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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

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FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

## **Votes and Proceedings**

**of the Assembly**

**Wednesday, 5 February 2025 — No. 178**

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

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

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### **ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

#### **Statements by Members**

Mr. Lemieux (Saint-Jean) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. Rose Trahan.

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Ms. Prass (D'Arcy-McGee) made a statement to underline the 20th anniversary of Maison de la Famille Mosaïk.

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Mr. Dufour (Abitibi-Est) made a statement to applaud the work of teaching staff.

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Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) made a statement to underline the closing of Pâtisserie La Lorraine.

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Ms. Lachance (Bellechasse) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Rémi Gagnon.

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Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke) made a statement to encourage local purchasing.

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Ms. Hébert (Saint-François) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Éric Brus.

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Mr. Chassin (Saint-Jérôme) made a statement to applaud the Minister of Finance's decision to harmonize the budget measures with those of the federal government.

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Mr. Skeete (Sainte-Rose) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. Louise Hodder.

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Ms. Laforest (Chicoutimi) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Éric Gagné.

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Ms. Bélanger (Prévost) made a statement to applaud the ecological funeral services project of Forêt de la Seconde Vie.

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Mr. Allaire (Maskinongé) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. Nathalie Ricard.

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

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The proceedings resumed at 10:05 a.m.

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Moment of reflection

### **Presenting Papers**

Ms. Champagne Jourdain, Minister of Employment, tabled the following:

The agreement on the allocation of the sums dedicated to the activities of the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale between the Société du Plan Nord and the Minister of Employment.

(Sessional Paper No. 2214-20250205)

### **Presenting Reports from Committees**

Ms. Garceau (Robert-Baldwin), Committee Vice-Chair, tabled the following:

The report from the Committee on Institutions, which met on 4 February 2025 for clause-by-clause consideration of 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 report contains amendments to the bill.

(Sessional Paper No. 2215-20250205)

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### **Presenting Petitions**

Mr. Martel (Nicolet-Bécancour) moved:

The abstract of a petition on continuing the project to build a new school in Nicolet, signed by 211 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 2216-20250205)

### **Oral Questions and Answers**

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

At the request of the President, Mr. St-Pierre Plamondon, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

### **Motions Without Notice**

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Minister of Justice, together with Mr. Chassin (Saint-Jérôme), moved:

THAT the National Assembly recall the importance of a non-partisan appointment process for judges, in particular to ensure public confidence in the justice system;

THAT it reiterate that, as provided for in Québec's process for selecting judges, political allegiance must not be considered when evaluating a candidate for the judiciary;

THAT it underline that several Québec governments have called for a direct role in appointing superior court judges;

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THAT it recall that the Canadian federation is one of the only federations where all superior court judges are appointed solely by the federal government;

THAT it recall that the report of the advisory committee on Québec's constitutional issues within the Canadian federation recommends that Québec participate in these appointments;

THAT, lastly, the National Assembly recognize that Québec must participate in the appointment process for superior court judges.

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

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. 376 in Appendix)

Yeas: **109** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **1**

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Tanguay, Leader of the Official Opposition, together with Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) and Mr. Lefebvre (Arthabaska), moved:

THAT, in the context of uncertainty and economic threat caused by U.S. president Donald Trump's commercial policy, the National Assembly recognize that the Canadian domestic market is an undeniable advantage for Québec and provides a wealth of opportunities for Québec businesses;

THAT it affirm that harmonization with the Canadian domestic market must be carried out while respecting the particularities of Québec, its distinct character, and French, the official and common language of Québec.

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

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **377** in Appendix)

Yeas: **113** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

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

THAT the National Assembly mark the 2025 edition of Black History Month;

THAT it once again highlight the importance of recognizing and promoting the past, present and future contribution of Québec's Black communities to the social fabric of Québec;

THAT it recognize and pay tribute to the story of the struggle for justice, equality and dignity of Black Quebecers;

THAT the National Assembly deplore the inequality and racism Québec's Black communities still experience and underscore the important work that remains to be done to achieve true inclusion.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

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Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine), together with Mr. Fortin (Pontiac), Mr. Marissal (Rosemont) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved a motion on emergency services at Centre hospitalier de Trois-Pistoles; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

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Mr. Chassin (Saint-Jérôme), together with Mr. Lefebvre (Arthabaska), moved a motion on the transportation of Canadian energy resources; 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 Planning and the Public Domain, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 79, An Act to enact the Act respecting contracting by municipal bodies and to amend various provisions mainly for the purpose of reducing the administrative burden of municipal bodies;
- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of 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;
- the Committee on Health and Social Services, to hear the interested parties and undertake clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 213, An Act respecting certain immovables situated in Municipalité de Dixville.

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

- the Select Committee on the Impacts of Screens and Social Media on Young People's Health and Development shall hold a public meeting to undertake the second phase of special consultations and public hearings;
- the Committee on Health and Social Services shall hold a deliberative meeting to discuss the possibility of examining a petition on recognizing obesity as a chronic disease;
- the Committee on Transportation and the Environment shall hold a deliberative meeting to discuss the possibility of examining petitions on maintaining public access to Lac Saint-Joseph by acquiring the site and entrusting its management to Sépaq.

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## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### Government Bills

#### *Passage in Principle*

Mr. Lamontagne, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, moved that Bill 86, An Act to ensure the long-term preservation and vitality of agricultural land, do now pass in principle.

A debate arose thereon.

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Ms. D'Amours, Second Vice-President, interrupted the debate to inform the Assembly that she had received a request for a debate upon adjournment to be held on 6 February 2025, on a question by Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) to Ms. Champagne Jourdain, Minister of Employment, about protecting jobs in the manufacturing sector.

The debate continued.

The motion was carried, and Bill 86 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 86 be referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain for clause-by-clause consideration.

The motion was carried.

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At 12:57 p.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.

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The proceedings resumed at 3:00 p.m.

### **Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition**

Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) moved:

THAT the National Assembly acknowledge that the Minister of Health is requiring budget cuts of \$1.5 billion in the health network by 31 March 2025;

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THAT it recall that Santé Québec has abolished hundreds of positions across all the regions and announced many cuts to services;

THAT it recognize that the public health system is already dealing with a shortage of caregivers, emergency room closures and dilapidated buildings;

THAT it require Santé Québec to make public the entire plan for budget cuts in health care;

THAT, lastly, the National Assembly recognize that the Québec government must take responsibility for the \$1.5 billion in health cuts and for the impacts of these cuts on services to citizens.

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 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.

At the beginning of his address, Mr. Dubé, Minister of Health, moved:

THAT the motion moved by the Member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine be amended as follows:

By replacing, in the first paragraph, the words “is requiring budget cuts of \$1.5 billion in the health network by 31 March 2025” by the words “has asked Santé Québec to aim for a balanced budget by the end of the fiscal year, while minimizing the impacts on services”;

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By replacing, in the second paragraph, the words “has abolished hundreds of positions across all the regions and announced many cuts to services” by the words “is reorganizing positions to ensure that the right staff are in the right place to meet the needs of the population”.

By striking out the third, fourth and fifth paragraphs.

The motion, as amended, would read as follows:

THAT the National Assembly acknowledge that the Minister of Health has asked Santé Québec to aim for a balanced budget by the end of the fiscal year, while minimizing the impacts on services;

THAT it recall that Santé Québec is reorganizing positions to ensure that the right staff are in the right place to meet the needs of the population;

The debate continued on the main motion moved by Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) and on the amendment motion moved by Mr. Dubé, Minister of Health, subject to the permission of its author.

At the beginning of his address, Mr. Cliche-Rivard (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne) moved:

THAT the motion moved by the Member for Îles-de-la-Madeleine be amended as follows:

By inserting the following paragraph after the third paragraph:

“THAT it underline that the social services sector in particular has also been affected by the recent cuts, which has weakened the social safety net;”.

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The motion, as amended, would read as follows:

THAT the National Assembly acknowledge that the Minister of Health is requiring budget cuts of \$1.5 billion in the health network by 31 March 2025;

THAT it recall that Santé Québec has abolished hundreds of positions across all the regions and announced many cuts to services;

THAT it recognize that the public health system is already dealing with a shortage of caregivers, emergency room closures and dilapidated buildings;

THAT it underline that the social services sector in particular has also been affected by the recent cuts, which has weakened the social safety net;

THAT it require Santé Québec to make public the entire plan for budget cuts in health care;

THAT, lastly, the National Assembly recognize that the Québec government must take responsibility for the \$1.5 billion in health cuts and for the impacts of these cuts on services to citizens.

The debate continued on the main motion moved by Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) and on the amendment motions moved by Mr. Dubé, Minister of Health, and Mr. Cliche-Rivard (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne), subject to the permission of its author.

Pursuant to Standing Order 98.1, Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) refused the amendment proposed by Mr. Dubé, Minister of Health, and accepted the amendment proposed by Mr. Cliche-Rivard (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne).

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. Cliche-Rivard (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne) and on the motion moved by Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) were deferred until Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day.

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**Government Bills**

*Passage in Principle*

Mr. Charette, Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks, moved that Bill 81, An Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment, do now pass in principle.

The debate was adjourned in the name of Ms. McGraw (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce).

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At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 6 February 2025 at 9:40 a.m.

**NATHALIE ROY**

*President*

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APPENDIX

Electronic Divisions

On the motion moved by Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Minister of Justice, together with Mr. Chassin (Saint-Jérôme):

(Division No. 376)

YEAS - 109

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

ABSTENTIONS - 1

Lefebvre (IND)

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On the motion moved by Mr. Tanguay, Leader of the Official Opposition, together with Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) and Mr. Lefebvre (Arthabaska):

(Division No. 377)

YEAS - 113

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