



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

SECOND SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 25 February 2026 — No. 41

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

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

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Members

Ms. Hébert (Saint-François) made a statement to applaud the initiative of the CIUSSS de l'Estrie-CHUS to better serve English-speaking persons.

Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil) made a statement to underline International Women's Day.

Ms. Bogemans (Iberville) made a statement to underline the Breakfast Club of Canada's 30th anniversary at École du Petit-Clocher.

Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard) made a statement to recall the importance of checks and balances in the foundation of a healthy democracy.

Ms. Jeannotte (Labelle) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. Marie-Mikaëlle Courtemanche and Ms. Audrey-Ann Lajeunesse.

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Ms. Caron (La Pinière) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of Bibliothèque de Brossard Georgette-Lepage.

Mr. Lemieux (Saint-Jean) made a statement to underline the Coldest Night of the Year walk.

Ms. Roy (Verchères) made a statement to underline the 45th anniversary of 64e Groupe scout Saint-Amable.

Ms. Haytayan (Laval-des-Rapides) made a statement to underline the work of Centre d'entraide du Marigot.

Ms. Rouleau (Pointe-aux-Trembles) made a statement to applaud the work of the organization HealthPartners.

At 9:52 a.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 10:06 a.m.

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Moment of reflection

Introduction of Bills

Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) moved that leave be granted to introduce the following bill:

497 An Act to ensure air quality

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

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **112** in Appendix)

Yeas: **106** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

Accordingly, Bill 497 was introduced in the Assembly.

Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun) moved that leave be granted to introduce the following bill:

392 An Act to combat food waste

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

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. **113** in Appendix)

Yeas: **106** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

Accordingly, Bill 392 was introduced in the Assembly.

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Presenting Papers

Ms. Biron, Minister of Higher Education, tabled the following:

The financial statements of the university foundation of the Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning/McGill University, for the fiscal year ended 31 May 2025.

(Sessional Paper No. 558-20260225)

Ms. Déry, Minister of Employment, tabled the following:

The report on the carrying out of the *Act mainly to improve the flexibility of the parental insurance plan in order to promote family-work balance*.

(Sessional Paper No. 559-20260225)

Presenting Petitions

Mr. Marissal (Rosemont) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition on opposition to the hiring freeze and layoffs in the Québec's public service to ensure the quality of public services, signed by 6,901 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 560-20260225)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

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Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Leduc (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve), together with Mr. Laframboise (Blainville), Ms. McGraw (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce), Ms. Gentilcore (Terrebonne) and Mr. Marissal (Rosemont), moved:

THAT the National Assembly pay tribute to Jean Dorion, sociologist, early separatist, activist and former Member for the Bloc Québécois, who passed away on 23 January 2026;

THAT it underline his unwavering commitment to Québec, in particular as president of the Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste de Montréal, where he defended the French language, created the Prix du Mérite en histoire award for fourth-year high school students who achieved an average of 95% or higher in history, revived the National Holiday parade, and contributed to the vitality of a national movement rooted in civil society;

THAT it recall that his career was guided by a deep-rooted belief in sovereignty based on democracy, culture and dialogue, and that he successfully defended an inclusive vision of Québec identity, in particular through the publication of his book *Inclure : quelle laïcité pour le Québec?*;

THAT it express its sincere condolences to his wife, his five children, his loved ones and all those who stood with him for a free, fair and open Québec.

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.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Boissonneault (Arthabaska), together with Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage), moved:

THAT the National Assembly express its deep concern about the federal government's management of the IT projects Phoenix, ArriveCAN and Cúram;

THAT it note that the Phoenix project, initially budgeted at \$309 million, cost \$5.5 billion, that the ArriveCAN project, initially budgeted at \$80,000, cost \$60 million, and that the Cúram project, initially budgeted at \$1.75 billion, cost \$6.6 billion;

THAT it recall that the federal government's considerable cost overruns for digital projects are a waste of the taxes paid by Québec taxpayers;

THAT, accordingly, it ask the federal government to launch an independent public inquiry into federal IT contracts.

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

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. 114 in Appendix)

Yeas: **107** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Legault, Premier, together with Mr. Fortin, Leader of the Official Opposition, Ms. Ghazal, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, Mr. St-Pierre Plamondon, Leader of the Third Opposition Group, Ms. Blanchette Vézina (Rimouski), Mr. Carmant (Taillon), Mr. Marissal (Rosemont) and Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent), moved:

THAT the National Assembly of Québec recall that, for the last four years, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has had devastating humanitarian and material consequences;

THAT it reaffirm its unreserved solidarity with the Ukrainian people and Quebecers of Ukrainian origin;

THAT it applaud the admirable resilience of the Ukrainian people;

THAT it reiterate the importance of continuing international efforts to assist Ukraine, in particular with respect to its defence and reconstruction;

THAT it reaffirm its support for respect for Ukraine's territorial integrity and for the values of democracy and the rule of law;

THAT it uphold the importance of a diplomatic conclusion to this war in order to achieve a lasting peace, with security guarantees, negotiated by all parties;

THAT, lastly, the National Assembly observe a minute of silence in memory of the victims of the invasion.

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.

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Mr. Tanguay, Official Opposition House Leader, together with Ms. Poulet (Laporte) and Ms. Lakhoyan Olivier (Chomedey), moved a motion on the holding of a referendum on Québec's political future; 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 Labour and the Economy, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 3, An Act to improve the transparency, governance and democratic process of various associations in the workplace;
- the Committee on Public Finance, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 5, An Act to accelerate the granting of the authorizations required to carry out priority national-scale projects;
- the Committee on Public Finance, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 7, An Act to reduce bureaucracy, increase state efficiency and reinforce the accountability of senior public servants;
- the Committee on Culture and Education, to continue its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 10, An Act to protect consumers against abusive practices in ticket reselling and online subscription renewal;
- the Committee on Citizen Relations, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 9, An Act respecting the reinforcement of laicity in Québec.

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Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, gave the following notices:

- the Committee on Labour and the Economy shall hold a deliberative meeting to discuss the possibility of carrying out an order of initiative on assistance and support for parents going through perinatal grief;
- the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain shall hold a deliberative meeting to discuss the possibility of carrying out an order of initiative on civility in municipal councils and, more broadly, on the deterioration of respect for elected officials of all levels of government and the issues related to harassment of and threats made against those officials;
- the Committee on Institutions shall hold a deliberative meeting to discuss the possibility of carrying out an order of initiative on the impact of organized crime and extortion in Québec's bar and restaurant industry and to discuss the possibility of carrying out an order of initiative on the situation of human trafficking in Québec.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Minister of Justice and Minister Responsible for Canadian Relations, moved that Bill 1, Québec Constitution Act, 2025, do now pass in principle.

A debate arose thereon.

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At 1:00 p.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 3:00 p.m.

Accordingly, pursuant to Standing Order 97, the debate on the motion moved by Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Minister of Justice and Minister Responsible for Canadian Relations, was adjourned in the name of Ms. Nichols (Vaudreuil).

The proceedings resumed at 3:00 p.m.

Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) moved:

THAT the National Assembly acknowledge the need to hold a national forum on the education system in Québec.

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 her reply; 50 minutes to the parliamentary group forming the Government; 25 minutes 43 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition; 15 minutes 43 seconds to the Second Opposition Group; 8 minutes 34 seconds to the Third Opposition Group; and 10 minutes to the independent Members, subject to a maximum of 1 minute 30 seconds each. 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.

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 was deferred until Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day.

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Government Bills

Passage

Ms. Bélanger, Minister of Health, moved the passage of Bill 19, An Act to, in particular, improve access to medical services and provide for the medical taking in charge of the population.

A debate arose thereon.

The debate was adjourned in the name of Mr. Derraji (Nelligan).

At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Benjamin, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 26 February 2026 at 9:40 a.m.

NATHALIE ROY

President

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APPENDIX

Electronic Divisions

On the motion moved by Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) that leave be granted to introduce Bill 497, An Act to ensure air quality:

(Division No. 112)

YEAS - 106

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

25 February 2026

On the motion moved by Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun) that leave be granted to introduce Bill 392, An Act to combat food waste:

(Division No. 113)

YEAS - 106

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

25 February 2026

On the motion moved by Mr. Boissonneault (Arthabaska), together with Mr. Zanetti (Jean-Lesage):

(Division No. 114)

YEAS - 107

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