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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

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FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

## **Order Paper and Notices**

**of the Assembly**

**Wednesday, 11 September 2024 – No. 140**

*Nine forty a.m.*

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

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Part 1  
**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

- The Member for Vachon on the following subject: *Tribute to Mr. Ghislain Vallières.*
- The Member for Bourassa-Sauvé on the following subject: *Tribute to Mr. Marcel Parent.*
- The Member for Verchères on the following subject: *The 45th anniversary of Maison de l'Entraide in Sainte-Julie.*
- The Member for Jean-Lesage on the following subject: *Tribute to Mr. Jacques R. Roy, alias Quidado.*
- The Member for Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata on the following subject: *The 40th anniversary of the Regroupement des assistées sociales et assistés sociaux du Témiscouata.*
- The Member for Westmount–Saint-Louis on the following subject: *Underline the 150th anniversary of the City of Westmount.*
- The Member for Saint-Hyacinthe on the following subject: *Tribute to the municipalities of the Saint-Hyacinthe riding.*
- The Member for Lac-Saint-Jean on the following subject: *An exceptional judoka.*
- The Member for Laporte on the following subject: *Saint-Lambert Lawn Bowling Club.*
- The Member for Chicoutimi on the following subject: *Marathon partagé.*
- The Member for Chapleau on the following subject: *The 50th anniversary of the Corps de Cadets 2920 Gatineau.*
- The Member for Mégantic on the following subject: *Graymont, 200 years of history.*

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

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**URGENT DEBATES**

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**I. Government Bills**

*Passage in Principle*

- (1) 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**

- (2) 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**
- (3) 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**
- (4) 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**

- (5) Bill 68  
An Act mainly to reduce the administrative burden of physicians  
Introduced by the Minister of Labour on **31 May 2024**
- (6) Bill 69  
An Act to ensure the responsible governance of energy resources and to amend various legislative provisions  
Introduced by the Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy on **6 June 2024**
- (7) Bill 70  
An Act to amend the Animal Health Protection Act  
Introduced by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on **7 June 2024**

*Committee Stage*

- (8) 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
- (9) 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  
Passed in principle on **5 June 2024**, and  
Referred to the Committee on Public Finance

- (10) 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  
Passed in principle on **6 June 2024**, and  
Referred to the Committee on Health and Social Services

*Report Stage*

*Passage*

## **II. Private Members' Public Bills**

*Passage in Principle*

- (11) 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**
- (12) 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**
- (13) 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**
- (14) 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**
- (15) 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**

- (16) 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**
- (17) 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**
- (18) 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**
- (19) Bill 199  
An Act to better protect consumers against abusive credit contracts  
Introduced by the Member for Saint-Laurent on **23 February 2023**
- (20) 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**
- (21) 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**
- (22) 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**

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

- (30) 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**
- (31) 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**
- (32) Bill 492  
An Act to combat waste  
Introduced by the Member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine on **18 April 2023**
- (33) 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**
- (34) 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**
- (35) 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**
- (36) 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**
- (37) Bill 499  
An Act to establish a new electoral system  
Introduced by the Member for Jean-Lesage on **5 October 2023**
- (38) 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**

- (39) 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**
- (40) 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**
- (41) 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**
- (42) 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**
- (43) 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**
- (44) 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**
- (45) 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**

- (46) 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**
- (47) Bill 695  
Parliamentary Budget Officer Act  
Introduced by the Member for Nelligan on **14 March 2024**
- (48) Bill 697  
An Act to combat waste  
Introduced by the Member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine on **23 April 2024**
- (49) 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**
- (50) 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**
- (51) 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**
- (52) Bill 792  
An Act to enhance the presence of the flag of Québec  
Introduced by the Member for Matane-Matapédia on **30 May 2024**
- (53) 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*

- (54) 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*

- (55) 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
- (56) 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**

(57) 10 September 2024  
Motion by the Member for Mont-Royal–Outremont

THAT the National Assembly strongly denounce the sudden and drastic budget cuts imposed by the CAQ government on higher education institutions;

THAT it deplore the fact that due to these cuts, higher education institutions are being forced to delay building maintenance work and space shortage reduction projects, and even to significantly reduce the funds allocated for the procurement of educational materials necessary for student success;

THAT it recall that the Auditor General's latest report states that two-thirds of CEGEP buildings are in poor condition, that earmarked investments cover less than half of future needs, and that some expansion projects do not adequately take into account actual needs with regard to space;

THAT it recall that government projections show an expected 10% increase in the number of students by 2027, and that the current space shortage will only worsen;

THAT it recall that the CAQ government has squandered a substantial budget surplus and run up a historic deficit;

THAT it acknowledge that its negligent management of public finances is now forcing it to sacrifice the future of the higher education network and our youth;

THAT, lastly, it call upon the CAQ government to work together with higher education institutions to purchase the necessary educational materials and carry out the required work as soon as possible in order to prevent buildings in the higher education network from becoming increasingly dilapidated and to meet future space needs.

**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

#### Orders of reference

##### Special Consultations:

- **Bill 63**, An Act to amend the Mining Act and other provisions (Order of reference given on 10 September 2024).
- **Bill 69**, An Act to ensure the responsible governance of energy resources and to amend various legislative provisions (Order of reference given on 10 September 2024).

## COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

### Orders of reference

#### Special Consultations:

- **Bill 70**, An Act to amend the Animal Health Protection Act (Order of reference given on 10 September 2024).

#### Consideration of Bills:

- **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

#### Special Consultations:

- **Bill 64**, An Act to establish the Musée national de l'histoire du Québec (Order of reference given on 10 September 2024).

## COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY

### Orders of reference

#### Special Consultations:

- **Bill 68**, An Act mainly to reduce the administrative burden of physicians (Order of reference given on 10 September 2024).

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE

### Orders of reference

#### Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 62**, An Act mainly to diversify the acquisition strategies of public bodies and increase their agility in carrying out infrastructure projects (Order of reference given on 5 June 2024).

## COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

### Orders of reference

#### Special Consultations:

- **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 (Order of reference given on 10 September 2024)

#### 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 Archbishopial corporation of Montreal (Order of reference given on 19 April 2023).

## COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN RELATIONS

## COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

### Orders of reference

#### Special Consultations:

- **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 (Order of reference given on 10 September 2024).

#### Consideration of Bills:

- **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 (Order of reference given on 6 June 2024).
- **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

### **Orders of reference**

#### Special Consultations:

- **Bill 61**, An Act enacting the Act respecting Mobilité Infra Québec and amending certain provisions relating to shared transportation (Order of reference given on 10 September 2024).

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE IMPACTS OF SCREENS AND SOCIAL MEDIA ON YOUNG PEOPLE'S HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

#### Special Consultations:

- The Impacts of Screens and Social Media on Young People's Health and Development.

**Part 5**

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

*Questions already placed on the Order Paper  
are published each Wednesday*

(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?

(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 to 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?

(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?

(146) Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) – **6 June 2024**  
To the Minister of Cybersecurity and Digital Technology

Implementing a centralized medical record presents major challenges in terms of digital security. The centralization of Quebecers' health data in a single digital infrastructure would make it a prime target for hackers, and any breach could have catastrophic consequences given the quantity and sensitive nature of the data stored. Epic Systems Corporation, the firm chosen by the Québec government to build the future digital health record, has been affected by data breaches on several occasions, which does not alleviate the cybersecurity concerns this project raises.

Furthermore, the easier access to and circulation of health data made possible when Bill 3 came into force has multiplied the potential gateways through which malicious actors could gain access to Quebecers' health data. One of the aims of Bill 3 is to facilitate the training of artificial intelligence programs in health care, which requires large databases.

Québec currently has no legislative framework or approval process with respect to the use of artificial intelligence technologies in health care, which raises a number of issues, in particular with regard to language. Since artificial intelligence is largely trained on English-language databases, there is no guarantee that its performance will be the same in French as in English without making corrections.

In Canada, Health Canada, which approves medical technologies proposed by companies, has so far only authorized a few medical programs based on artificial intelligence, mainly in the field of imaging. Health Canada's approval process does not differentiate between French and English when evaluating artificial intelligence programs, which could create inequalities in terms of effectiveness and safety.

My questions to the Minister of Cybersecurity and Digital Technology are the following:

1. What measures does the Minister intend to implement to ensure the integrity of health data as part of the deployment of the digital health record?
2. Are initiatives being taken to legislate and oversee the use and security of Quebecers' health data in the research and development of artificial intelligence projects in health care?
3. Does the Minister of Cybersecurity and Digital Technology support the creation of a Francophone approval channel for evaluating artificial intelligence projects with a linguistic component?

(147) Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) – **6 June 2024**  
To the Minister of Health

Several departments are already funding the implementation of artificial intelligence in the healthcare network, including the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, the Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor and the Ministère de l'Économie, de l'Innovation et de l'Énergie.

In addition, artificial intelligence is funded by the public sector through public research funds and public investment funds, such as the Fonds de recherche du Québec, Investissement Québec and the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec.

Most government funding is invested in private consortia, which in turn invest the funds in various research projects or start-ups in accordance with their own investment policies. The financial statements of these consortia are not in the public domain, which makes it difficult to track their investments.

Moreover, the objectives of these companies may not be consistent with the interests of Quebecers. These funds pursue an investment strategy focused on profit, innovation and commercialisation, and concentrate on healthcare sectors that are likely to drive up healthcare costs. These additional public expenses will not be borne by the investment consortia, but by the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, which has already had to cope with soaring costs for several years.

My questions to the Minister of Health are the following:

What measures has the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux implemented to ensure that the artificial intelligence technologies funded by the Government are in the best interests of Quebecers, in particular clinical relevance, cost reduction, free circulation of knowledge and citizen representation?

Is the Ministère considering developing its own artificial intelligence investment strategy rather than delegating this task to private consortia?

(148) Mr. Marissal (Rosemont) – **7 June 2024**

To the Minister of Health

Last year, the Government passed the *Act limiting the use of personnel placement agencies' services and independent labour in the health and social services sector*. Section 2 of the Act provides a three-year deadline for the end of the use of agencies by organizations in the health and social services sector.

The first cut-off date, which is 20 October 2024 for the Capitale-Nationale, Chaudière-Appalaches, Laval, Montérégie and Montréal regions, is rapidly approaching. When we discussed this deadline during the clause-by-clause consideration of the bill, my political group and various stakeholders from the health sector expressed concerns. Without a clearly established transition plan and collaboration with professionals in the field, the impact of the Act on access to services and on wait lists, in a context where institutions suffer from major labour shortages, would be severe. This may prove highly risky for remote regions that depend heavily on independent labour.

A year later and it appears that our fears are coming true. Care units are forced to close, and a newborn baby was transferred to another institution without their mother due to the hospital's nursery being shut down. The situation is alarming and is likely to get worse. Currently, institutions are left with no other choice but to sign untendered contracts with private agencies who are not included in the provincial contract. The consequences are significant and affect all personnel, including managers, who are forced to spend more time managing human resources and drastically less time supervising work teams, which is an essential task.

Ultimately, ending the use of private agencies will make way for the return of more permanent and stable teams. Nevertheless, immediate solutions must be implemented to make the transition as smooth as possible, which is currently far from being the case.

What solutions does the Minister intend to implement to promote the migration of resources from the private to the public network and thus reduce the impacts of the abolition of the use of private agencies that are currently observable on the provision and quality of care?

In this regard, what does the Minister intend to do, concretely, to ensure that managers have the appropriate means to address the situation and exercise their essential role in our health and social services network?

(150) Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) – **7 June 2024**  
To the Minister of Health

In recent years, the institutions in the health and social services network have often resorted to using independent labour, by way of private agencies, to meet their staffing needs. However, the Government decided last year to put an end to this practice through legislation that abolishes the use of private agencies in the health and social services network: the *Act limiting the use of personnel placement agencies' services and independent labour in the health and social services sector*.

The Minister of Health said that he wished to promptly bring about a change in culture. As such, starting in Fall 2024, institutions in Montréal and the surrounding areas will no longer be able to do business with agencies. The deadline was set at 2026 for the regions.

However, we are already seeing care units being forced to close due to a lack of personnel. A newborn baby was even transferred to another institution without their mother due to the hospital's nursery being shut down. The situation is alarming and likely to get worse. Currently, institutions are left with no other choice but to sign untendered contracts with private agencies who are not included in the provincial contract.

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

1. What solutions does the Minister intend to implement to promote the migration of resources from the private to the public network and thus reduce the impacts of the abolition of the use of private agencies that are currently observable on the provision and quality of care?
2. What does the Minister intend to do, concretely, to ensure that managers have the appropriate means to address the situation and exercise their essential role in our health and social services network?

(151) Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) – **7 June 2024**

To the Minister of Public Security

According to merchants, the Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux (RACJ) states that the “apple liquor” category does not exist for apple-based alcoholic beverages in Québec legislation. This appears to be an aberration or an oversight, since it is allowed for the other raw material categories included in the artisan permit (berries, honey, etc.).

The RACJ also specifies that requests have been made to add the “apple liquor” category to legislation to address this oversight.

However, it appears that several major Québec producers currently market products under the name apple liquor, even doing so in Société des alcools du Québec (SAQ) outlets, despite the SAQ being obligated to comply with the law.

Based on a reading of the *Act respecting the Société des alcools du Québec* and the conditions for the use of business and artisan permits, making apple liquor does not appear to be prohibited. Furthermore, it seems that there is no consensus on the RACJ’s interpretation of the Act since Québec apple liquors are sold by the SAQ.

In short, the RACJ claims that the Act prohibits apple liquor, but has also admitted that this is illogical and an aberration. And it appears that the Act does permit the production of apple liquor. Several industry stakeholders have interpreted the law this way, including the SAQ.

According to some producers, the RACJ’s interpretation of the Act is unduly restrictive, particularly because its interpretation renders the Act “an aberration,” in its own words.

My questions are the following:

- What is the portrait of the situation with regard to explicitly adding the apple liquor category to legislation?
- What does the Minister intend to do to regularize the situation?

(152) Ms. Caron (La Pinière) – **7 June 2024**

To the Minister of Municipal Affairs

This question follows the deliberations of 30 November 2023, during the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 39, regarding the possibility for municipalities to impose a surtax to vacant dwellings.

I gave the example of a senior who would no longer have the energy or health to take care of a dwelling above their property, leaving it vacant.

The Minister said that this example could be an exclusion to the surtax for a vacant dwelling.

She also mentioned that the guide prepared by the Ministère for municipalities would include this example of exclusion to the surtax.

Can the Minister table the application guide for municipalities?

(153) Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) – **10 September 2024**

To the Minister Responsible for Housing

Under the AccèsLogis program, two subsidies are available to improve a project's accessibility and adaptability. The housing adaptation subsidy (SUAL) makes it possible to integrate adaptation measures for housing in order to better meet the changing needs of those who live there. The home adaptation subsidy (SAD) allows people who need adaptations to have them made during the construction.

These two subsidies are through the AccèsLogis program and are not part of the Québec affordable housing program (PHAQ).

Currently, people with disabilities can apply to the home adaptation program (PAD). However, they must already be living in the home before applying for the PAD, which means they must wait a long time for their new home to be adapted to their needs. Furthermore, the PAD is intended for specific people and therefore does not apply to temporary housing projects, such as those for victims of domestic violence or people experiencing homelessness.

My question to the Minister Responsible for Housing is the following:

Could the SUAL and SAD subsidies, or other similar measures, be included in the PHAQ program?

(154) Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) – **10 September 2024**

To the Minister Responsible for Housing

For the AccèsLogis program, project accessibility and adaptability standards are clearly defined in the project development and implementation guide, last updated in 2021.

For example, hallways must be at least 1,500 mm wide, room dimensions are specified and at least 10% of units must be accessible and adaptable. If the building has an elevator, all units must be accessible and adaptable.

There does not appear to be a similar guide or similar standards for the Québec affordable housing program (PHAQ) or for the agreements not covered by programs, such as the Mission Unitaines project. Projects funded by Québec through the PHAQ may therefore have hallways that are 920 mm wide (the minimum under the *Construction Code*). These hallways are not accessible for most people who use mobility aids.

Funding such projects therefore means using public funds to increase systemic exclusion and discrimination against people with disabilities.

My question to the Minister Responsible for Housing is the following:

What measures do you intend to implement to ensure that Québec-funded housing can be visited and lived in by anyone, regardless of their abilities?

(155) Ms. Caron (La Pinière) – **11 September 2024**

To the Minister Responsible for Seniors

On 3 May 2024, the Minister announced that she would restore the reputation of CLSCs and make them the main gateway for seniors to access health care and services. She stated she would launch a pilot project for the ten best-performing CLSCs, create a new job category and implement the project across all 300 facilities by fall 2025.

It has been nearly four months since this response to the report from Ms. Castonguay, Health and Welfare Commissioner, which recommended the creation of a single gateway for seniors with a view to helping users navigate the health system.

Can the Minister provide a list of the CLSCs selected for the pilot project, their respective operating budgets, and the job description for the information agents who will be specialized in programs for seniors?

(156) Ms. Caron (La Pinière) – **11 September 2024**

To the Minister Responsible for Seniors

During the examination of the estimates of expenditure on 23 April, I asked the Minister about the financial contribution of CHSLD residents with regard to their family status. I gave the example of a couple who have been separated for several years, but not divorced, where the income of a former spouse is used to calculate the contribution of the other spouse living in a CHSLD, despite their having been separated for decades. This approach can be unfair and may distort the financial reality of some users.

In his response, Mr. Sylvain Gagnon, Assistant Deputy Minister, said that work is underway internally with the MSSS Finance Directorate to examine the financial capacity of users and update the contributions being charged, taking into account family circumstances, in particular.

Mr. Gagnon also confirmed that the work underway would be completed with a final proposal in the coming months.

It has been almost five months since the examination of the estimates of expenditure. Can the Minister table the results of this work and a timeline for implementing the new rates to be considered by her department for accommodation in CHSLDs, seniors' homes and alternative homes?

**Part 6**  
**NOTICES**

**I. NOTICES PREVIOUSLY GIVEN**

**Government Bills**

- (a) 10 September 2024  
An Act to improve support for persons and to simplify the social assistance regime – *Minister Responsible for Social Solidarity and Community Action*

**Private Members' Public Bills**

- (b) 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 protect consumers against abusive commercial practices and to offer better transparency with respect to prices and credit – *Minister of Justice*