



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 21 May 2025 — No. 212

**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. Lemieux (Saint-Jean) made a statement to underline the Haut-Richelieu region's desire to take part in the development of the defence sector.

Ms. Maccarone (Westmount–Saint-Louis) made a statement to underline the importance of protecting the FACE school's heritage building.

Mr. Rivest (Côte-du-Sud) made a statement to underline the 60th anniversary of Troupe Hallélou.

Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) made a statement to commemorate the anniversary of the Nakba.

Mr. Caron (Portneuf) made a statement to congratulate students who received school perseverance scholarships in the Portneuf riding.

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Ms. Lachance (Bellechasse) made a statement to underline the 30th anniversary of Fromagerie du Terroir de Bellechasse.

Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) made a statement to underline the 35th anniversary of the cultural corporation Arrimage.

Mr. Laframboise (Blainville) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of the organization Les Séniors de Blainville.

Mr. Bussière (Gatineau) made a statement to underline the 30th anniversary of La Trappe à Fromage.

Mr. Bonnardel (Granby) made a statement to underline the 25th anniversary of the theatre L'Ancien presbytère.

Mr. Jacques (Mégantic) made a statement to underline the official opening of the Coopérative de solidarité de Saint-Isidore-de-Clifton.

Mr. Derraji (Nelligan) made a statement to underline the work of the Maison de l'innovation sociale.

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At 9:55 a.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 10:09 a.m.

Moment of reflection

Introduction of Bills

Mr. Lacombe, Minister of Culture and Communications, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following bill:

109 An Act to affirm the cultural sovereignty of Québec and to enact the Act respecting the discoverability of French-language cultural content in the digital environment

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 109 was introduced in the Assembly.

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Ms. Laforest, Minister of Municipal Affairs, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following bill:

104 An Act to amend various provisions in particular to follow up on certain requests from the municipal sector

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 104 was introduced in the Assembly.

Presenting Papers

Mr. Boulet, Minister of Labour, tabled the following:

The 2024 annual management report of the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail.

(Sessional Paper No. 2565-20250521)

The President tabled the following:

The 2024–2025 annual report of the French Language Commissioner.

(Sessional Paper No. 2566-20250521)

Presenting Reports from Committees

Mr. Simard (Montmorency), Committee Chair, tabled the following:

The report from the Committee on Public Finance, which held public hearings on 20 May 2025 within the framework of special consultations on Bill 92, An Act to amend various provisions mainly with respect to the financial sector.

(Sessional Paper No. 2567-20250521)

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Ms. Lecours (Les Plaines), Committee Chair, tabled the following:

The report from the Committee on Citizen Relations, which met on 3, 8, 9, 10 and 22 April 2025; and on 20 May 2025 for clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 84, An Act respecting national integration. The report contains amendments to the bill, including an amendment to its title.

(Sessional Paper No. 2568-20250521)

Presenting Petitions

Ms. Maccarone (Westmount–Saint-Louis) tabled the abstracts of two petitions on opposition to the sale of the heritage building and the permanent relocation of FACE public school to Montréal:

- the first, being the abstract of a petition signed by 13,312 citizens of Québec (French and English versions);

(Sessional Paper No. 2569-20250521)

- the second, being the abstract of a petition signed by 51 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 2570-20250521)

Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on withdrawing Bill 89 and committing to respect the right to strike, signed by 18,794 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 2571-20250521)

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 63 and 63.1, Ms. Maccarone (Westmount–Saint-Louis) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on opposition to the sale of the heritage building and the permanent relocation of FACE public school to Montréal, signed by 409 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 2572-20250521)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

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

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 53, Ms. Guilbault, Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility, tabled the following:

A chart on Québec Infrastructure Plan investments in transportation entitled “Investissements PQI Transports”.

(Sessional Paper No. 2573-20250521)

Motions Without Notice

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), Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) and Mr. Chassin (Saint-Jérôme), moved:

THAT the National Assembly acknowledge the Michelin Guide’s selection, which granted prestigious Michelin stars to nine restaurants from Québec and our regions;

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THAT it applaud this excellent news that brilliantly highlights the quality of Québec's gourmet restaurants and the expertise of our chefs and their teams;

THAT it recognize that enjoying good food is an essential aspect of Québec's tourism offering and that our cuisine promotes our traditions, our culinary know-how and our land;

THAT it also underline the 17 Bib Gourmands awarded to restaurants offering quality cooking at a reasonable price;

THAT, lastly, it applaud Québec's successes in the culinary sector, exemplified by the 102 establishments that earned a distinction.

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

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. 473 in Appendix)

Yeas: **103** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

Mr. Cliche-Rivard, House Leader of the Second Opposition Group, together with Mr. Paradis (Jean-Talon), moved a motion on the situation in the Gaza Strip; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine), together with Ms. Maccarone (Westmount–Saint-Louis), Mr. Cliche-Rivard, House Leader of the Second Opposition Group, and Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil), moved a motion on childcare services; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

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Mr. Roberge, Minister of Immigration, Francization and Integration, moved a motion on immigration; 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 Institutions, to undertake clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 98, An Act to amend the Election Act mainly to preserve the integrity of the electoral process;
- the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 69, An Act to ensure the responsible governance of energy resources and to amend various legislative 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;
- the Committee on Citizen Relations, to undertake clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 95, An Act to promote equity in access to subsidized educational childcare services provided by permit holders;
- the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, to hear the interested parties and undertake clause-by-clause consideration of these private bills in the following order: Bill 215, An Act respecting Municipalité de Saint-Sylvère; Bill 216, An Act respecting Ville de Longueuil; and Bill 219, An Act respecting the dissolution of the Agence de développement de Ferme-Neuve.

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

- the Committee on Public Finance, to undertake public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 100, An Act respecting the negotiation and determination of conditions of employment requiring national coordination in particular in the public and parapublic sector.
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Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, gave the following notices:

- the Committee on the National Assembly shall hold a deliberative meeting to organize its proceedings with respect to the inquiry arising from the motion moved by the Official Opposition House Leader and Member for Nelligan pursuant to Standing Orders 315 to 321 on the failure to table, within the prescribed time, the 2023 annual management report of the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec;
 - the Committee on Health and Social Services shall hold deliberative meetings to discuss the possibility of examining a petition on maintaining the 24-hour emergency services at the CLSC de Pohénégamook and to discuss the possibility of examining a petition on the standardization of basic suicide prevention measures across all psychiatric units in Québec's CIUSSS and CISSS.
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ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Having Precedence

Estimates of Expenditure

The Assembly entered upon the limited debate on the reports from the committees that examined the estimates of expenditure for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2026.

Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, informed the Assembly of the allocation of speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this limited debate: 58 minutes 30 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Government; 30 minutes 10 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition; 20 minutes to the Second Opposition Group; 8 minutes 20 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 1:00 p.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 3:00 p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 3:00 p.m.

The Assembly continued the limited debate on the reports from the committees that examined the estimates of expenditure for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2026.

The debate being concluded and the Assembly having disposed of the motions stating a grievance and the motion by the Minister of Finance that the Assembly approve the Government's budgetary policy, moved within the framework of the Budget Speech, the question was put for concurrence in the several reports together from the committees that examined the estimates of expenditure for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2026, and an electronic division was thereupon demanded.

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

Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun) moved:

THAT the National Assembly acknowledge that, according to a Léger poll, 72% of Quebecers support the idea of further taxing the rich to adequately fund public services;

THAT it recognize that it is imperative to protect the population from budget cuts in health, education and essential services;

THAT, lastly, it ask the Québec government to examine the possibility of creating a wealth tax, which would affect 0.1% of the richest members of our society, or approximately 4,000 households.

Ms. D'Amours, Second 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 her reply; 48 minutes 30 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Government; 24 minutes 17 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition; 27 minutes 50 seconds to the Second Opposition Group; 6 minutes 23 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.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 97, the debate continued past 5:00 p.m.

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The debate being concluded, 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 on the motion moved by Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun) was deferred until Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day.

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

Motions Without Notice

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, within the framework of the consideration of Bill 97, An Act mainly to modernize the forest regime, the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain hold special consultations and public hearings on Thursday, 29 May 2025 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:20 p.m. and from 7:00 p.m. to 8:35 p.m.; on Friday, 30 May 2025 after Notices of Proceedings in Committees from approximately 11:15 a.m. to 12:50 p.m.; on Tuesday, 3 June 2025 from approximately 10:00 a.m. to 11:35 a.m. and after Notices of Proceedings in Committees from approximately 3:15 p.m. to 5:40 p.m. and from 7:00 p.m. to 8:35 p.m.; and on Wednesday, 4 June 2025 after Notices of Proceedings in Committees from approximately 11:15 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 4:35 p.m.;

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

Québec Maple Syrup Producers
Ordre des ingénieurs forestiers du Québec
Fédération des producteurs forestiers du Québec and
Association des grands propriétaires forestiers du Québec,
together
Société des établissements de plein air du Québec
Nature Québec and CPAWS Québec, together
Institut de recherche et d'informations socioéconomiques

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Action Boréale
Union des producteurs agricoles du Québec
Regroupement national des conseils régionaux de
l'environnement
Union des municipalités du Québec
Fédération québécoise des municipalités
Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec
Centrale des syndicats démocratiques
Fédération de l'industrie manufacturière – CSN
Unifor and Syndicats des Métallos, together
Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador
Québec Outfitters Federation
Fédération québécoise des gestionnaires de zecs
Fédération québécoise des coopératives forestières and
Association des entrepreneurs en travaux sylvicoles du
Québec, together
Québec Forest Industry Council;

THAT a period of 12 minutes be set aside for opening statements, allocated as follows: 6 minutes to the parliamentary group forming the Government, 4 minutes 30 seconds to the Official Opposition and 1 minute 30 seconds to the Second Opposition Group;

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, 13 minutes 8 seconds to the Official Opposition and 4 minutes 23 seconds to the Second Opposition Group;

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

THAT the Minister of Natural Resources and Forests 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.

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Government Bills

Report Stage

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been adjourned on 20 May 2025, on the consideration of the report from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment on its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 81, An Act to amend various provisions relating to the environment, together with the amendments transmitted by Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles) and Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve).

The debate being concluded, by leave of the Assembly, Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, put the question severally on the amendments proposed by Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles) and Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) and on the reading thereof.

First, the question was put on the amendment proposed by Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles) to section 1.

The amendment was negatived.

The question was then put on the amendment proposed by Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles) to section 72.

The amendment was negatived.

The question was then put on the amendment proposed by Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) to section 136.

The amendment was negatived.

Lastly, the report was concurred in on division.

Passage in Principle

Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, moved that Bill 99, An Act to give effect to fiscal measures announced in the Update on Québec's Economic and Financial Situation presented on 21 November 2024 and in the Budget Speech delivered on 25 March 2025 and to certain other measures, do now pass in principle.

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Pursuant to Standing Order 100, Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved the adjournment of the debate.

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, the debate on the motion moved by Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, was adjourned.

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been adjourned on 20 May 2025, on the motion moved by Mr. Drainville, Minister of Education, that Bill 94, An Act to, in particular, reinforce laicity in the education network and to amend various legislative provisions, do now pass in principle.

The debate continued.

Pursuant to Standing Order 100, Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved the adjournment of the debate.

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, the debate on the motion moved by Mr. Drainville, Minister of Education, was adjourned.

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been adjourned earlier in the sitting, on the motion moved by Mr. Girard, Minister of Finance, that Bill 99, An Act to give effect to fiscal measures announced in the Update on Québec's Economic and Financial Situation presented on 21 November 2024 and in the Budget Speech delivered on 25 March 2025 and to certain other measures, do now pass in principle.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried on division, and Bill 99 was accordingly passed in principle.

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Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 99 be referred to the Committee on Public Finance for clause-by-clause consideration.

The motion was carried.

Private Members' Public Bills

Passage in Principle

Ms. Poulet (Laporte) moved that Bill 795, An Act to replace the name of the electoral division of Laporte by the name "Pierre-Laporte", do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried, and Bill 795 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 795 be referred to the Committee on Institutions for clause-by-clause consideration.

The motion was carried.

Ms. Dionne (Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata) moved that Bill 797, An Act to replace the name of the electoral division of Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata by the name "Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata–Les Basques", do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried, and Bill 797 was accordingly passed in principle.

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Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 797 be referred to the Committee on Institutions for clause-by-clause consideration and that the Minister of Justice be a member of the said Committee during its proceedings with respect to this order of reference.

The motion was carried.

Ms. Schmaltz (Vimont) moved that Bill 890, An Act to replace the name of the electoral division of Vimont by the name “Vimont-Auteuil”, do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried, and Bill 890 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 890 be referred to the Committee on Institutions for clause-by-clause consideration and that the Minister of Justice be a member of the said Committee during its proceedings with respect to this order of reference.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Schneeberger (Drummond–Bois-Francis) moved that Bill 996, An Act to replace the name of the electoral division of Arthabaska by the name “Arthabaska-L’Érable”, do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried, and Bill 996 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 996 be referred to the Committee on Institutions for clause-by-clause consideration and that the Minister of Justice be a member of the said Committee during its proceedings with respect to this order of reference.

The motion was carried.

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Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) moved that Bill 395, An Act to replace the name of the electoral division of Matane-Matapédia by Matane-Matapédia-Mitis, do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried, and Bill 395 was accordingly passed in principle.

Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved that Bill 395 be referred to the Committee on Institutions for clause-by-clause consideration and that the Minister of Justice be a member of the said Committee during its proceedings with respect to this order of reference.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved the adjournment of the Assembly until Thursday, 22 May 2025 at 9:40 a.m.

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, at 6:17 p.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 22 May 2025 at 9:40 a.m.

NATHALIE ROY

President

21 May 2025

APPENDIX

Electronic Divisions

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

(Division No. 473)

YEAS - 103

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