



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Tuesday, 22 April 2025 — No. 202

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

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

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Members

Mr. Martel (Nicolet-Bécancour) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Louis-Marie Jutras and underline the success of the company Les Cultures de chez nous.

Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles) made a statement to underline Earth Day.

Mr. Lemieux (Saint-Jean) made a statement to underline National Volunteer Week.

Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) made a statement to underline the 20th anniversary of Le Patin Libre.

Ms. Biron (Chutes-de-la-Chaudière) made a statement to underline the show organized by Beautés Fatales for the benefit of the child psychiatry department of Hôtel-Dieu de Lévis.

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Ms. Garceau (Robert-Baldwin) made a statement to underline Sikh Heritage Month.

Mr. Charette (Deux-Montagnes) made a statement to underline Earth Day.

Ms. Gentilcore (Terrebonne) made a statement to underline the work of La HUTTE.

Ms. Déry (Repentigny) made a statement to underline National Volunteer Week.

Ms. Roy (Verchères) made a statement to underline the 30th anniversary of Maison de la Famille Joli-Cœur.

Ms. Blanchette Vézina (Rimouski) made a statement to underline the performance of the Université Laval delegation in the Canadian Mining Games.

Mr. Jolin-Barrette (Borduas) made a statement to pay tribute to Me André Allard.

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At 1:55 p.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 2:04 p.m.

Moment of reflection

Presenting Papers

Mr. Bonnardel, Minister of Public Security, tabled the following:

Amendment Number 3 to the Agreement on the Provision of Policing Services in the Communities of Odanak and Wôlinak for the period from April 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2028;

(Sessional Paper No. 2462-20250422)

Amendment Number 3 to the Agreement on the Provision of Policing Services in the Community of Essipit for the period from April 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2028;

(Sessional Paper No. 2463-20250422)

Amendment Number 4 to the Agreement on the Provision of Policing Services in the Community of Pessamit for the period from April 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2028;

(Sessional Paper No. 2464-20250422)

Amendment Number 4 to the Agreement on the Provision of Policing Services in the Community of Abitibiwinni for the period from April 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2028;

(Sessional Paper No. 2465-20250422)

Amendment Number 4 to the Agreement on the Provision of Policing Services in the Community of Kebaowek for the period from April 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2025 (French and English versions);

(Sessional Paper No. 2466-20250422)

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Amendment Number 4 to the Agreement on the Provision of Policing Services in the Community of Uashat-Maliotenam for the period from April 1st, 2020 to March 31st, 2030;

(Sessional Paper No. 2467-20250422)

Amendment Number 4 to the Agreement on the Provision of Policing Services in the Community of Wemotaci for the period from April 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2028;

(Sessional Paper No. 2468-20250422)

Amendment Number 4 to the Interim Agreement on the Provision of Policing Services in the Naskapi Village of Kawawachikamach for the period from April 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2025 (French and English versions);

(Sessional Paper No. 2469-20250422)

Amendment Number 5 to the Agreement on the Provision of Policing Services in the Community of Listuguj for the period from April 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2019 (French and English versions);

(Sessional Paper No. 2470-20250422)

Amendment Number 5 to the Agreement on the Provision of Policing Services in the Community of Pakua Shipi for the period from April 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2023;

(Sessional Paper No. 2471-20250422)

Amendment Number 5 to the Agreement on the Provision of Policing Services in the Community of Manawan for the period from April 1st, 2019 to March 31st, 2029;

(Sessional Paper No. 2472-20250422)

Amendment Number 5 to the Agreement on the Provision of Policing Services in the Community of Lac Simon for the period from April 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2025;

(Sessional Paper No. 2473-20250422)

Amendment Number 5 to the Agreement on the Provision of Policing Services in the Community of Kitigan Zibi for the period from April 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2028 (French and English versions);

(Sessional Paper No. 2474-20250422)

Amendment Number 5 to the Agreement on the Provision of Policing Services in the Community of Timiskaming for the period from April 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2028 (French and English versions);

(Sessional Paper No. 2475-20250422)

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Amendment Number 5 to the Agreement on the Provision of Policing Services in the Community of Wendake for the period from April 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2028;
(Sessional Paper No. 2476-20250422)

Amendment Number 5 to the Agreement on the Provision of Policing Services in the Community of Opitciwan for the period from April 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2028;
(Sessional Paper No. 2477-20250422)

Amendment Number 5 to the Agreement on the Provision of Policing Services in the Community of Mashteuiatsh for the period from April 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2025;
(Sessional Paper No. 2478-20250422)

Amendment Number 5 to the Agreement on the Funding of Policing Services in the Community of Kahnawà:ke for the period from April 1st, 2019 to March 31st 2029 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 2479-20250422)

Amendment Number 6 to the Agreement on the Provision of Policing Services in the Community of Gesgapegiag for the period from April 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2025 (French and English versions).
(Sessional Paper No. 2480-20250422)

Agreement on the Provision of Policing Services in the Kativik Region for the period from October 1st, 2024 to March 31st, 2029 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 2481-20250422)

Order in Council 421-2025 respecting the Complementary Agreement No. 4 to the Northeastern Québec Agreement between the Naskapi Landholding Corporation of Schefferville, the Makivik Corporation, the Cree Nation Government, the Government of Québec and the Government of Canada.
(Sessional Paper No. 2482-20250422)

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

The reply to a written question from Mr. Grandmont (Taschereau) on the new measures implemented in recent years to tackle the rise of homelessness in the city of Québec — Question No. 260, *Order Paper and Notices* of 18 March 2025;
(Sessional Paper No. 2483-20250422)

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The reply to a written question from Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys) on the Québec government's investments in artificial intelligence — Question No. 263, *Order Paper and Notices* of 20 March 2025;

(Sessional Paper No. 2484-20250422)

The reply to a written question from Ms. Prass (D'Arcy-McGee) on the funding allocated to the Groupe de recherche et d'intervention psychosociale of Montréal — Question No. 268, *Order Paper and Notices* of 25 March 2025;

(Sessional Paper No. 2485-20250422)

The Government's reply to the petitions tabled on 19 March 2025 by Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke) on maintaining free access to museums on the first Sunday of each month.

(Sessional Paper No. 2486-20250422)

The President tabled the following decisions of the Office of the National Assembly, dated 10 April 2025:

Decision 2355 concerning the Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur la rémunération et les conditions de travail du personnel d'un député et d'autres dispositions réglementaires (regulation to amend the regulation respecting the remuneration and conditions of employment of the staff of Members and other regulatory provisions);

(Sessional Paper No. 2487-20250422)

Decision 2356 concerning the Règlement sur l'autorisation de conclure des contrats d'approvisionnement de matériel et logiciels informatiques à des conditions différentes de celles applicables en vertu du Règlement sur les contrats de l'Assemblée nationale (regulation respecting the authorization to enter into computer hardware and software supply contracts whose terms differ from those applicable under the regulation respecting National Assembly contracts).

(Sessional Paper No. 2488-20250422)

She then tabled the following:

The detailed report from the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec on the official results of the by-election held on 17 March 2025 in the electoral division of Terrebonne;

(Sessional Paper No. 2489-20250422)

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A copy of the notice of motion by Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys) to be placed on the *Order Paper and Notices* of Wednesday, 23 April 2025 under Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition.

(Sessional Paper No. 2490-20250422)

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 met on 22 April 2025 to hear the interested parties and give clause-by-clause consideration to Private Bill 214, An Act respecting Ville de Rouyn-Noranda. The report does not contain amendments to the bill.

(Sessional Paper No. 2491-20250422)

The report was concurred in.

Ms. Dionne (Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata), Committee Chair, tabled the following:

The interim report from the Select Committee on the Impacts of Screens and Social Media on Young People's Health and Development, which held a deliberative meeting on 14 April 2025 to organize its proceedings. The report contains one recommendation.

(Sessional Paper No. 2492-20250422)

The President tabled the following:

The report from the steering committee of the Committee on the National Assembly, which met on 17 April 2025 to decide on a request from Parti Québécois Members to sit on a standing committee.

(Sessional Paper No. 2493-20250422)

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 129 and section 4.4 of the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings, Ms. D'Amours, Second Vice-President, moved:

THAT the changes in the membership of the standing committees as provided for in the report from the steering committee of the Committee on the National Assembly be adopted.

The motion was carried.

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.

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At the request of the President, Mr. Derraji, Official Opposition House Leader, withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia), together with Mr. Morin (Acadie), Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved:

THAT the National Assembly reiterate its utmost confidence in the auditing and inquiry work of the teams of the Autorité des marchés publics and the Auditor General 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. **454** in Appendix)

Yeas: **96** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

Mr. Drainville, Minister of Education, moved a motion on the principles of laicity and neutrality in Québec's public schools; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Ms. Lakhoyan Olivier (Chomedey), together with Ms. Haytayan (Laval-des-Rapides), Mr. Cliche-Rivard, House Leader of the Second Opposition Group, Mr. Paradis (Jean-Talon), Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) and Mr. Chassin (Saint-Jérôme), moved:

THAT the National Assembly do its duty to remember and commemorate the Armenian genocide, one of the worst tragedies to mark the early 20th century;

THAT it pay tribute to the 1.5 million victims who perished 110 years ago during the sombre events that began in April 1915 and that it express its solidarity with the Armenian people and diaspora;

THAT it recall that, in recent years, the Armenian people have once again been the victims of a bloody conflict in the Nagorno-Karabakh region;

THAT it call wholeheartedly for a more just, peaceful and egalitarian world and that it reiterate its firm commitment to fighting all forms of racial, ethnic and religious hatred and discrimination;

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THAT, lastly, the Members of this Assembly observe a minute of silence in memory of the victims.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

At the request of Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, the Assembly observed a minute of silence.

Mr. Grandmont (Taschereau), together with Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine), moved a motion on funding for public transit; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 84.1 and pursuant to Standing Order 146, Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved:

THAT the National Assembly give effect to the order of reference given to the Committee on Institutions within the framework of the consideration of Bill 98, An Act to amend the Election Act mainly to preserve the integrity of the electoral process, to hold special consultations and public hearings on Wednesday, 23 April 2025 after Notices of Proceedings in Committees from approximately 11:15 a.m. to 1:05 p.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.;

THAT, for this purpose, the Committee hear the following individuals and organizations:

Chief Electoral Officer of Québec
Research Chair in Democracy and Parliamentary
Institutions, Université Laval
Confédération des syndicats nationaux

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Patrick Taillon, Professor, Faculty of Law, Université
Laval
Force jeunesse
Réseau québécois des groupes écologistes;

THAT a period of 12 minutes be set aside for opening statements, allocated as follows: 6 minutes to the parliamentary group forming the Government, 3 minutes 36 seconds to the Official Opposition, 1 minute 12 seconds to the Second Opposition Group and 1 minute 12 seconds to the independent Member;

THAT the presentation by each organization last no longer than 10 minutes and the exchange with the Committee members last no longer than 35 minutes, allocated as follows: 17 minutes 30 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Government, 10 minutes 30 seconds to the Official Opposition, 3 minutes 30 seconds to the Second Opposition Group and 3 minutes 30 seconds to the independent Member;

THAT a 5-minute interval be scheduled between discussions with each individual or organization;

THAT the Minister Responsible for Democratic Institutions be a member of the said Committee during its proceedings with respect to this order of reference.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

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

- the Committee on Citizen Relations, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 84, An Act respecting national integration;

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- the Committee on Public Finance, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 82, An Act respecting the national digital identity and amending other provisions;
- the Committee on Labour and the Economy, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 89, An Act to give greater consideration to the needs of the population in the event of a strike or a lock-out.

And, by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 143, he convened the following committee:

- the Committee on Culture and Education, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 94, An Act to, in particular, reinforce laicity in the education network and to amend various legislative provisions.

Mr. Benjamin, Third 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.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, informed the Assembly that on Wednesday, 23 April 2025, during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, a debate would be held on the motion moved by Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys).

This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly take note that six of the seven budgets tabled by the CAQ government were in deficit;

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THAT it note that, according to the forecasts of his own government, by the end of his mandate, the Premier will have been responsible for adding \$96 billion to Québec's debt;

THAT it acknowledge that this poor financial management resulted in the agency Standard & Poor's downgrading Québec's credit rating, which will lead to increased debt service costs;

THAT it note that this severely restricts the Québec government's capacity to adequately address the numerous challenges it faces;

THAT it recognize that this constitutes a bleak legacy for future generations;

THAT, lastly, the National Assembly denounce the deterioration of Québec's public finances under the governance of the Premier and the Minister of Finance.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Motions

Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Minister Responsible for Canadian Relations, moved:

THAT the National Assembly note that the power to appoint judges of the superior courts of the federated States is incumbent on the Governor General under section 96 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*;

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THAT the Assembly note that the exercise of such power is circumscribed, as concerns Québec, by the condition that judges be selected from the members of the Barreau du Québec under section 98 of the same Act;

THAT the Assembly note that the purpose of section 98 of the *Constitution Act, 1867* is to ensure that the judges of the superior courts in Québec are versed in the law that is in force there;

THAT the Assembly emphasize that Québec is the only State with a civil law tradition within the federation;

THAT the Assembly consider it advisable to protect and promote that tradition by further defining the conditions of appointment provided for in section 98;

THAT the Assembly underscore that such an amendment may be made by proclamation issued by the Governor General under the Great Seal of Canada where so authorized by resolutions of the National Assembly, the Senate and House of Commons in accordance with section 43 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;

THAT the Assembly specify that such amendment in no way constitutes recognition by the National Assembly of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, which was adopted without its consent;

THAT the National Assembly authorize the amendment of the Constitution of Canada by proclamation issued by the Governor General under the Great Seal of Canada, in accordance with the following:

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF CANADA
CONSTITUTION ACT, 1867

1. The Constitution Act, 1867 is amended by replacing section 98 by the following section:

“**98Q.1.** The Judges of the Superior Courts of Quebec shall be selected from the members of the Barreau du Québec recommended by the Government of Quebec.”

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NAME

2. Name of this amendment: “Constitution Amendment,
(year of proclamation) (Quebec)”.

After debate thereon, the question was put on this motion, and an electronic division was thereupon demanded.

At the request of Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, the division was deferred until Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day.

Government Bills

Report Stage

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Health and Social Services on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 83, An Act to foster the practice of medicine in the public health and social services network, together with the amendments transmitted by Mr. Dubé, Minister of Health, and Mr. Marissal (Rosemont).

The amendments were declared in order.

After debate thereon, the amendment proposed by Mr. Dubé, Minister of Health, was carried on division.

The amendment proposed by Mr. Marissal (Rosemont) was negatived.

The amended report was concurred in on division.

At 5:53 p.m., at the request of Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 6:30 p.m.

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Debates upon Adjournment

At 6:30 p.m., the Assembly held a debate upon adjournment on a question from Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys) to Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, about the deterioration of public finances and the downgrading of Québec's credit rating by the agency Standard and Poor's.

At 6:44 p.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 23 April 2025 at 9:40 a.m.

NATHALIE ROY

President

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APPENDIX

Electronic Divisions

On the motion moved by Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia), together with Mr. Morin (Acadie), Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil):

(Division No. 454)

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