to move away to continue their schooling. Furthermore, only 42% of Verdun elementary school students end up getting a spot in a public and local high school. Therefore, our high school youth spend long hours travelling to and from schools far from home, often located in the Outremont, Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, Côte-des-Neiges, Lachine, Saint-Lambert and Longueuil. Many of these schools aren't even accessible by public transport. Some families feel compelled to go down the private route and spend up to \$3,000 per child on transportation. The construction of a public high school on Île-des-Sœurs could be a solution, adding 1,209 high school spaces in Verdun, which would help relieve the pressure on École secondaire Monseigneur-Richard and bring back 400 Verdun students who are currently attending school outside the CSSMB territory. In terms of space availability

in public high schools, Verdun ranks second among the city's most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, right after the Saint-Laurent neighbourhood. This situation underlines the urgent need for a response adapted to the increasing educational needs.

If the lack of public schools continues, the situation may continue to deteriorate, given the real estate boom expected in the next few years. In December 2022, the borough of Verdun announced plans to build 3,000 new housing units within the next five years on Île-des-Sœurs, close to the REM station. This development will soon lead to the arrival of approximately 400 children eligible for elementary schooling and 250 teenagers ready to attend high school. It is also likely that 2,000 additional housing units will be built in the next ten years given the current zoning and the high demand for housing in Montréal. The expected real estate development is likely to exert further pressure on our local schools that are already full to bursting.

Lastly, it is worth recalling that a third public school on Île-des-Sœurs has already been identified as a priority by the Government. The promise to build a new school on the island was at the heart of the Coalition Avenir Québec's commitments, underlining the importance and priority of the project. Furthermore, this construction project is included in the previous legislature's Bill 66, which aimed to accelerate certain essential infrastructure projects. This legislative initiative reflects the urgency and the necessity of meeting growing educational needs in the territory.

In light of this information, my questions to the Minister are the following:

- 1) Has the Minister of Education examined the socio-economic impact of the lack of schools on the youth and families of Île-des-Sœurs?
- 2) How does the Minister explain, given the glaring lack of spaces in the schools and capacity sometimes exceeding 100%, that the construction of a third public school on Île-des-Sœurs is still on hold?
- 3) Given the scarcity of available land, how does the Minister justify the recent refusal to buy the available and suitable land on Chemin du Golf for the construction of a school on Île-des-Sœurs?
- 4) What is the Minister's timeline to carry out the construction project for a third school on the island?

(136) Ms. Garceau (Robert-Baldwin) – **28 May 2024**
To the Minister of Culture and Communications

On 14 May 2024, the Government announced that it would increase support for the mission of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec by granting \$15 million.

On 18 April 2024, the Minister said, at a major culture funding demonstration in Montréal, that he would find the funds from within his department's budget.

Can the Minister of Culture and Communications tell us which of his department's programs he has cut to raise the \$15 million?

(137) Ms. Garceau (Robert-Baldwin) – **28 May 2024**
To the Minister of Culture and Communications

On 20 September 2021, the Québec government acquired René Lévesque's childhood home in New Carlisle. At the time, the purpose of this purchase was for the Government to renovate the house and ensure that it remain in good condition.

However, a Radio-Canada article published on 8 February 2024 revealed that, since the purchase, no major work had been undertaken on the house, and that it was still in a state of abandon. At the time, the department had budgeted \$800,000 to renovate the main building.

We learned, through Question 65 in the special information document for the Official Opposition, that the Government had invested \$83,764.09 in the house.

Can the Minister of Culture and Communications tell us whether this is the amount invested since 2021 or just for the last year? If this is just the amount invested last year, can he tell us how much money has been invested since 2021?

(138) Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles) – **29 May 2024**

To the Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks

Five of the six members of the Comité aviseur sur les espèces fauniques menacées ou vulnérables du Québec have published an article in the scientific journal *FACETS*, the official publication of the Royal Society of Canada. The article is highly critical of the Québec government's numerous failures to protect its threatened species and proposes "nine urgent recommendations to improve the effectiveness of conservation efforts for species at risk in Québec".

The criticism includes the lack of transparency, the slowness of the designation process and the lack of accountability of the minister responsible for decisions made under the process.

What actions does the Minister intend to take to in response to the recommendations?

(139) Ms. Caron (La Pinière) – **29 May 2024**

To the Minister Responsible for Seniors and Minister for Health

On 30 January 2024, the Minister announced a new personalized allowance program to support private seniors' residences (RPAs) entitled "Programme d'allocation personnalisée". This announcement follows a pilot project deployed in five regions of Québec.

Furthermore, the Minister Responsible for Seniors announced a new uniform rate scale for eligible services across Québec.

Can the Minister provide us with a list of RPAs currently participating in the personalized allowance program, specifying the number of beneficiaries and the total units per RPA?

Lastly, can she also table the rate scale for the services that are eligible under the program?

(140) Ms. Caron (La Pinière) – **30 May 2024**

To the Minister Responsible for Seniors and Minister for Health

Over 200,000 people in Québec are living with a neurodegenerative disorder. Life after diagnosis has profound impacts on the affected individuals, their families, caregivers and our health system.

It is therefore essential to address the issue of degenerative disorders as constructively as possible. To do this, Québec should have a clear portrait of the situation and develop a strategy for accessing innovative treatments and advancing research.

In this regard, is the Minister willing to create an advisory committee to mobilize, in particular, the best experts in innovative treatments, research, patient organizations and caregiving?

(141) Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) – **31 May 2024**
To the Minister of the French Language

According to the 2023–2027 strategic plan of the Office québécois de la langue française, 84% of the agencies of the civil administration hold a certificate of compliance as required by the *Charter of the French Language*.

Through an access to information request, we recently found out that the following three departments do not have their certificates of compliance: the Ministère de la Cybersécurité et du Numérique, the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale and the Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur.

Can the Minister tell us why these departments do not yet have their certificates or attestations of compliance, the measures that have been implemented to rectify the situation, and the Government's timeframe in this respect?

(142) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **4 June 2024**
To the Minister of Education

The Ministère de l'Éducation implemented a financial assistance program for the retention of school bus drivers to address the labour shortage in the school transportation sector.

In order to qualify for this compensation, bus drivers must have worked at least 97% of their scheduled working days. The program also specifies that drivers who were on strike or locked out during a payment period are not eligible for the compensation.

Although this program is a welcome initiative, I believe it must be revised so as to avoid excessive penalties for bus drivers, whose wages already fail to measure up to the important work they do for our youth and families.

Does the Minister intend to revise the financial assistance program for the retention of school bus drivers to expand its scope and reduce the barriers to receiving financial assistance payments?

(143) Ms. Prass (D'Arcy-McGee) – **5 June 2024**
To the Minister Responsible for Social Services

With regard to homelessness, it is important to have an accurate portrait of the situation.

Can the Minister provide us with the number of places available in Québec by region for people experiencing homelessness?

Can he let us know how many places were available between 31 December 2023 and 31 May 2024?

Can he tell us how many of these places are open 24/7, 365 days a year?

(144) Mr. Paradis (Jean-Talon) – **5 June 2024**
To the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor

The professional practice of chemistry is omnipresent in the lives of Quebecers and has many scientific ramifications. It covers food, pharmaceuticals, the environment, health, energy, materials, transport, safety, natural resources, electronics, biotechnologies, instrumentation, research, teaching, legislation, regulation, in addition to manufactured goods such as lithium-ion batteries. It is vital to be able to accurately identify the nature of the chemical substances one is handling, their dosage and predictable reactions. Appropriate supervision by a chemist guarantees quality control of the chemical substances manufactured, handled, transported, stored and sold, as well as safety in terms of protecting the public and the environment. Chemistry is essential to the well-being of Québec society and its economy. It has constantly broadened its scope as a result of the scientific and technological advances that characterise the profession.

There are major public protection issues surrounding the practice of chemistry. The most telling example is the fact that all the fire brigades in Québec have been calling for the modernization of the *Professional Chemists Act* (PCA), which was enacted in 1926 and last amended in 1964. The reason is quite simple: the obsolescence of this Act compromises public protection. The practice of chemistry needs to be rigorously regulated to prevent avoidable chemical disasters. In the meantime, the Act, which is incompatible with the contemporary practice of the profession, leaves the door wide open to the illegal practice of chemistry, with all its real risks.

The modernisation of the professional system, which is in full swing, would be the perfect opportunity to resolve this dangerous and incongruous situation. The Minister has already shown openness, whilst saying that she was awaiting favourable recommendations from the Office des professions du Québec. The Office states that the chemists' file is complete and that all that remains is the Government's political will to modernize the PCA. However, modernizing the PCA appears to be far off the Minister's priority list, to the extent that she regards it as wishful thinking – the project remains postponed indefinitely. This Kafkaesque situation looks like the “chronicle of a disaster foretold”.

However, there is a solution within reach. The proceedings that would have led to the modernization of the PCA were interrupted on 5 March 2014, when the 40th Legislature ended at the stage of special consultations and public hearings on Bill 49, An Act to amend various legislation respecting the professions and other legislative provisions in the field of applied sciences. The Québec government could pick up the torch and complete the process of modernizing the PCA to protect the public and the environment.

Given the above, my questions to the Minister are the following:

1. Does the Minister, who has shown some openness in the past, share the Office's view that the Ordre des chimistes du Québec's file is ready to be considered with a view to modernizing the *Professional Chemists Act*?

2. Would the Minister support the idea of reopening the proceedings that would have led to the modernization of the PCA, which were interrupted on 5 March 2014, when the 40th Legislature ended at the stage of specific consultations and public hearings on Bill 49?

(145) Ms. Ghazal (Mercier) – **5 June 2024**

To the Minister of Health

A letter regarding miscarriage, entitled “L’inhumaine banalité des fausses couches”, was published in *La Presse* at the end of April. Its author, Justine Monette-Tremblay, explains that one in six pregnancies end in miscarriage, and that most occur in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, during the first trimester. For many women, regardless of whether the pregnancy is more than 12 weeks, or less as it was for Justine, a miscarriage is a mentally and physically difficult event.

Although nothing can be done to prevent miscarriages, which are usually caused by major genetic abnormalities when they occur in the first 12 weeks, it is possible, in this very difficult context, to offer specialized and humane support to women who go to the emergency room with heavy bleeding, which is a sign of miscarriage.

In her letter, the author refers to the Naître et grandir website, which states that many hospitals offer a special service called Clinical Access Service – First Trimester Vaginal Bleeding. According to Naître et grandir, this service “makes it easier for pregnant women to access hospital services and avoid long waits in the emergency room”.

Such care would obviously have been better for the author, who spent long hours in the emergency room, only to see a doctor who showed little concern for her miscarriage, told her that nothing could be done, and sent her back home. This was done as if it were a trivial matter, even though Justine was experiencing intense grief.

It is difficult to know how many hospitals offer this specialized service. Information is not easily accessible, and the service itself is little known or unknown. In the Outaouais region, where Justine lives, it is impossible to know if a hospital provides clinical access services for first trimester vaginal bleeding. When her bleeding began, she called Info-Santé, but was not directed to this specialized service: either it is not available in her region, or the Info-Santé staff did not know which hospitals provided it.

Can the Minister tell us how many hospitals offer this clinical access service, and provide us with a list? Can he commit to ensuring that all hospitals offer this compassionate service so that all Québec women are supported during this difficult time, no matter which hospital they go to?

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*

Private Bills

II. NOTICES APPEARING FOR THE FIRST TIME

- (aa) An Act to ensure the responsible governance of energy resources and to amend various legislative provisions – *Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy*