



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 29 January 2025 — No. 175

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

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

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Members

Mr. Émond (Richelieu) made a statement to applaud the mutual aid and solidarity of citizens of the Richelieu riding during the fire at École secondaire Bernard-Gariépy on 14 January 2025.

Ms. Mallette (Huntingdon) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Marcel Lacaille.

Ms. Dionne (Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata) made a statement to underline the work of the Alliance de l'énergie de l'Est.

Mr. Grandmont (Taschereau) made a statement to support the requests of the Front commun pour les arts.

Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) made a statement to underline the 75th anniversary of the Québec Youth Parliament.

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Mr. Caron (Portneuf) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Rolland Hamel.

Ms. Lachance (Bellechasse) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. Claude Dufour.

Mr. Hébert (Saint-François) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Guillaume Brien.

Ms. Soucy (Saint-Hyacinthe) made a statement to congratulate École au Domaine-sur-le-Vert on obtaining the certification WELL Silver.

Ms. Fréchette (Sanguinet) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. Jocelyne Bates.

Mr. Jacques (Mégantic) made a statement to pay tribute to three Disraeli firefighters for their 50 years of service.

Mr. Morin (Acadie) made a statement to underline the 20th anniversary of the Ahuntsic–Saint-Laurent division of the Association québécoise de défense des droits des personnes retraitées et préretraitées.

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At 9:54 a.m., Ms. D'Amours, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 10:07 a.m.

Moment of reflection

Presenting Reports from Committees

Mr. Allaire (Maskinongé), Committee Chair, tabled the following:

The report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy, which held public hearings on 28 January 2025 within the framework of special consultations on Bill 87, An Act respecting mainly the development and enhancement of industrial land and the governance of the Société du parc industriel et portuaire de Bécancour.

(Sessional Paper No. 2191-20250129)

Presenting Petitions

Mr. Allaire (Maskinongé) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on intervention by the authorities in the event of trespassing on private land, signed by 1,371 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 2192-20250129)

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Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Morin (Acadie), together with Mr. Skeete, Minister Responsible for the Fight Against Racism, Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion), Mr. Paradis (Jean-Talon), Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), Mr. Lefebvre (Arthabaska) and Mr. Chassin (Saint-Jérôme), moved:

THAT the National Assembly honour the memory of Quebecers Ibrahima Barry, Mamadou Tanou Barry, Khaled Belkacemi, Abdelkrim Hassane, Azzeddine Soufiane and Aboubaker Thabti, who lost their lives on 29 January 2017 at the Grand Mosque in the city of Québec;

THAT it extend its deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of these victims;

THAT it express its solidarity with these women and men forever marked by this tragic event, as well as with the entire Muslim community of Québec;

THAT it recall the burden carried by first responders and honour the memory of Andréanne Leblanc, for whom the tragedy was too great to bear;

THAT it unequivocally condemn all hateful speech and actions, racism and discrimination against the Muslim community, as well as all forms of xenophobia and Islamophobia;

THAT it invite the Government to step up its initiatives to put an end to all forms of racism in Québec;

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THAT, lastly, the National Assembly observe a moment of silence to honour the memory of those who died.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

At the request of Ms. D'Amours, Second Vice-President, the Assembly observed a minute of silence.

Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve), together with Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine), moved a motion on the Québec government's environmental commitments; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia), together with Ms. McGraw (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce), Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved a motion on the eviction of community organizations from the premises of Centre communautaire d'Ahuntsic; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Minister of Justice, together with Mr. Paradis (Jean-Talon) and Mr. Chassin (Saint-Jérôme), moved a motion on legal action by the federal government to intervene in Québec's areas of jurisdiction; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

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Mr. Chassin (Saint-Jérôme), together with Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys), Mr. St-Pierre Plamondon, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved a motion on the budgetary restraints required of each of the Québec government's departments and bodies; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 134 and pursuant to Standing Order 129, Ms. Zaga Mendez, Whip of the Second Opposition Group, moved:

THAT the Member for Maurice-Richard be appointed as member of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources in substitution for the Member for Verdun;

THAT the Member for Sherbrooke be appointed as member of the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain in substitution for the Member for Laurier-Dorion;

THAT the Member for Jean-Lesage be appointed as member of the Committee on Culture and Education in substitution for the Member for Mercier;

THAT the Member for Laurier-Dorion be appointed as member of the Committee on Labour and the Economy in substitution for the Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve;

THAT the Member for Verdun be appointed as member of the Committee on Public Finance in substitution for the Member for Maurice-Richard;

THAT the Member for Sainte-Marie-Saint-Jacques be appointed as member of the Committee on Institutions in substitution for the Member for Jean-Lesage;

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THAT the Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve be appointed as member and vice-chairman of the Committee on Citizen Relations in substitution for the Member for Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne;

THAT these changes take effect immediately.

The motion was carried.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

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

- the Committee on Institutions, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 88, An Act amending the Act respecting the process of negotiation of collective agreements and the settlement of disputes in the municipal sector;
- the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 86, An Act to ensure the long-term preservation and vitality of agricultural land;
- the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 81, An Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment;
- the Committee on Public Finance, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 82, An Act respecting the national digital identity and amending other provisions.

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Ms. D'Amours, Second Vice-President, gave the following notice:

- the Committee on Transportation and the Environment shall hold deliberative meetings to discuss the possibility of examining a petition on implementing a rail corridor development strategy using the Electrification and Climate Change Fund and to discuss the possibility of examining a petition on revising the mapping of flood-prone areas and mobility.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

At 11:19 a.m., at the request of Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, and by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 20, Ms. D'Amours, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 3:00 p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 3:00 p.m.

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Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

Mr. Tanguay, Leader of the Official Opposition, moved:

THAT the National Assembly take note of U.S. president Donald Trump's oft-repeated threat to impose 25% tariffs on Canadian exports to the United States;

THAT it acknowledge that the imposition of such tariffs would have a major impact on the competitiveness of thousands of Québec companies, greatly weaken our economy, and jeopardize thousands of jobs;

THAT it ask the Québec government to step up its diplomatic initiatives with elected U.S. officials, both in Washington D.C. and in key states with which Québec maintains major trade relations, to raise awareness on the negative impacts of a trade war;

THAT it declare that the Canadian economic market constitutes a major advantage for Québec in this situation, and that the diversification of Québec exports to other Canadian provinces and to countries other than the United States is a need that the Québec government must address with energy and leadership;

THAT, lastly, it ask the CAQ government to commit to creating a departmental action group tasked with diligently removing obstacles to interprovincial trade.

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Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, informed the Assembly of the allocation of speaking time with respect to this limited debate: 10 minutes to the mover of the motion for his 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 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.

At the beginning of her address, Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun) moved:

THAT the motion moved by the Leader of the Official Opposition be amended as follows:

By striking out the fourth paragraph;

By replacing the word “removing” after “tasked with diligently” in the last paragraph by the word “reviewing”.

The motion, as amended, would read as follows:

THAT the National Assembly take note of U.S. president Donald Trump’s oft-repeated threat to impose 25% tariffs on Canadian exports to the United States;

THAT it acknowledge that the imposition of such tariffs would have a major impact on the competitiveness of thousands of Québec companies, greatly weaken our economy, and jeopardize thousands of jobs;

THAT it ask the Québec government to step up its diplomatic initiatives with elected U.S. officials, both in Washington D.C. and in key states with which Québec maintains major trade relations, to raise awareness on the negative impacts of a trade war;

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THAT, lastly, it ask the CAQ government to commit to creating a departmental action group tasked with diligently reviewing obstacles to interprovincial trade.

The debate continued on the main motion moved by Mr. Tanguay, Leader of the Official Opposition, and on the amendment motion moved by Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun), subject to the permission of its author.

At the end of his address, Mr. Martel (Nicolet-Bécancour) moved:

THAT the motion moved by the Leader of the Official Opposition be amended as follows:

By replacing “to step up” in the third paragraph, between “THAT it ask the Québec government” and “its diplomatic initiatives with elected U.S. officials, both in Washington D.C. and in key states with which Québec maintains major trade relations, to raise awareness on the negative impacts of a trade war”, by “to continue stepping up”;

By striking out the words “creating a departmental action group tasked with” in the last paragraph.

The motion, as amended, would read as follows:

THAT the National Assembly take note of U.S. president Donald Trump’s oft-repeated threat to impose 25% tariffs on Canadian exports to the United States;

THAT it acknowledge that the imposition of such tariffs would have a major impact on the competitiveness of thousands of Québec companies, greatly weaken our economy, and jeopardize thousands of jobs;

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THAT it ask the Québec government to continue stepping up its diplomatic initiatives with elected U.S. officials, both in Washington D.C. and in key states with which Québec maintains major trade relations, to raise awareness on the negative impacts of a trade war;

THAT it declare that the Canadian economic market constitutes a major advantage for Québec in this situation, and that the diversification of Québec exports to other Canadian provinces and to countries other than the United States is a need that the Québec government must address with energy and leadership;

THAT, lastly, it ask the CAQ government to commit to diligently removing obstacles to interprovincial trade.

The debate continued on the main motion moved by Mr. Tanguay, Leader of the Official Opposition, and on the amendment motions moved by Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun) and Mr. Martel (Nicolet-Bécancour), subject to the permission of its author.

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

THAT the motion moved by the Leader of the Official Opposition be amended as follows:

By striking out “the Canadian economic market constitutes a major advantage for Québec in this situation, and that” in the fourth paragraph;

By replacing “removing” in the fifth paragraph by “reviewing”;

By adding “and developing new international markets” after “to interprovincial trade” in the fifth paragraph.

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The motion, as amended, would read as follows:

THAT the National Assembly take note of U.S. president Donald Trump's oft-repeated threat to impose 25% tariffs on Canadian exports to the United States;

THAT it acknowledge that the imposition of such tariffs would have a major impact on the competitiveness of thousands of Québec companies, greatly weaken our economy, and jeopardize thousands of jobs;

THAT it ask the Québec government to step up its diplomatic initiatives with elected U.S. officials, both in Washington D.C. and in key states with which Québec maintains major trade relations, to raise awareness on the negative impacts of a trade war;

THAT it declare that the diversification of Québec exports to other Canadian provinces and to countries other than the United States is a need that the Québec government must address with energy and leadership;

THAT, lastly, it ask the CAQ government to commit to creating a departmental action group tasked with diligently reviewing obstacles to interprovincial trade and developing new international markets.

The debate continued on the main motion moved by Mr. Tanguay, Leader of the Official Opposition, and on the amendment motions moved by Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun), Mr. Martel (Nicolet-Bécancour) and Mr. Paradis (Jean-Talon), subject to the permission of its author.

Pursuant to Standing Order 98.1, Mr. Tanguay, Leader of the Official Opposition, refused the amendment proposed by Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun), accepted the amendment proposed by Mr. Martel (Nicolet-Bécancour) and refused the amendment proposed by Mr. Paradis (Jean-Talon).

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

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At the request of Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, the divisions on the amendment motion moved by Mr. Martel (Nicolet-Bécancour) and on the motion moved by Mr. Tanguay, Leader of the Official Opposition, were deferred until Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day.

Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved the adjournment of the Assembly until Thursday, 30 January 2025 at 9:40 a.m.

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, at 5:04 p.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 30 January 2025 at 9:40 a.m.

NATHALIE ROY

President