



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 25 September 2024 — No. 146

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

The Assembly was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Members

Ms. Gendron (Châteauguay) made a statement to underline Ms. Virginie Primeau-Poirier's courage in her fight against cancer.

Ms. Prass (D'Arcy-McGee) made a statement to underline the 25th anniversary of the organization Le Phare, Enfants et Familles.

Mr. Lemieux (Saint-Jean) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. Aurélie Rivard.

Mr. Grandmont (Taschereau) made a statement to pay tribute to school support staff.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 54.1, Ms. Poulet (Laporte) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of the Prévile Fine Arts Centre.

25 September 2024

Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) made a statement to underline the closure of Charcuterie Noël.

Ms. Dionne (Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata) made a statement to underline the 70th anniversary of the restaurant Cantine D'Amours.

Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) made a statement to underline the bravery of Ms. Marie-Josée Blanchette and Mr. Patrice Didier.

Ms. Soucy (Saint-Hyacinthe) made a statement to underline the arrival of a new Ligue nord-américaine de hockey team in Saint-Hyacinthe.

Ms. Blouin (Bonaventure) made a statement to underline the work of the Quebec Cancer Foundation.

Mr. Jacques (Mégantic) made a statement to underline the accomplishment of downtown revitalization projects in Lac-Mégantic.

Ms. Abou-Khalil (Fabre) made a statement to underline the week against bullying and violence in schools.

25 September 2024

At 9:55 a.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 10:05 a.m.

Moment of reflection

Presenting Papers

Ms. Fréchette, Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy, tabled the following:

The 2023–2024 annual management report of the Régie de l'énergie;
(Sessional Paper No. 1850-20240925)

The 2023–2024 annual management report of the Ministère de l'Économie, de l'Innovation et de l'Énergie;
(Sessional Paper No. 1851-20240925)

The consolidated financial statements of the Economic Development Fund for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2024;
(Sessional Paper No. 1852-20240925)

The consolidated financial statements of the Natural Resources and Energy Capital Fund for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2024;
(Sessional Paper No. 1853-20240925)

The consolidated financial statements of the Québec Enterprise Growth Fund for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2024.
(Sessional Paper No. 1854-20240925)

25 September 2024

Mr. Drainville, Minister of Education, tabled the following:

The 2023–2024 annual management report of the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation;
(Sessional Paper No. 1855-20240925)

The 2023–2024 annual management report of the Commission consultative de
l'enseignement privé;
(Sessional Paper No. 1856-20240925)

The 2024–2028 strategic plan of the Commission consultative de l'enseignement
privé.
(Sessional Paper No. 1857-20240925)

Mr. Bonnardel, Minister of Public Security, tabled the following:

The 2023–2024 annual management report of the Ministère de la Sécurité
publique;
(Sessional Paper No. 1858-20240925)

The 2023–2024 annual management report of the Régie des alcools, des courses
et des jeux;
(Sessional Paper No. 1859-20240925)

The 2023–2024 annual management report of the Anti-Corruption Commissioner;
(Sessional Paper No. 1860-20240925)

The 2024–2027 strategic plan of the Anti-Corruption Commissioner.
(Sessional Paper No. 1861-20240925)

Ms. Blanchette Vézina, Minister of Natural Resources and Forests, tabled the
following:

The 2023–2024 annual management report of the Ministère des Ressources
naturelles et des Forêts;
(Sessional Paper No. 1862-20240925)

25 September 2024

The 2023–2024 activity report of the Chief Forester.
(Sessional Paper No. 1863-20240925)

Ms. Rouleau, Minister Responsible for Social Solidarity and Community Action, tabled the following:

The 2023–2024 activity report of the Comité consultatif de lutte contre la pauvreté et de l'exclusion sociale.
(Sessional Paper No. 1864-20240925)

Presenting Reports from Committees

Mr. Provençal (Beauce-Nord), Committee Chair, tabled the following:

The report from the Committee on Health and Social Services, which met on 24 September 2024 for clause-by-clause consideration of 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. The report contains amendments to the bill.
(Sessional Paper No. 1865-20240925)

Presenting Petitions

Mr. Chassin (Saint-Jérôme) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on a request to expand the regulations for the protection and support of temporary foreign workers, signed by 159 citizens of Québec.
(Sessional Paper No. 1866-20240925)

25 September 2024

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

At the request of the President, Mr. Marissal (Rosemont) withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

Motions Without Notice

Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia), together with Mr. Marissal (Rosemont), moved a motion on political financing; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Ms. Fréchette, Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy, together with Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent), moved:

THAT the National Assembly recognize Québec's energy dependence on oil and gas companies;

THAT it recognize the importance of ending this dependence and developing projects to produce batteries for electric vehicles.

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

By leave of the Assembly, the vote of Mr. Lefebvre (Arthabaska) in favour of the motion is changed to an abstention.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. 308 in Appendix)

Yeas: **106** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **2**

25 September 2024

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Ms. Lakhoyan Olivier (Chomedey), together with Mr. Grandmont (Taschereau), Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark World Tourism Day, held every year on 27 September;

THAT it recall that this is an opportunity to celebrate an industry that, each year, allows millions of Quebecers and tourists from outside Québec to discover, savour and benefit from our territory's resources, our four seasons, our culture and our expertise;

THAT, lastly, it acknowledge the major issues related to the labour shortage in the tourism sector and ask the Government to continue and intensify efforts to address this situation, in collaboration with key industry stakeholders.

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

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **309** in Appendix)

Yeas: **107** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **1**

Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard), together with Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys), Mr. Paradis (Jean-Talon) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved a motion on the economic benefits of the Northvolt project; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

25 September 2024

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, convened the following committees:

- the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 63, An Act to amend the Mining Act and other provisions;
- the Committee on Public Finance, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 62, An Act mainly to diversify the acquisition strategies of public bodies and increase their agility in carrying out infrastructure projects;
- the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, to undertake clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 70, An Act to amend the Animal Health Protection Act.

Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, gave the following notices:

- the Committee on Public Finance shall hold deliberative meetings to discuss the possibility of examining a petition on a request for the Société des alcools du Québec to stop selling Israeli wines made in the occupied territories, and to discuss the possibility of examining a petition on cancelling the increase in the capital gains tax rate in Québec;
- the Committee on Health and Social Services shall hold a deliberative meeting to continue its discussion of its observations, conclusions and recommendations following the special consultations, public hearings and meetings held within the framework of the order of initiative on examining ways to facilitate organ and tissue donation, in particular the adoption of presumed consent.

25 September 2024

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been adjourned on 24 September 2024, on the motion moved by Ms. Guilbault, Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility, that Bill 61, An Act enacting the Act respecting Mobilité Infra Québec and amending certain provisions relating to shared transportation, do now pass in principle.

The debate being concluded, the question was put on this motion, and an electronic division was thereupon demanded.

At the request of Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, the division was deferred until Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day.

Ms. LeBel, Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, moved that 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, do now pass in principle.

A debate arose thereon.

Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, interrupted the debate to inform the Assembly that he had received a request for a debate upon adjournment to be held on Thursday, 26 September 2024, on a question from Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke) to Mr. Drainville, Minister of Education, about the regulation on school transportation.

At 1:00 p.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 3:00 p.m.

Accordingly, pursuant to Standing Order 97, the debate on the motion moved by Ms. Lebel, Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, was adjourned.

25 September 2024

The proceedings resumed at 3:00 p.m.

Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) moved:

THAT the National Assembly acknowledge that the Québec government granted a 354-megawatt energy block to Swedish start-up Northvolt for its battery manufacturing plant project in the Montérégie region and that it committed nearly \$1.4 billion to the project;

THAT it take note of the financial challenges faced by Northvolt, in particular the loss of a major \$3-billion contract with BMW, problems paying suppliers, expansion projects put on hold, the refusal of two important shareholders, Volkswagen and Goldman Sachs, to invest additional funding, the Swedish government's refusal to put another cent into the project and, most recently, the bank restructuring that led to the loss of 1,600 jobs, or 20% of its workforce;

THAT it acknowledge that the Québec government forecasts that the Northvolt project in the Montérégie region will be commissioned at least 18 months late, not before 2028, and that further delays cannot be ruled out;

THAT it recall that numerous companies already established in Québec and offering lucrative employment were denied energy blocks;

THAT it acknowledge that this situation jeopardizes investments and employment in the region;

25 September 2024

THAT it recall and support the words of the President and Director General of Hydro-Québec, Mr. Michael Sabia, to the effect that it is necessary to rebalance the allocation of available megawatts to Québec companies carrying out industrial projects with an aim to decarbonize;

THAT, lastly, it ask the CAQ government to grant the 354-megawatt energy block currently allocated to the Northvolt project to other companies, while ensuring that an identical amount will be available to Northvolt in 2028 when the plant in the Montérégie region is scheduled for commissioning.

Ms. Soucy, First Vice-President, informed the Assembly of the allocation of speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this limited debate: 10 minutes to the mover of the motion for her reply; 52 minutes 45 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Government; 28 minutes 38 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition; 18 minutes 5 seconds to the Second Opposition Group; 6 minutes 2seconds to the Third Opposition Group; and 1 minute 30 seconds to each independent Member. Within this framework, any time not used by the independent Members or by a parliamentary group shall be redistributed among the parliamentary groups in the proportions established above. Lastly, individual addresses shall not be limited.

A debate arose thereon.

At the end of his address, Mr. Paradis (Jean-Talon) moved:

THAT the motion moved by Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) be amended as follows:

1. By adding the following paragraph after the sixth paragraph:

“THAT it ask the Government to be transparent with regard to the conditions under which it granted a 354-megawatt energy block to Northvolt;”

25 September 2024

2. By inserting the following after “to grant” in the last paragraph:

“, to the extent permitted by the contractual arrangements between the Québec government and Northvolt,”.

The motion, as amended, would read as follows:

THAT the National Assembly acknowledge that the Québec government granted a 354-megawatt energy block to Swedish start-up Northvolt for its battery manufacturing plant project in the Montérégie region and that it committed nearly \$1.4 billion to the project;

THAT it take note of the financial challenges faced by Northvolt, in particular the loss of a major \$3-billion contract with BMW, problems paying suppliers, expansion projects put on hold, the refusal of two important shareholders, Volkswagen and Goldman Sachs, to invest additional funding, the Swedish government’s refusal to put another cent into the project and, most recently, the bank restructuring that led to the loss of 1,600 jobs, or 20% of its workforce;

THAT it acknowledge that the Québec government forecasts that the Northvolt project in the Montérégie region will be commissioned at least 18 months late, not before 2028, and that further delays cannot be ruled out;

THAT it recall that numerous companies already established in Québec and offering lucrative employment were denied energy blocks;

THAT it acknowledge that this situation jeopardizes investments and employment in the region;

25 September 2024

THAT it recall and support the words of the President and Director General of Hydro-Québec, Mr. Michael Sabia, to the effect that it is necessary to rebalance the allocation of available megawatts to Québec companies carrying out industrial projects with an aim to decarbonize;

THAT it ask the Government to be transparent with regard to the conditions under which it granted a 354-megawatt energy block to Northvolt;

THAT, lastly, it ask the CAQ government to grant, to the extent permitted by the contractual arrangements between the Québec government and Northvolt, the 354-megawatt energy block currently allocated to the Northvolt project to other companies, while ensuring that an identical amount will be available to Northvolt in 2028 when the plant in the Montérégie region is scheduled for commissioning.

Pursuant to Standing Order 98.1, Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) accepted the amendment proposed by Mr. Paradis (Jean-Talon).

The debate continued on the main motion moved by Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) and on the amendment motion moved by Mr. Paradis (Jean-Talon).

The debate being concluded, the question was put on the amendment motion, and an electronic division was thereupon demanded.

At the request of Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, the divisions on the amendment motion moved by Mr. Paradis (Jean-Talon) and on the motion moved by Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) were deferred until Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day.

25 September 2024

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been adjourned earlier in the sitting, on the motion moved by Ms. LeBel, Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, that 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, do now pass in principle.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried, and Bill 67 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that 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, be referred to the Committee on Institutions for clause-by-clause consideration.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Lacombe, Minister of Culture and Communications, moved that Bill 64, An Act to establish the Musée national de l'histoire du Québec, do now pass in principle.

A debate arose thereon.

At 6:29 p.m., Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 26 September 2024 at 9:40 a.m.

NATHALIE ROY

President

2222

25 September 2024

APPENDIX

Electronic Divisions

On the motion moved by Ms. Fréchette, Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy, together with Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent):

(Division No. 308)

YEAS - 106

Abou-Khalil (CAQ)	Déry (CAQ)	Julien (CAQ)	Proulx (CAQ)
Allaire (CAQ)	Dionne (CAQ)	Labrie (QS)	Provençal (CAQ)
Arseneau (PQ)	Dorismond (CAQ)	Lachance (CAQ)	Reid (CAQ)
Asselin (CAQ)	Drainville (CAQ)	Lacombe (CAQ)	Rivest (CAQ)
Bachand (CAQ)	Dubé (CAQ)	Laforest (CAQ)	Rizqy (QLP)
Beauchemin (QLP)	Dufour (CAQ)	Laframboise (CAQ)	Roberge (CAQ)
Bélanger (CAQ)	(Abitibi-Est)	Lafrenière (CAQ)	Rotiroti (QLP)
(Prévost)	Dufour (QLP)	Lakhoyan Olivier (QLP)	Rouleau (CAQ)
Bélanger (CAQ)	(Mille-Îles)	Lamontagne (CAQ)	Roy (CAQ)
(Orford)	Duranceau (CAQ)	LeBel (CAQ)	Sainte-Croix (CAQ)
Bernard (CAQ)	Émond (CAQ)	Lecours (CAQ)	Schmaltz (CAQ)
Bérubé (PQ)	Fontecilla (QS)	(Les Plaines)	Schneeberger (CAQ)
Biron (CAQ)	Fortin (QLP)	Lecours (CAQ)	Setlakwe (QLP)
Blais (CAQ)	Fréchette (CAQ)	(Lotbinière-Frontenac)	Simard (CAQ)
Blanchette Vézina (CAQ)	Gagnon (CAQ)	Lemay (CAQ)	St-Louis (CAQ)
Blouin (CAQ)	Garceau (QLP)	Lemieux (CAQ)	St-Pierre Plamondon (PQ)
Bogemans (CAQ)	Gendron (CAQ)	Lévesque (CAQ)	Tanguay (QLP)
Boivin Roy (CAQ)	Ghazal (QS)	(Chapleau)	Tardif (CAQ)
Bonnardel (CAQ)	Girard (CAQ)	Maccarone (QLP)	Thouin (CAQ)
Bouazzi (QS)	(Groulx)	Mallette (CAQ)	Tremblay (CAQ)
Boulet (CAQ)	Girard (CAQ)	Marissal (QS)	(Dubuc)
Cadet (QLP)	(Lac-Saint-Jean)	Martel (CAQ)	Tremblay (CAQ)
Caire (CAQ)	Grandmont (QS)	Massé (QS)	(Hull)
Caron (QLP)	Grondin (CAQ)	McGraw (QLP)	Zaga Mendez (QS)
(La Pinière)	Guilbault (CAQ)	Morin (QLP)	Zanetti (QS)
Champagne Jourdain (CAQ)	Guillemette (CAQ)	Nichols (IND)	
Charest (CAQ)	Haytayan (CAQ)	Paradis (PQ)	
Ciccone (QLP)	Hébert (CAQ)	Picard (CAQ)	
Cliche-Rivard (QS)	Jacques (CAQ)	Poulet (CAQ)	
D'Amours (CAQ)	Jeannotte (CAQ)	Poulin (CAQ)	
Derraji (QLP)	Jolin-Barrette (CAQ)	Prass (QLP)	

ABSTENTIONS - 2

Chassin (IND) Lefebvre (IND)

25 September 2024

On the motion moved by Ms. Lakhoyan Olivier (Chomedey), together with Mr. Grandmont (Taschereau), Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil):

(Division No. 309)

YEAS - 107

Abou-Khalil (CAQ)	Déry (CAQ)	Julien (CAQ)	Prass (QLP)
Allaire (CAQ)	Dionne (CAQ)	Labrie (QS)	Proulx (CAQ)
Arseneau (PQ)	Dorismond (CAQ)	Lachance (CAQ)	Provençal (CAQ)
Asselin (CAQ)	Drainville (CAQ)	Lacombe (CAQ)	Reid (CAQ)
Bachand (CAQ)	Dubé (CAQ)	Laforest (CAQ)	Rivest (CAQ)
Beauchemin (QLP)	Dufour (CAQ)	Laframboise (CAQ)	Rizqy (QLP)
Bélanger (CAQ)	(Abitibi-Est)	Lafrenière (CAQ)	Roberge (CAQ)
(Prévost)	Dufour (QLP)	Lakhoyan Olivier (QLP)	Rotiroti (QLP)
Bélanger (CAQ)	(Mille-Îles)	Lamontagne (CAQ)	Rouleau (CAQ)
(Orford)	Duranceau (CAQ)	LeBel (CAQ)	Roy (CAQ)
Bernard (CAQ)	Émond (CAQ)	Lecours (CAQ)	Sainte-Croix (CAQ)
Bérubé (PQ)	Fontecilla (QS)	(Les Plaines)	Schmaltz (CAQ)
Biron (CAQ)	Fortin (QLP)	Lecours (CAQ)	Schneeberger (CAQ)
Blais (CAQ)	Fréchette (CAQ)	(Lotbinière-Frontenac)	Setlakwe (QLP)
Blanchette Vézina (CAQ)	Gagnon (CAQ)	Lefebvre (IND)	Simard (CAQ)
Blouin (CAQ)	Garceau (QLP)	Lemay (CAQ)	St-Louis (CAQ)
Bogemans (CAQ)	Gendron (CAQ)	Lemieux (CAQ)	St-Pierre Plamondon (PQ)
Boivin Roy (CAQ)	Ghazal (QS)	Lévesque (CAQ)	Tanguay (QLP)
Bonnardel (CAQ)	Girard (CAQ)	(Chapleau)	Tardif (CAQ)
Bouazzi (QS)	(Groulx)	Maccarone (QLP)	Thouin (CAQ)
Boulet (CAQ)	Girard (CAQ)	Malette (CAQ)	Tremblay (CAQ)
Cadet (QLP)	(Lac-Saint-Jean)	Marissal (QS)	(Dubuc)
Caire (CAQ)	Grandmont (QS)	Martel (CAQ)	Tremblay (CAQ)
Caron (QLP)	Grondin (CAQ)	Massé (QS)	(Hull)
(La Pinière)	Guilbault (CAQ)	McGraw (QLP)	Zaga Mendez (QS)
Champagne Jourdain (CAQ)	Guillemette (CAQ)	Morin (QLP)	Zanetti (QS)
Charest (CAQ)	Haytayan (CAQ)	Nichols (IND)	
Ciccione (QLP)	Hébert (CAQ)	Paradis (PQ)	
Cliche-Rivard (QS)	Jacques (CAQ)	Picard (CAQ)	
D'Amours (CAQ)	Jeannotte (CAQ)	Poulet (CAQ)	
Derraji (QLP)	Jolin-Barrette (CAQ)	Poulin (CAQ)	

ABSTENTIONS - 1

Chassin (IND)