



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 23 October 2024 — No. 155

**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. Rouleau (Pointe-aux-Trembles) made a statement to underline National Autonomous Community Action Week.

Mr. Lemieux (Saint-Jean) made a statement to underline the success of the first recognition gala for home, community and workplace educational childcare service providers in Haut-Richelieu.

Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) made a statement to underline the action week of the Front commun des personnes assistées sociales du Québec.

Ms. Dionne (Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of Transport Guy-Levasseur.

Ms. Hébert (Saint-François) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. Mélanie Noël.

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Mr. Bonnardel (Granby) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of the Organisme d'éducation, d'intégration et de loisirs pour personnes handicapées visuelles.

Ms. Roy (Verchères) made a statement to underline the bravery of firefighters Stéphane Gemme and Jean-François Noël.

Mr. Laframboise (Blainville) made a statement to underline the 75th anniversary of Ville de Bois-des-Filion.

Mr. Lévesque (Chapleau) made a statement to underline the 45th anniversary of Maison Unies-vers-femmes.

Mr. Jacques (Mégantic) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of the organization Les Soupapes de la Bonne Humeur.

Ms. Lakhoyan Olivier (Chomedey) made a statement to underline the 30th anniversary of Association Hispanophone de Laval.

Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) made a statement to underline the 45th anniversary of the Comité des organismes sociaux de Saint-Laurent.

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

The proceedings resumed at 10:05 a.m.

Moment of reflection

Presenting Papers

Ms. Laforest, Minister of Municipal Affairs, tabled the following:

The 2022–2023 review of the implementation, within the administration, of the 2018–2022 strategy to ensure the occupancy and vitality of our territories.
(Sessional Paper No. 1963-20241023)

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

The reply to a written question from Ms. Garceau (Robert-Baldwin) on access to abortion services – Question No. 163, *Order Paper and Notices* of 24 September 2024;
(Sessional Paper No. 1964-20241023)

The reply to a written question from Ms. Garceau (Robert-Baldwin) on the Espaces bleus – Question No. 164, *Order Paper and Notices* of 24 September 2024;
(Sessional Paper No. 1965-20241023)

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The Government's reply to a petition tabled on 28 May 2024 by Ms. Maccarone (Westmount–Saint-Louis) on banning the use of polyfluoroalkyl substances to protect drinking water and save wildlife;

(Sessional Paper No. 1966-20241023)

The Government's reply to a petition tabled on 11 September 2024 by Ms. Prass (D'Arcy-McGee) on reinstating obvious diagnoses for access to the Social Solidarity Program;

(Sessional Paper No. 1967-20241023)

The Government's reply to a petition tabled on 11 September 2024 by Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) on the expansion and modernization of Hôpital Pierre-Boucher;

(Sessional Paper No. 1968-20241023)

The Government's reply to the petitions tabled on 12 September 2024 by Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) on improving the Ministère de la Santé et des Services Sociaux's User Travel Policy.

(Sessional Paper No. 1969-20241023)

Presenting Petitions

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

The abstract of a petition on compliance with the Cavendish-Cavendish road connection project schedule submitted to the BAPE, signed by 2,965 citizens of Québec (French and English versions).

(Sessional Paper No. 1970-20241023)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

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Motions Without Notice

After consultation with the opposition parties and the independent Members, Mr. Legault, Premier, moved:

THAT, pursuant to sections 104 and 105 of the *Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information* (chapter A-2.1), Mr. Normand Boucher be reappointed as member of the Commission d'accès à l'information, assigned to the judicial division, for a two-year term effective immediately, and that his remuneration and other conditions of employment be those contained in the document tabled herewith.

He then tabled the following:

The remuneration and other conditions of employment of Mr. Normand Boucher as member of the Commission d'accès à l'information, assigned to the judicial division.

(Sessional Paper No. 1971-20241023)

The question was put on this motion and, for the purposes of section 104 of the *Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information*, an electronic division requiring the approval of two thirds of the Members of the National Assembly was held thereupon.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **328** in Appendix)

Yeas: **110** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

Ms. Lachance (Bellechasse), together with Mr. Lefebvre (Arthabaska), moved a motion on a new cross-river link between the Capitale-Nationale and Chaudière-Appalaches regions; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

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

Ms. Ghazal (Mercier), together with Mr. Morin (Acadie), Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia), Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) and Mr. Chassin (Saint-Jérôme), moved a motion on secularism in public education; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia), together with Mr. Cliche-Rivard (Saint-Henri-Sainte-Anne), moved a motion on francization services; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

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

- the Committee on Institutions, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 72, An Act to protect consumers against abusive commercial practices and to offer better transparency with respect to prices and credit;
- the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 63, An Act to amend the Mining Act and other provisions;
- the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 61, An Act enacting the Act respecting Mobilité Infra Québec and amending certain provisions relating to shared transportation;

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- the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 76, An Act mainly to enhance the quality of construction and public safety.

Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, gave the following notice:

- the Committee on Health and Social Services shall hold a deliberative meeting to discuss the possibility of examining a petition on maintaining the available spaces and completing the expansion project for the CHSLD de Bedford.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

Ms. Rouleau, Minister Responsible for Social Solidarity and Community Action, moved that Bill 71, An Act to improve support for persons and to simplify the social assistance regime, do now pass in principle.

A debate arose thereon.

At the request of Mr. Lévesque, Second Vice-President, Ms. McGraw (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

The debate continued.

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

Accordingly, pursuant to Standing Order 97, the debate on the motion moved by Ms. Rouleau, Minister Responsible for Social Solidarity and Community Action, was adjourned in the name of Ms. Garceau (Robert-Baldwin).

The proceedings resumed at 3:00 p.m.

Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) moved:

THAT the National Assembly recall the historic progress made through the separation of religions and the State;

THAT it reiterate that respect for and application of the principle of secularism in the education and childcare services networks ensures this separation of religions and the State and respect for users' freedom of conscience and expression;

THAT it note that the situation revealed at the Bedford school shows that the Québec State has failed to ensure respect for secularism and for differences of opinion;

THAT it note that the situation revealed at the Bedford school and in certain childcare services jeopardizes the academic, educational and human development of children and students;

THAT it recognize the need to strengthen the *Act respecting the laicity of the State* to ensure it is complied with in public services;

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THAT it ask the Government to legislate the principle of secularism into the *Education Act* and the *Educational Childcare Act* to protect education institutions and their staff from religious pressure;

THAT it call for the mandatory registration and listing of places of worship and religious organizations present and active in Québec, and for the prohibition of any links between them and schools or childcare services;

THAT it call on the Government to end the public funding of religious schools.

Mr. Lévesque, Second 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 his reply; 47 minutes 45 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Government; 25 minutes 34 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition; 16 minutes 9 seconds to the Second Opposition Group; 16 minutes 2 seconds 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.

During her address, Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) moved:

THAT the motion moved by Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) be amended as follows:

By adding “, excluding private residences,” after the word “worship” on the 21st line.

The motion, as amended, would read as follows:

THAT the National Assembly recall the historic progress made through the separation of religions and the State;

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THAT it reiterate that respect for and application of the principle of secularism in the education and childcare services networks ensures this separation of religions and the State and respect for users' freedom of conscience and expression;

THAT it note that the situation revealed at the Bedford school shows that the Québec State has failed to ensure respect for secularism and for differences of opinion;

THAT it note that the situation revealed at the Bedford school and in certain childcare services jeopardizes the academic, educational and human development of children and students;

THAT it recognize the need to strengthen the *Act respecting the laicity of the State* to ensure it is complied with in public services;

THAT it ask the Government to legislate the principle of secularism into the *Education Act* and the *Educational Childcare Act* to protect education institutions and their staff from religious pressure;

THAT it call for the mandatory registration and listing of places of worship, excluding private residences, and religious organizations present and active in Québec, and for the prohibition of any links between them and schools or childcare services;

THAT it call on the Government to end the public funding of religious schools.

The debate continued on the main motion moved by Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) and on the amendment motion moved by Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent), subject to the permission of its author.

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During his address, Mr. Cliche-Rivard (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne) moved:

THAT the motion moved by Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) be amended as follows:

Replace the fifth paragraph by the following paragraph:

“THAT it ask the Government to commit to reinforcing control and training mechanisms to prevent such abuses, and to supporting school administrations to ensure secular, inclusive, science-based education free of ideological manipulation, in all Québec schools;”.

The motion, as amended, would read as follows:

THAT the National Assembly recall the historic progress made through the separation of religions and the State;

THAT it reiterate that respect for and application of the principle of secularism in the education and childcare services networks ensures this separation of religions and the State and respect for users’ freedom of conscience and expression;

THAT it note that the situation revealed at the Bedford school shows that the Québec State has failed to ensure respect for secularism and for differences of opinion;

THAT it note that the situation revealed at the Bedford school and in certain childcare services jeopardizes the academic, educational and human development of children and students;

THAT it ask the Government to commit to reinforcing control and training mechanisms to prevent such abuses, and to supporting school administrations to ensure secular, inclusive, science-based education free of ideological manipulation, in all Québec schools;

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THAT it ask the Government to legislate the principle of secularism into the *Education Act* and the *Educational Childcare Act* to protect education institutions and their staff from religious pressure;

THAT it call for the mandatory registration and listing of places of worship and religious organizations present and active in Québec, and for the prohibition of any links between them and schools or childcare services;

THAT it call on the Government to end the public funding of religious schools.

The debate continued on the main motion moved by Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) and on the amendment motions moved by Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) and Mr. Cliche-Rivard (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne), subject to the permission of its author.

At the beginning of his address, Mr. Émond (Richelieu) moved:

THAT the motion moved by Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) be amended as follows:

By replacing “shows that the Québec State has failed to ensure respect for secularism and for differences of opinion” in the third paragraph by “poses a new challenge to the Québec State with regard to ensuring respect for secularism;”;

By striking out the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth paragraphs;

By adding the following two paragraphs at the end of the motion:

“THAT it ask the Government to reflect on new ways to promote state secularism and to ensure respect for secularism in our public services;

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THAT it take note that the Minister of Education and the Minister Responsible for Laicity were mandated to examine ways to reinforce control measures and secularism in Québec schools.”

The motion, as amended, would read as follows:

THAT the National Assembly recall the historic progress made through the separation of religions and the State;

THAT it reiterate that respect for and application of the principle of secularism in the education and childcare services networks ensures this separation of religions and the State and respect for users’ freedom of conscience and expression;

THAT it note that the situation revealed at the Bedford school poses a new challenge to the Québec State with regard to ensuring respect for secularism;

THAT it note that the situation revealed at the Bedford school and in certain childcare services jeopardizes the academic, educational and human development of children and students;

THAT it ask the Government to propose new ways to reflect on state secularism and to ensure respect for secularism in our public services;

THAT it take note that the Minister of Education and the Minister Responsible for Laicity were mandated to examine ways to reinforce control measures and secularism in Québec schools.

The debate continued on the main motion moved by Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) and on the amendment motions moved by Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent), Mr. Cliche-Rivard (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne) and Mr. Émond (Richelieu), subject to the permission of its author.

Pursuant to Standing Order 98.1, Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) accepted the amendment proposed by Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) and refused the amendments proposed by Mr. Cliche-Rivard (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne) and Mr. Émond (Richelieu).

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The debate being concluded, the question was first put on the amendment motion moved by Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent).

The motion was negated.

The question was then put on the motion moved by Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia), and an electronic division was thereupon demanded.

At the request of Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, the division on the motion moved by Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) was deferred until Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day.

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been adjourned earlier in the sitting, on the motion moved by Ms. Rouleau, Minister Responsible for Social Solidarity and Community Action, that Bill 71, An Act to improve support for persons and to simplify the social assistance regime, do now pass in principle.

The debate was adjourned in the name of Ms. Lakhoyan Olivier (Chomedey).

At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 24 October 2024 at 9:40 a.m.

NATHALIE ROY

President

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APPENDIX

Electronic Divisions

On the motion moved by Mr. Legault, Premier, that Mr. Normand Boucher be reappointed as member of the Commission d'accès à l'information:

(Division No. 328)

YEAS - 110

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