



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Order Paper and Notices

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 30 October 2024 – No. 158

Nine forty a.m.

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

Part 1
ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

- The Member for Vachon on the following subject: *Halloween celebrations in Vachon riding.*
- The Member for Acadie on the following subject: *Underline the 30th anniversary of the organization Bois Urbain.*
- The Member for Saint-Jean on the following subject: *Toward a public safety and emergency management innovation zone in Haut-Richelieu, by way of an innovation centre!*
- The Member for Verdun on the following subject: *Acknowledge the organization Maison d'accueil des nouveaux arrivants for organizing the Gala de reconnaissance de l'héritage interculturel and congratulate the 2024 winners.*
- The Member for Saint-François on the following subject: *Tribute to Mr. Jean-Michel Longpré, protector and promoter of heritage.*
- The Member for Taschereau on the following subject: *Applaud the founding of the organization Répit Basse-Ville.*
- The Member for Portneuf on the following subject: *Mr. Mikaël Fiset: a heroic act in Donnacona.*
- The Member for Saint-Jérôme on the following subject: *Congratulations to QGDA, tremendous support for the next generation of entrepreneurs!*
- The Member for Taillon on the following subject: *Underline the 40th anniversary of the Centre Communautaire le Trait D'Union.*
- The Member for Saint-Hyacinthe on the following subject: *Tribute to the recreation organizations and corporations of Saint-Hyacinthe.*
- The Member for Brome-Missisquoi on the following subject: *Tribute to Mr. Ralph Gilman, an exceptional citizen.*
- The Member for Anjou–Louis-Riel on the following subject: *La TOHU celebrates 20 years of circus performances in Montréal.*

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

PRESENTING (a) Papers
 (b) Reports from committees
 (c) Petitions

ORAL ANSWERS TO PETITIONS

**COMPLAINTS OF BREACH OF PRIVILEGE OR CONTEMPT AND
PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS**

ORAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DEFERRED DIVISIONS

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

NOTICES OF PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEES

INFORMATION ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Part 2
ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUSINESS HAVING PRECEDENCE

URGENT DEBATES

DEBATES ON REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

OTHER BUSINESS

I. Government Bills

Passage in Principle

- (1) Bill 73
An Act to counter non-consensual sharing of intimate images and to improve protection and support in civil matters for persons who are victims of violence
Introduced by the Minister of Justice on **3 October 2024**

- (2) Bill 74
An Act mainly to improve the regulatory scheme governing international students
Introduced by the Minister of Immigration, Francization and Integration on **10 October 2024**

- (3) Bill 76
An Act mainly to enhance the quality of construction and public safety
Introduced by the Minister of Labour on 2 October 2024
Report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain (consultations) tabled on **29 October 2024**

Committee Stage

- (4) 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
- (5) 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
Report from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment (consultations) tabled on 18 September 2024
Passed in principle on **26 September 2024**, and
Referred to the Committee on Transportation and the Environment
- (6) 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
Report from the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources (consultations) tabled on 1 October 2024
Passed in principle on **8 October 2024**, and
Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources
- (7) Bill 67
An Act to amend the Professional Code for the modernization of the professional system and to broaden certain professional practices in the field of health and social services
Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor on 4 June 2024
Report from the Committee on Institutions (consultations) tabled on 24 September 2024
Passed in principle on **25 September 2024**, and
Referred to the Committee on Institutions

- (8) 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
Report from the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources (consultations) tabled on 24 September 2024
Passed in principle on **3 October 2024**, and
Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources
- (9) Bill 71
An Act to improve support for persons and to simplify the social assistance regime
Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Social Solidarity and Community Action on 11 September 2024
Report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy (consultations) tabled on 22 October 2024
Passed in principle on **24 October 2024**, and
Referred to the Committee on Labour and the Economy
- (10) Bill 77
An Act amending mainly Acts establishing public sector pension plans
Introduced by the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor on 9 October 2024
Passed in principle on **22 October 2024**, and
Referred to the Committee on Public Finance

Report Stage

- (11) Bill 72
An Act to protect consumers against abusive commercial practices and to offer better transparency with respect to prices and credit
Introduced by the Minister of Justice on 12 September 2024
Passed in principle on 19 September 2024, and
Referred to the Committee on Institutions
Report from the Committee on Institutions (consultations) tabled on 9 October 2024
Report from the Committee on Institutions tabled on **24 October 2024**

Passage

II. Private Members' Public Bills

Passage in Principle

- (12) 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**

- (13) 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**

- (14) 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**

- (15) 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**

- (16) 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**

- (17) 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**

- (18) 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**

- (19) 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**
- (20) Bill 199
An Act to better protect consumers against abusive credit contracts
Introduced by the Member for Saint-Laurent on **23 February 2023**
- (21) 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**
- (22) 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**
- (23) 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**
- (24) Bill 393
An Act to combat food waste
Introduced by the Member for Verdun on **6 April 2023**
- (25) 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**
- (26) 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**

- (27) 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**
- (28) 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**
- (29) 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**
- (30) 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**
- (31) 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**
- (32) Bill 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**
- (33) Bill 492
An Act to combat waste
Introduced by the Member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine on **18 April 2023**

- (34) 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**
- (35) 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**
- (36) 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**
- (37) 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**
- (38) Bill 499
An Act to establish a new electoral system
Introduced by the Member for Jean-Lesage on **5 October 2023**
- (39) 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**
- (40) 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**
- (41) 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**

- (42) 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**
- (43) 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**
- (44) 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**
- (45) 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**
- (46) 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**
- (47) 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**
- (48) Bill 695
Parliamentary Budget Officer Act
Introduced by the Member for Nelligan on **14 March 2024**
- (49) Bill 697
An Act to combat waste
Introduced by the Member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine on **23 April 2024**

- (50) 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**
- (51) 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**
- (52) 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**
- (53) Bill 792
An Act to enhance the presence of the flag of Québec
Introduced by the Member for Matane-Matapédia on **30 May 2024**
- (54) 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

- (55) 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

- (56) 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
- (57) 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

- (58) 29 October 2024
Motion by the Member for Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne

THAT the National Assembly note the closure of dozens of francization classes throughout Québec;

THAT it ask the Québec government to commit to restoring in-school francization services that were cancelled in recent weeks and to take the necessary measures to avoid new service closures in that sector.

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

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 63**, An Act to amend the Mining Act and other provisions (Order of reference given on 8 October 2024)
- **Bill 69**, An Act to ensure the responsible governance of energy resources and to amend various legislative provisions (Order of reference given on 3 October 2024).

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Orders of reference

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

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY

Orders of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 71**, An Act to improve support for persons and to simplify the social assistance regime (Order of reference given on 24 October 2024).

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE

Orders of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 77**, An Act amending mainly Acts establishing public sector pension plans (Order of reference given on 22 October 2024).

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

Orders of reference

Special Consultations:

- **Bill 73**, An Act to counter non-consensual sharing of intimate images and to improve protection and support in civil matters for persons who are victims of violence (Order of reference given on 22 October 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 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 25 September 2024).
- **Bill 203**, An Act respecting the objects and powers of the Roman Catholic Archiepiscopal corporation of Montreal (Order of reference given on 19 April 2023).

COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN RELATIONS

Orders of reference

Special Consultations:

- **Bill 74**, Loi visant principalement à améliorer l'encadrement relatif aux étudiants étrangers (Order of reference given on 29 October 2024).

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Orders of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 194**, An Act to establish a presumption of consent to organ or tissue donation after death (Order of reference given on 9 June 2023).

Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

Interpellation:

- By the Member for Rosemont to the Minister of Health on the following subject: *The rise in privatization of healthcare in Québec*. (Order of reference given on 24 October 2024).

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Orders of reference

Consideration of Bills:

- **Bill 61**, An Act enacting the Act respecting Mobilité Infra Québec and amending certain provisions relating to shared transportation (Order of reference given on 26 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*

(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?

(157) Ms. Prass (D'Arcy-McGee) – **12 September 2024**
To the Minister Responsible for Social Services

According to an article published in the *Le Devoir* newspaper on 21 March 2024, there are inconsistencies on the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux's dashboard with regard to wait times for psychiatric services. Official data listed 13 people waiting to see a psychiatrist in the Montréal region, while the Îles-de-la-Madeleine region showed five times that number, and the Mauricie and Centre-du-Québec regions each had 2,000 people on a waiting list. Claire Gamache, chair of the Association des médecins psychiatres du Québec, said these statistics were implausible, and confirmed that thousands of patients were waiting in the regions affected by a shortage of psychiatrists.

The CIUSSSs of Montréal appear to remove patients from waiting lists once they have been directed to the Adult Mental Health Access Desk (GASMA), a much-criticized practice that minimizes the real extent of needs. Even though the department recognizes its shortcomings in the way the data is recorded, it nonetheless continues to display these inaccurate statistics.

Can the Minister tell us if the data accurately reflect reality as of today?

How does the Minister make sure that the information is reliable and up to date?

(159) Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys) – **18 September 2024**
To the Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy

In May 2024, the Conseil de l'innovation du Québec announced the 2024 results for the Grande enquête sur l'innovation québécoise.

Although the proportion of companies with at least one innovation project increased by 18 percentage points since the last survey, a decline in R&D spending was also noted.

As a percentage of GDP, R&D spending by Québec companies decreased by 25%. The Conseil de l'innovation du Québec considers this decline to be worrisome, especially when compared to the OECD average of +32%.

Does the Minister have a plan to reverse this trend in Québec?

(165) Ms. Prass (D'Arcy-McGee) – **24 September 2024**
To the Minister Responsible for Social Services

In his announcement in Dolbeau-Mistassini on 6 August 2024, the Minister mentioned a permanent housing project with a “high threshold of acceptability” in Ville de Dolbeau-Mistassini.

Can the Minister specify what is meant by the expression “high threshold of acceptability”? In addition, how is this threshold assessed by the Minister, and what specific criteria are used to define the threshold?

Have any public consultations been held?

(166) Ms. Prass (D'Arcy-McGee) – **25 September 2024**
To the Minister Responsible for Social Services

The number of people experiencing homelessness continues to grow, and an ever-increasing proportion have mental health problems, making it more difficult for them to access services adapted to their needs.

The Minister recently announced additional funding for people experiencing homelessness and who have serious mental health problems.

Can the Minister explain what criteria or conditions are used to define these serious mental health problems?

(169) Ms. Maccarone (Westmount–Saint-Louis) – **25 September 2024**
To the Minister of Justice

On 15 May 2024, the Minister tabled a regulation on the designation of foreign States where the rules and practices relating to surrogacy meet the requirements prescribed by the *Civil Code*.

Following the Government's adoption of this position, I worry about the potential consequences for Québec families.

First, the Government's decision to exclude parts of Canada, in particular New Brunswick, is bewildering. It is well known that Quebecers and New Brunswickers are linguistically united and share undeniable bonds. I believe the exclusion of that province puts francophone Quebecers at a disadvantage, as both parents and children will have trouble developing significant bonds with surrogate mothers.

Second, I noticed that, in spite of the regulation, the exclusion of certain Canadian provinces creates confusion for future parents and may hinder their parental projects. There is a real risk that the filiation of future children will not be recognized in Québec, and that parents may not be eligible for benefits under the Québec Parental Insurance Plan. As such, I believe it is appropriate to provide the best possible support to families getting ready to welcome a child.

Can the Minister tell us if, similar to international adoption, he intends to adapt his regulation to make it more flexible and include more countries of the Francophonie and all Canadian provinces?

(170) Mr. Ciccone (Marquette) – **26 September 2024**

To the Minister of Health

On 26 August 2024, the Convenience Industry Council of Canada (CICC) stated in a press release that ever since the entry into force of the regulation banning the sale of vape flavours in Québec ten months ago, the government has struggled to enforce the law.

The CICC denounces the fact that there are still nearly 400 non-compliant vape shops who circumvent the law by selling flavours supposedly intended for water, but designed to be mixed with unflavoured nicotine liquids.

Also, certain merchants have already said they did not know the exact content of these flavours and even mentioned the possibility of products potentially being carcinogenic if inhaled.

Will the Minister commit to closely examining the Convenience Industry Council of Canada's proposal, or any other proposal that could quickly end the illegal sale of vaping flavours?

(171) Mr. Morin (Acadie) – **26 September 2024**

To the Minister of Immigration, Francization and Integration

On 25 September 2024, *Le Journal de Chambly* published an article on wait times entitled “Un délai injuste”. This article tells the sad story of Ms. Christine Hallé, one of the Minister’s constituents, who is suffering because of the administrative delays imposed by the CAQ government with regard to family reunification.

The situation is deeply sad and inhumane. Ms. Hallé is under a great deal of stress, which is affecting her mental health. The excessively long wait times in Québec have been documented, and the lengthy separation of spouses is unbearable. Her plans for a life together are on hold, and this is only because she lives in Québec.

Indeed, the newspaper reports that, unlike Canadians living in other provinces, Quebecers have to wait two to four years rather than 13 months as in other provinces. That wait time is three times longer on average because of a decision made by your Government.

Can the Minister deal with this case in his riding and act quickly so that this citizen can live in Québec with her spouse? The waiting is having serious impacts on her mental health. What does the Minister have to say to his constituent?

(172) Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) – **1 October 2024**

To the Minister of the French Language

The 2023–2024 annual report on the application of the *Charter of the French Language* in the bodies of the Administration with the exception of parliamentary institutions shows, on page 28, that 35 complaints regarding alleged *Charter* violations were received by government departments.

Can the Minister tell us which departments were the subject of these complaints, the number of complaints per department, the nature of the alleged violations, and whether the complaints were deemed to be substantiated?

(173) Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) – **2 October 2024**

To the Minister of the French Language

Page 4 of the 2023–2024 annual management report of the Ministère de la Langue française mentions a certain obligation for the bodies of the Administration subject to the governmental language policy and who intend to use a language other than French. This obligation includes adopting a guideline for staff members on the applicable rules of conduct with regard to the use of language within the bodies, as well as the exceptions allowed.

The report also indicates that departments and bodies had until 1 June 2024 to issue such a guideline.

Can the Minister tell us which departments and bodies have developed a guideline on this matter to date?

(174) Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) – **2 October 2024**

To the Minister of the French Language

The 2023–2024 annual management report of the Ministère de la Langue française mentions the failure to achieve the target set for indicator 2.2.1, which is the percentage of bodies of the Administration subject to the governmental language policy who reported using tools with regard to the duty of exemplarity.

The result for 2023–2024 is 57%, whereas the target set by the department was 60%.

Given the importance of the State’s exemplarity with regard to language, can the Minister personally commit to making sure next year’s target is achieved, and can he tell us what measures he intends to implement to do so?

(175) Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) – **2 October 2024**

To the Minister of the French Language

Page 13 of the 2023–2024 annual report of the Office québécois de la langue française and the Commission de toponymie mentions an inspection process, established under section 167 of the *Charter of the French Language*, to assess the level of compliance of employers with regard to the legislative provisions regulating the requirement to have knowledge of a language other than French to keep a position or to obtain a position, in particular through recruitment, hiring, transfer or promotion.

According to the report, an analysis of 500 job offers in the finance and insurance sector and the retail sector reveals that 9 out of 10 companies do not comply with the new provisions of the *Charter*.

Can the Minister tell us what additional measures he intends to implement so that the obligations set out in the *Charter* are better known and respected by the companies of these sectors?

(176) Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) – **3 October 2024**

To the Minister of the French Language

The 2023–2024 annual management report of the Ministère de la Langue française states that the targets set for the presence of members of visible and ethnic minorities in the Ministère’s regular and casual workforce have not been met.

The results are below the targets for all staffing regions, except the Capitale-Nationale region.

Furthermore, there are no members of visible and ethnic minorities in the Ministère’s management staff, despite a representation target of 6%.

Can the Minister tell us what actions he intends to take to achieve these objectives?

(177) Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) – **3 October 2024**

To the Minister of the French Language

The 2023–2024 annual report of the Office québécois de la langue française and the Commission de toponymie states, on pages 46 to 49, that many targets for the hiring of visible and ethnic minorities and for their presence in the Office’s regular and casual workforce have not been met.

The report shows that the hiring rates for members of target groups for regular and casual employment have declined steadily in recent years and are far below the objective of 25%.

Furthermore, the presence of members of visible and ethnic minorities in the Office’s regular and casual workforce is declining and falling short of the targets set.

Given that the Office has increased its total workforce by more than 70 FTEs in 2023–2024, can the Minister tell us why these targets have not been met, and what measures he personally intends to take to ensure they are met in the future?

(178) Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) – **3 October 2024**

To the Minister of the French Language

The 2023–2024 annual management report of the Ministère de la Langue française states that the Direction de la francophonie canadienne is now under the Ministère's responsibility. On page 14 of the report, it is noted that the service standards commitment to process requests related to the Direction's programs within a maximum of 60 days has not been met.

The result for 2023–2024 is 36%, while the objective set by the Ministère was 85%.

The Ministère cites several reasons for this failure, including the implementation of a new subsidy management platform, delays in confirming co-funding for intergovernmental cooperation projects, and delays attributable to the Direction's transfer within the Ministère.

Can the Minister give us an overview of the situation for the first six months of the 2024–2025 fiscal year and confirm that, if the trend continues, the 85% commitment will be met by 31 March?

(179) Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) – **3 October 2024**

To the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility

For the second year in a row, the Rimouski-Forestville ferry service has been suspended. Established more than 25 years ago, this seasonal link plays an essential role for the Bas-Saint-Laurent and Côte-Nord regions. Radio-Canada recently reported that a new promoter has expressed an interest in operating the ferry.

My question is the following:

Given the importance of the Rimouski-Forestville ferry for the residents, workers and companies of the region, does the Québec government intend to provide financial support or implement a specific strategy to ensure the resumption and sustainability of the ferry service, while considering the issues related to operating costs and user access?

(180) Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) – **3 October 2024**
To the Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy

Since 2022, Ville de Rimouski and the municipality of Grande-Rivière have been actively working to implement an innovation zone, the Blue Zone, to promote research, innovation, industrial development and entrepreneurship in the marine sector. The official announcement of the creation of the Blue Zone is, to this day, highly anticipated in Eastern Québec.

My questions are the following:

- Can the Minister confirm if the Government still intends to implement this innovation zone?
- If so, what is the expected deadline for its implementation?
- If not, what are the reasons behind the eventual delay or abandonment of this initiative?

(181) Mr. Cliche-Rivard (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne) – **8 October 2024**
To the Minister of Justice

On 17 November 2022, federal Bill C-5, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Controlled Drug and Substances Act*, received the Royal Assent necessary to become an Act of Parliament (c. 15), and thus became applicable in all Canadian provinces. Though its purpose was to repeal minimum penalties, the Act also opened the door to diversion for simple possession of drugs.

Given that Québec does not have federal prosecutors and that it is up to the Minister of Justice to provide clear guidelines on the application of that Act, my colleague, the Member for Sherbrooke, questioned the Minister a few months later, on 22 March 2023, on how he intended to give effect to the coming into force of the Act. The Association des intervenants en dépendance du Québec (AIDQ) also organized a forum at the end of March 2023 on Chapter 15 of the *Criminal Code*. Its goal was for Québec to establish an application policy for harm reduction. The group invited the Minister to the forum so that he could provide clarification on the application of the Act, but he rejected the invitation.

On 27 April 2023, the Member for Sherbrooke received a reply to her written question. It stated that the Minister of Justice had planned measures in substitution of the traditional judicial process, that he had developed an approach that is adapted to the Act, and that a guideline had been published on the matter in the Gazette officielle du Québec on 24 April 2023. The Minister also insisted that he would continue to work closely with the community sector. However, workers of the community sector, including some, if not all, health and social services network employees, were not informed of the new guideline. Police forces were also kept in the dark. On 25 April 2023, the day following the Minister's notice, the Directeur des poursuites criminelles et pénales (DPCP) amended its "DRO-1" directive, which is solely intended for prosecutors. The amendment did not include any instructions that prevented the laying of charges for simple possession of drugs. Rather, it added criteria, allowing prosecutors to assess whether to initiate a prosecution.

Then, in July 2024, we learned from a Radio-Canada article that the police services of Montréal, Laval, Gatineau, Sherbrooke, Châteauguay and Granby were still not aware of the new guideline or directive. As such, they continue to enforce the Act by transmitting cases for simple possession to the DPCP, even though the latter may not follow up on them. This wastes time and money in a context where police officers are overworked, and has a human impact on the people caught up in the legal system.

At the end of September, a little over a year after the coming into force of the guideline, I learned, through an access to information request submitted to the department, that in the four months following the implementation of the new directive, 5,069 criminal cases involving drug possession had been opened. Only five of these case were the subject of a diversion. I have also just learned, via an access to information request made to the SPVM, that, since April 2023, the number of cases involving simple possession offences is higher than it was before the tabling of the Minister's new guideline. Furthermore, the SPVM has not yet received additional information on, or a framework for, the implementation of the new guideline. Consequently, more than one year after its coming into force, it is undeniable that further clarification and directives are greatly needed.

My questions to the Minister of Justice are the following:

- Does he commit to mobilize, in a coherent manner, all the stakeholders concerned (legal sector, police forces, public health, health and social services network, including the community sector and users, elected officials) so as to integrate a shared vision on diversion for simple possession offences?
- Can he make available the framework for assessing the efficiency of the new ministerial guideline?

(183) Ms. McGraw (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) – **8 October 2024**

To the Minister Responsible for Social Solidarity and Community Action

The goal of the 2017–2023 Government Action Plan to Foster Economic Inclusion and Social Participation was to significantly reduce poverty in Québec. To do so, one of the plan's key measures was to lift 100,000 people out of poverty through various initiatives and resources meant to improve the living conditions of those who are most vulnerable.

As the period covered by this plan comes to an end, it is imperative that an overview of the concrete results achieved be provided to assess the efficiency of the measures taken.

In this regard, I would like to know how many people have actually been lifted out of poverty in Québec since the start of this plan?

(184) Mr. Morin (Acadie) – **9 October 2024**

To the Minister of Justice

Currently in Québec, the cost for a citizen to obtain an apostille in Québec is \$65. That is twice as much as in Ontario and six times as much as in British Columbia.

Can the Minister of Justice tell us why the cost is so different between Québec and the other Canadian provinces?

(185) Mr. Morin (Acadie) – **9 October 2024**

To the Minister of Justice

During consultations on Bill 56, the Chambre des notaires informed us that it was working on the development of new practices and training to provide notaries with a clear process to follow to ensure the consent of all parties to notarial acts.

Based on that information, the Minister of Justice decided not to include any more specific measures on the subject in his family law reform bill.

The bill was tabled almost eight months ago, and assented to five months ago.

Can the Minister of Justice tell us what actions he has taken to ensure that everything will be ready for the coming into force of the Act on 30 June 2025?

(186) Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) – **24 October 2024**

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

The 2019–2024 action plan of the *Québec Residual Materials Management Policy* includes Action 22, the purpose of which is to promote the emergence of complementary approaches for the diversion of residual materials. One of its indicators provides for the establishment of energy conversion criteria by regulation by 2022.

1. Have such criteria been established, and if so, when will they be made public?
2. If they have not yet been established, when does the Minister intend to remedy this gap in his action plan, which will soon come to an end?

(187) Ms. Caron (La Pinière) – **24 October 2024**
To the Minister Responsible for Social Services

During Routine Proceedings of 28 March 2024, I asked the Minister about the national agreement governing intermediate resources.

In response, he claimed to be aware that rising construction costs and inflation had an impact on the services provided by intermediate resources and on the funding they receive. He also said that the real estate component was a topical area of discussion, as well as ways the Minister could help intermediate resources remain open.

Six months after making this statement in the National Assembly, can the Minister tell us what progress has been made in discussions with ARIHQ on the real estate component?

(188) Ms. Garceau (Robert-Baldwin) – **29 October 2024**
To the Minister of Culture and Communications

On 22 October 2024, the Québec Public Library Association published its 2024 portrait of Québec public libraries. This analysis, which is based on number of acquisitions, opening hours, floor space, seating capacity and human resources, provides an overview of library services in Québec.

The indicators show that the situation is still far from ideal for our public libraries. Although the results for floor space and seating capacity have improved slightly, the situation has worsened with regard to opening hours, acquisitions and human resources. As regards this last category, the report notes that for our libraries to function properly, there is a need for 1,853 FTE employees, 765 FTE technicians and 489 librarians.

The document also reveals that the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region is ranked worst in the province, with an overall result of 50%, compared with the Québec average of 66%.

Given the importance of access to reading, can the Minister of Culture and Communications tell us what actions he intends to take to improve the state of our public libraries and ensure that they have the means to achieve their ambitions?

(189) Mr. Cliche-Rivard (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne) – **30 October 2024**
To the Minister Responsible for Social Services

According to the Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ), 619 people died between July 2023 and June 2024 from suspected intoxication by opioids or other drugs (including stimulants). More specifically, following a relatively stable period in 2021, there was an increase in the number of cases from the spring of 2022 to the end of that year, followed by another increase from the second quarter of 2023. The average number of deaths from January to June 2024 (53 deaths per month) is higher than the average for that same period in 2023 (39 deaths per month) and in 2022 (42 deaths per month).

The overdose crisis is real and is gaining ground in Québec, which the Minister noted was a great concern. In an interview with the *Le Devoir* newspaper, he said that the Government had invested \$6.1 million last year, including \$1.6 million for Montréal, to combat this scourge. He added that he had carried out a massive advertising campaign on social media and on television to raise awareness, and mentioned how important it was to spread the word that this did not solely impact the homeless population, and that most deaths occurred in private residences.

However, there exists a safe antidote that can temporarily reverse the effects of an opioid overdose: the naloxone. Since 2017, a program to provide naloxone free of charge was launched throughout Québec following an agreement between the Association québécoise des pharmaciens propriétaires and the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux. According to the INSPQ, this program makes it possible for any person, whether a Québec citizen or not, to obtain a free naloxone kit in Québec pharmacies.

I would like to inform the Minister of a barrier to access to naloxone. The main distribution channel to the population is the pharmacy, which carries a stigma as the pharmacist must note this request for naloxone in the person's health record. Unfortunately, this barrier restricts many citizens in our collective efforts to prevent deaths. In this regard, we often hear that one of the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec's billing codes is intended for pharmacists to identify that the recipient is not an opioid user. The fact remains that this information may not be correctly interpreted later if it was not kept secret, or if the health professional or the employer, as the case may be, is not fully informed of the nuances. The is sufficiently discouraging and is an avoidable administrative barrier.

As a result, many citizens tell us that they are discouraged by the note in their health record following the delivery of a naloxone kit by the pharmacist. It's hard to blame them: after all, since when should preparing for emergencies be done at the risk of tainting one's health record? These same people also tell us that a measure allowing truly anonymous access to naloxone would positively impact public access to naloxone, as it would then be non-binding and non-stigmatizing to obtain it for prevention purposes.

My questions to the Minister Responsible for Social Services are the following:

What is the Minister waiting for to directly contribute to saving lives and better reach the general population by committing the RAMQ to providing a specific billing code for the anonymous delivery of naloxone?

Can the Government provide a clear schedule for the actions it intends to take with the RAMQ to remove this administrative barrier and save lives?

If the Government's awareness-raising efforts are working, but the general population must still rely on pharmacies to have access to naloxone, why do we not prioritize the administrative efficiency of this distribution channel so that it is fully utilized?

(190) Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) – **30 October 2024**

To the Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor

The Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor (SCT) is the largest employer in Québec, with approximately 1 million employees, or nearly 24% of Québec workers. The majority of employees in the public and parapublic sector, almost 75%, are women. As the employer also serves as a legislator, this places it in a delicate position with regard to the *Pay Equity Act* and its application.

In the framework of pay equity audit processes, we know that the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST) struggles to carry out its investigations within reasonable time frames. It rendered the first decision on the 2010 audit more than 13 years after the filing of complaints by public and parapublic employees. Investigations are still underway for the 2015 audit process, more than 8 years after the end of the period covered. The CNESST will start processing complaints from the 2020 audit within the framework of conciliation, suggesting more long delays. And yet, the *Pay Equity Act* is a fundamental act meant to help put an end to gender discrimination in Québec. There always seems to be a plethora of reasons for postponing this important matter meant to rectify the unjust pay disparity affecting women.

Women teachers, working in a predominantly female profession, are still waiting for their work to be properly compensated, as evidenced by the numerous equity complaints filed over many years. Although they have made progress with regard to wages since 2020, particularly during the 2023 negotiations, the fact remains that their salary ranking contestation file has yet to be processed after many years, according to the job assessment system based on 17 sub-factors. Proper compensation for teachers could help attract new workers to this sector facing a labour shortage.

My questions are the following:

- What is the SCT doing to make sure the CNESST has the human resources necessary to prevent unreasonable delays with regard to the *Pay Equity Act*, as underlined by the Public Protector in a 2024 decision?
- What time frames for processing complaints are deemed acceptable by the SCT as an administrator? Given its administrative function, has the SCT established guidelines on the matter?
- Given the backlog of files to be processed, what objective has the SCT established for catching up on the processing of pay equity files?

Part 6
NOTICES

I. NOTICES PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

Government Bills

Private Members' Public Bills

- (a) 12 September 2023
An Act to make available the documents from the inquiry conducted by Investigation Commissioner Bernard Grenier concerning the unlawful activities of Option Canada in the 1995 Québec Referendum – *Member for Camille-Laurin*

Private Bills

II. NOTICES APPEARING FOR THE FIRST TIME