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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

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FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

## **Votes and Proceedings**

**of the Assembly**

**Tuesday, 25 March 2025 — No. 192**

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

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The Assembly was called to order at 1:40 p.m.

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## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### Statements by Members

Mr. Asselin (Vanier-Les Rivières) made a statement to underline Purple Day for epilepsy.

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Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles) made a statement to underline the 55th anniversary of Escadron 784 Saint-Vincent-de-Paul.

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Mr. St-Louis (Joliette) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Pierre Vincent.

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Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) made a statement to convey the message of artists of the Great Mobilization for the Arts in Québec.

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Mr. Allaire (Maskinongé) made a statement to underline the mobilization of Saint-Boniface citizens for the Kraft Hockeyville 2025 contest.

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Ms. Prass (D'Arcy-McGee) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Alberto Abiera.

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Ms. Grondin (Argenteuil) made a statement to underline the success of the pilot project to create a responsible manager position at the Argenteuil hospital.

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Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Bernard Landry.

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Ms. Blanchette Vézina (Rimouski) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. Marie-Josée Chassé.

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Ms. Gendron (Châteauguay) made a statement to underline the 40th anniversary of the organization Le Quartier des Femmes.

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Ms. Tremblay (Hull) made a statement to congratulate Équipe iGEM Outaouais, winner of a silver medal at the 2024 iGEM science competition in Paris.

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Ms. Tardif (Laviolette–Saint-Maurice) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. Martine Caron.

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At 1:55 p.m., Ms. Soucy, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

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The proceedings resumed at 2:06 p.m.

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At the request of the President, the Assembly observed a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Pierre Roy, former Member for Joliette.

The President read an excerpt of a letter, dated 24 March 2025, to Mr. Siegfried Peters, Secretary General of the National Assembly, from Mr. Jean-François Blanchet, Chief Electoral Officer of Québec, about the by-election held on 17 March 2025 in the electoral division of Terrebonne.

The President then tabled the following:

The aforementioned letter accompanied by a notice proclaiming Ms. Catherine Gentilcore the candidate elected in the electoral division of Terrebonne.  
(Sessional Paper No. 2391-20250325)

She then tabled the following:

A letter, dated 20 March 2025, she had received from Mr. Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois, Member for Gouin, informing her of his resignation as Leader of the Second Opposition Group;  
(Sessional Paper No. 2392-20250325)

A letter, dated 21 March 2025, she had received from Ms. Ruba Ghazal, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, informing her of her appointment, effective 24 March 2025, and informing her that Ms. Alejandra Zaga Mendez, Member for Verdun, and Mr. Guillaume Cliche-Rivard, Member for Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne, shall maintain their duties as Whip of the Second Opposition Group and House Leader of the Second Opposition Group, respectively.  
(Sessional Paper No. 2393-20250325)

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## Presenting Papers

Ms. LeBel, Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, transmitted the following message from Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to the President, who communicated it to the Assembly:

### OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR

In accordance with the provisions of section 54 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, I hereby transmit the estimates of expenditure for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2026 to the National Assembly and recommend the said estimates to it for consideration.

Québec, 3 March 2025

Manon Jeannotte

Ms. LeBel, Minister Responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, tabled the following:

Expenditure Management Strategy – Additional Information – 2025–2026  
Expenditure Budget – Volume 1 (French and English versions);  
(Sessional Paper No. 2394-20250325)

Annual Expenditure Management Plans of the Departments and Bodies –  
2025–2026 Expenditure Budget – Volume 2 (French and English versions);  
(Sessional Paper No. 2395-20250325)

Estimates and Expenditures of the Departments and Bodies – 2025–2026  
Expenditure Budget – Volume 3 (French and English versions);  
(Sessional Paper No. 2396-20250325)

Estimates, Expenditures and Annual Expenditure Management Plans of the  
National Assembly and Persons Appointed by the National Assembly –  
2025–2026 Expenditure Budget – Volume 4 (French and English versions);  
(Sessional Paper No. 2397-20250325)

Annual Information Resource Investment and Expenditure Plan – 2025–2026  
Expenditure Budget – Volume 5 (French and English versions);  
(Sessional Paper No. 2398-20250325)

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2025–2035 Québec Infrastructure Plan – 2025–2026 Expenditure Budget – Volume 6 (French and English versions);

(Sessional Paper No. 2399-20250325)

2025–2026 Expenditure Management Strategy – In Brief (French and English versions).

(Sessional Paper No. 2400-20250325)

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Mr. Julien, Minister Responsible for Infrastructure, tabled the following:

Detailed List of Infrastructure Projects 2025–2035 Québec Infrastructure Plan – 2025–2026 Expenditure Budget (French and English versions);

(Sessional Paper No. 2401-20250325)

Annual Management Plans for Public Infrastructure Investments – 2025–2026 Expenditure Budget (French and English versions);

(Sessional Paper No. 2402-20250325)

2025–2035 Québec Infrastructure Plan – In Brief (French and English versions).

(Sessional Paper No. 2403-20250325)

Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Government House Leader, then moved:

THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 280, the 2025–2026 estimates of expenditure be referred to a Committee of the Whole for consideration and for concurrence in one quarter of the said estimates.

The motion was carried.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, the Assembly proceeded to hear a motion without notice.

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**Motions Without Notice**

Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT, pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph 4.1 of the first paragraph of Standing Order 87 and Standing Orders 280 and 281, the Assembly consider and concur in Interim Supply for the 2025–2026 fiscal year as provided hereinafter;

THAT, as soon as Orders of the Day for the 26 March 2025 sitting are called, the Assembly resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole and consider Interim Supply as follows:

THAT, for a period not exceeding 1 hour, an exchange take place between the Minister of Health and the Members in opposition;

THAT, immediately thereafter and for a period not exceeding 1 hour, an exchange take place between the Minister Responsible for Social Services and the Members in opposition;

THAT, at 1:00 p.m., the Committee of the Whole suspend its proceedings and that the proceedings of the Assembly be suspended until 3:00 p.m.;

THAT, at 3:00 p.m., the Committee of the Whole continue its proceedings and, if necessary, be able to conclude the exchange between the Minister Responsible for Social Services and the Members in opposition;

THAT, immediately thereafter, for a period not exceeding 1 hour, an exchange take place between the Minister of Finance and the Members in opposition;

THAT, immediately thereafter and for a period not exceeding 1 hour, an exchange take place between the Minister of Public Security and the Members in opposition;

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THAT, immediately thereafter and for a period not exceeding 1 hour, an exchange take place between the Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy and the Members in opposition;

THAT, immediately upon the conclusion of this exchange, the Chair of the Committee on the Whole put the question for concurrence in one quarter of the estimates of expenditure for the 2025–2026 fiscal year;

THAT the Chair of the Committee of the Whole then report to the Assembly and that the question for concurrence in such report and the question for passage of the consequent appropriation bill be put without debate, pursuant to the first paragraph of Standing Order 281;

THAT, lastly, pursuant to the second paragraph of Standing Order 281, the Government House Leader be permitted to move a motion without notice that may not be debated, stating that the main estimates of expenditure, save those of the National Assembly, be referred to the Standing Committees for consideration;

THAT the opening statements for each of the exchanges not exceed 6 minutes for the parliamentary group forming the Government; 2 minutes 59 seconds for the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition; 1 minute 58 seconds for the Second Opposition Group; 40 seconds for the Third Opposition Group; and 24 seconds for the independent Members as a whole;

THAT, for each of the exchanges with the aforementioned ministers, a period of 1 minute 30 seconds per hour be set aside for exchanges with the independent Members as a whole;

THAT any time not used by the independent Members be redistributed proportionally among the parliamentary groups forming the Official Opposition, the Second Opposition Group and the Third Opposition Group;

THAT the President of the Assembly or the Chair of the Committee of the Whole be permitted to suspend the proceedings at any time;

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THAT, despite Standing Order 20, the Committee of the Whole and the Assembly be permitted to continue their proceedings until the latter has voted on the appropriation bill and on the motion for referral of all of the estimates of expenditure, save those of the National Assembly, to the Standing Committees for consideration;

THAT this motion become an order of the Assembly and take precedence over any incompatible provisions of the Standing Orders.

The motion was carried.

### **Presenting Papers**

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

The Government's reply to a petition tabled on 6 February 2025 by Mr. Chassin (Saint-Jérôme) on a request for authorization to transform remains using the terramation process.

(Sessional Paper No. 2404-20250325)

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The President tabled the following:

The new seating plan of the National Assembly, dated 25 March 2025.

(Sessional Paper No. 2405-20250325)

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### **Presenting Reports from Committees**

Mr. Schneeberger (Drummond–Bois-Francis), Committee Chair, tabled the following:

The report from the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, which held public hearings on 18, 19 and 20 March 2025 within the framework of special consultations on Bill 93, An Act respecting, in particular, the transfer of ownership of an immovable of Ville de Blainville.

(Sessional Paper No. 2406-20250325)

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

The report from the Committee on Labour and the Economy, which held public hearings on 18, 19 and 20 March 2025 within the framework of special consultations on Bill 89, An Act to give greater consideration to the needs of the population in the event of a strike or a lock-out.

(Sessional Paper No. 2407-20250325)

### **Oral Questions and Answers**

The President gave a directive on modifications in the distribution of certain measures and speaking times having become necessary following the election of a new Member from the Third Opposition Group and the resignation of an independent Member.

#### **RULING FROM THE CHAIR**

As regards Statements by Members, the Third Opposition Group will be granted an additional statement, to replace a statement by the parliamentary group forming the Government. The additional statement shall be the statement previously allocated to the independent Member for Arthabaska from among the statements of the parliamentary group forming the Government, to which he formerly belonged, in 8th place, at the 8th sitting of the cycle.

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Concerning the allocation of questions for Question Period, the Third Opposition Group will be granted three additional questions per 11-sitting cycle, for a total of 14 questions per cycle. The purpose of this change is to maintain the proportional allocation of questions between the parliamentary opposition groups based on the addition of a Member of the Third Opposition Group, while also respecting the parameters negotiated by the parliamentary groups at the beginning of the legislature.

As for Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, cycles shall now be conducted on a cycle of 15 rather than 14 sittings. To maintain balance between the parliamentary opposition groups, the Official Opposition and the Third Opposition Group will be granted an additional measure per two 15-sitting cycles. This change is effective immediately, as the National Assembly begins this week a new cycle for Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition and the next interpellation will be in the 3rd place of the current cycle.

Lastly, the allocation of speaking time for limited debates is adjusted to take into account the new proportion between opposition groups and the resignation of the Member for Arthabaska.

She then tabled the following:

Tables indicating the distribution of measures and the allocation of speaking times for Question Period, Statements by Members, limited debates, debates on Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition and interpellations.

(Sessional Paper No. 2408-20250325)

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

At the request of the President, Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage) withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

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### Motions Without Notice

Mr. Cliche-Rivard, House Leader of the Second Opposition Group, together with Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles), Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved a motion on Bill 93, An Act respecting, in particular, the transfer of ownership of an immovable of Ville de Blainville; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

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Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine), together with Mr. Cliche-Rivard, House Leader of the Second Opposition Group, moved a motion on the recognition of the Centre-du-Québec as a distinct health region with its own integrated health and social services centre; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Ms. Charest, Minister Responsible for Sports, Recreation and the Outdoors, together with Mr. Ciccone (Marquette), Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve), Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the 40 years of existence of the Société des établissements de plein air du Québec (Sépaq) and the major impact of this organization on the discovery, conservation, and accessibility of our magnificent territory;

THAT it recall that on 20 March 1985, the Québec government founded a new state-owned corporation to ensure the management of certain tourist and recreational establishments, and that 40 years later, this network comprises 53,000 km<sup>2</sup>, including 23 national parks, 13 wildlife reserves, Sépaq Anticosti, 1 marine park, and 8 tourist establishments;

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THAT it underline that more than 9.4 million people visited in 2023–2024, a result of the dedication, vision and passion of those who have contributed to Sépaq’s development over the years and who helped transform the organization into a key player for outdoor activities in Québec and a splendid international attraction.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Ms. Lakhoyan Olivier (Chomedey), together with Ms. Proulx, Minister of Tourism, Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion), Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly acknowledge that many Quebecers are cancelling their vacations in the United States in the wake of President Trump’s actions against Canada;

THAT it invite the CAQ government to seize this opportunity to highlight the tourism offering of all our regions, together with the Alliance de l’industrie touristique du Québec, by way of an advertising campaign to promote tourism in Québec among the public.

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

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. 397 in Appendix)

Yeas: **99** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

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### 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 91, An Act establishing the Unified Family Tribunal within the Court of Québec.
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Ms. Soucy, First Vice-President, gave the following notice:

- the Select Committee on the Impacts of Screens and Social Media on Young People's Health and Development shall hold a deliberative meeting to organize its proceedings.
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### ORDERS OF THE DAY

At 3:16 p.m., at the request of Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, Ms. Soucy, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until the expiry of the time limit for receiving notices for debates upon adjournment.

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The proceedings resumed at 3:38 p.m.

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At 3:39 p.m., at the request of Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, Ms. Soucy, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 4:00 p.m.

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The proceedings resumed at 4:08 p.m.

### **Business Having Precedence**

#### *Budget Speech*

Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, delivered the Budget Speech.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, tabled the following documents during his address:

Summary of budgetary transactions – Preliminary results for 2024–2025 – Table 1;

(Sessional Paper No. 2409-20250325)

Summary of budgetary transactions – Forecasts for 2025–2026 – Table 2;

(Sessional Paper No. 2410-20250325)

Revenue – Forecasts for 2025–2026 – Table 3;

(Sessional Paper No. 2411-20250325)

Expenditure – Forecasts for 2025–2026 – Table 4;

(Sessional Paper No. 2412-20250325)

Budget Plan – Budget 2025–2026 (French and English versions);

(Sessional Paper No. 2413-20250325)

Additional Information – Budget 2025–2026 (French and English versions);

(Sessional Paper No. 2414-20250325)

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Budget Speech – Budget 2025–2026 (French and English versions);  
(Sessional Paper No. 2415-20250325)

Budget in Brief – Budget 2025–2026 (French and English versions);  
(Sessional Paper No. 2416-20250325)

The booklet entitled “Innovating to Prosper – Budget 2025–2026” (French and English versions).  
(Sessional Paper No. 2417-20250325)

At the end of his address, Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, moved that the Assembly approve the Government’s budgetary policy.

Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys) commented on behalf of the Official Opposition.

Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun) commented on behalf of the Second Opposition Group.

Mr. St-Pierre Plamondon, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, commented on behalf of the Third Opposition Group.

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Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved the adjournment of the Assembly until Wednesday, 26 March 2025 at 9:40 a.m.

The motion was carried.

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Accordingly, at 5:31 p.m., the President adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 26 March 2025 at 9:40 a.m.

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**ROYAL ASSENT**

On Tuesday, 25 March 2025 at 3:30 p.m. in the Office of the Lieutenant-Governor, in the presence of Ms. Laforest, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Mr. Girard (Lac-Saint-Jean) and Mr. Rivest (Côte-du-Sud), Delegates of the Premier, and of Ms. Aubé, Sittings and Parliamentary Procedure Advisor and Delegate of the Secretary General, the Honourable Manon Jeannotte, Lieutenant-Governor of Québec, was pleased to assent to the following 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

On Tuesday, 25 March 2025 at 3:40 p.m. in the Office of the Lieutenant-Governor, in the presence of Mr. Lamontagne, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mr. Schneeberger (Drummond-Bois-Francs) and Mr. Rivest (Côte-du-Sud), Delegates of the Premier, and of Ms. Aubé, Sittings and Parliamentary Procedure Advisor and Delegate of the Secretary General, the Honourable Manon Jeannotte, Lieutenant-Governor of Québec, was pleased to assent to the following bill:

- 86      An Act to ensure the long-term preservation and vitality of agricultural land

**NATHALIE ROY**

*President*

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**APPENDIX**

**Electronic Divisions**

On the motion moved by Ms. Lakhoyan Olivier (Chomedey), together with Ms. Proulx, Minister of Tourism, Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion), Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil):

**(Division No. 397)**

**YEAS - 99**

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