



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

SECOND SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Wednesday, 18 March 2026 — No. 44

**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 success of the Foyer légendaire project.

Ms. Prass (D'Arcy-McGee) made a statement to underline Quebec Intellectual Disability Week.

Ms. Tremblay (Hull) made a statement to underline the 95th anniversary of Fleuriste Chez Rose.

Ms. Labrie (Sherbrooke) made a statement to support the organizations involved in the Le communautaire à boutte movement.

Mr. Asselin (Vanier-Les Rivières) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of Loisirs Lebourgneuf.

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Mr. Ciccone (Marquette) made a statement to pay tribute to Ms. Chantal Richer.

Ms. Lachance (Bellechasse) made a statement to underline the 40th anniversary of the Société historique de Bellechasse.

Mr. Dufour (Abitibi-Est) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of the Société d'histoire et de généalogie de Val-d'Or.

Ms. Soucy (Saint-Hyacinthe) made a statement to underline International Francophonie Day.

Ms. Schmaltz (Vimont) made a statement to underline the commitment of the members of the École l'Odyssée-des-Jeunes student council.

Ms. Bélanger (Prévost) made a statement to underline Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

Ms. Abou-Khalil (Fabre) made a statement to encourage women to take their place in life.

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At 9:55 a.m., Ms. D'Amours, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 10:06 a.m.

Moment of reflection

Introduction of Bills

Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Minister of Justice, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following bill:

25 An Act to increase public trust in the justice system by modernizing judicial ethics and implementing certain recommendations of the committee on the remuneration of judges and justices of the peace for the 2023–2027 period

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 25 was introduced in the Assembly.

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Presenting Papers

Ms. Duranceau, Minister Responsible for Government Administration and State Efficiency 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 2027 to the National Assembly and recommend the said estimates to it for consideration.

Manon Jeannotte

Québec, 13 March 2026

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

Expenditure Management Strategy – Additional Information – 2026–2027
Expenditure Budget – Volume 1 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 649-20260318)

Annual Expenditure Management Plans of the Departments and Bodies –
2026–2027 Expenditure Budget – Volume 2 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 650-20260318)

Estimates and Expenditures of the Departments and Bodies – 2026–2027
Expenditure Budget – Volume 3 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 651-20260318)

Estimates, Expenditures and Annual Expenditure Management Plans of the
National Assembly and Persons Appointed by the National Assembly –
2026–2027 Expenditure Budget – Volume 4 (French and English versions).
(Sessional Paper No. 652-20260318)

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

2026–2036 Québec Infrastructure Plan – 2026–2027 Expenditure Budget –
Volume 6 (French and English versions);

(Sessional Paper No. 653-20260318)

Annual Management Plans for Public Infrastructure Investments – 2026–2027
Expenditure Budget (French and English versions).

(Sessional Paper No. 654-20260318)

Mr. Bélanger, Minister of Cybersecurity and Digital Technology, tabled the
following:

Annual Information Resource Investment and Expenditure Plan – 2026–2027
Expenditure Budget – Volume 5 (French and English versions).

(Sessional Paper No. 655-20260318)

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

THAT, pursuant to Standing Order 280, the 2026–2027
estimates of expenditure be referred to a Committee of the Whole
for consideration and for concurrence in one quarter of the said
estimate.

The motion was carried.

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, Ms. Caron (La Pinière), together with Ms. Bélanger, Minister of Health, Mr. Cliche-Rivard, House Leader of the Second Opposition Group, Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine), Ms. Blanchette Vézina (Rimouski), Ms. Poulet (Laporte), Mr. Marissal (Rosemont), Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) and Ms. Lakhoyan Olivier (Chomedey), moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the first edition of National Health Users' Day, an initiative by the organization Les Usagers de la santé du Québec to promote better access, quality services and open access for users of Québec's health network;

THAT it recognize the importance of giving health network users a say in our public deliberations;

THAT, lastly, it express its full consideration for all citizens, stakeholders and professionals in the health network who have rallied behind the defence of users' rights and the provision of quality services.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the question was put on this motion, and an electronic division was thereupon demanded.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. 122 in Appendix)

Yeas: **95** Nays: **0** Abstentions: **0**

Mr. Bouazzi (Maurice-Richard), together with Mr. Morin (Acadie), Mr. Paradis (Jean-Talon), Ms. Poulet (Laporte) and Mr. Marissal (Rosemont), moved a motion on Bill 1, Québec Constitution Act, 2025; 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, Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine), together with Mr. Sainte-Croix (Gaspé), Mr. Fortin, Leader of the Official Opposition, Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun), Mr. Marissal (Rosemont), Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) and Ms. Lakhoyan Olivier (Chomedey), moved:

THAT the National Assembly recognize that the fisheries and aquaculture industry plays a key role in the economy of Québec's maritime regions and that it must continue to adapt to an uncertain geopolitical climate to ensure its economic development and viability;

THAT it underline that since its inception in 2019, the Quebec Fisheries Fund has supported 195 innovation, infrastructure and scientific research projects;

THAT it underline the unanimous support of stakeholders from Québec's fisheries industry for the renewal of the Fisheries Fund;

THAT it ask the Québec government to confirm its commitment to renewing the Quebec Fisheries Fund.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

Mr. Lévesque (Chapleau), together with Mr. Paradis (Jean-Talon) and Mr. Dufour (Abitibi-Est), moved a motion on the provision of parliamentary sovereignty; 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 84.1 and pursuant to Standing Order 146, Mr. Lévesque, Deputy Government House Leader, moved:

THAT, within the framework of the consideration of Bill 20, An Act to enact the Act to facilitate access to housing and amending various provisions with respect to housing, the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain hold special consultations and public hearings on Thursday, 26 March 2026 after Notices of Proceedings in Committees from approximately 11:15 a.m. to 1:05 p.m. and from 2:00 p.m. to 4:25 p.m.; and on Tuesday, 31 March 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:25 p.m. and after Notices of Proceedings in Committees from approximately 3:15 p.m. to 7:20 p.m.;

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

Auditor General of Québec

UTILE

Regroupement des offices d'habitation du Québec

Réseau québécois des organismes d'habitation, together with Alliance des corporations d'habitations abordables du territoire du Québec

Front d'action populaire en réaménagement urbain

Confédération québécoise des coopératives d'habitation

Fédération des locataires d'habitations à loyer modique du Québec

Fédération de l'habitation coopérative du Québec

Me Yves Jolicoeur, Regroupement des gestionnaires et copropriétaires du Québec

Mouvement pour mettre fin à l'itinérance à Montréal

Logement HAN

Réseau SOLIDARITÉ Itinérance du Québec

Regroupement des comités logement et associations de locataires du Québec;

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;

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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 individual or organization;

THAT the Minister Responsible for Housing 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 Labour and the Economy, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 11, An Act to amend various provisions for the main purpose of reducing regulatory and administrative burden;
- the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 13, An Act to promote the population's safety and sense of security and to amend various provisions;
- the Committee on Citizen Relations, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 12, An Act to establish the provision of educational childcare by recognized persons responsible for a community educational childcare service.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been adjourned on 17 March 2026, on the motion moved by Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Minister of Justice and Minister Responsible for Canadian Relations, that Bill 1, Québec Constitution Act, 2025, do now pass in principle.

At the request of Ms. Soucy, First Vice-President, Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles) withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

At the end of her address, Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles) moved the following hoist motion:

THAT the motion under debate be amended by striking out the word “now” and by adding at the end thereof the words “this day 12 weeks hence”.

The hoist motion was ruled in order.

Ms. Soucy, First Vice-President, informed the Assembly of the allocation of speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this limited debate on this hoist motion: 49 minutes 30 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Government; 27 minutes to the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition; 16 minutes 50 seconds to the Second Opposition Group; 11 minutes 40 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 Member or by a parliamentary group shall be redistributed among the parliamentary groups in the proportions established above. Lastly, individual addresses shall not be limited.

The Assembly entered upon the debate on the hoist motion moved by Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles).

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At 12:59 p.m., Ms. Soucy, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 3:00 p.m.

Accordingly, pursuant to Standing Order 97, the debate on the motion moved by Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles) was adjourned in the name of Mr. Morin (Acadie).

The proceedings resumed at 3:00 p.m.

Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

Mr. Tanguay, Official Opposition House Leader, moved:

THAT the National Assembly acknowledge that the CAQ government's mismanagement of public finances since 2018, marked by numerous cases of wasteful spending of public funds and a significant increase in debt, has not led to a noticeable improvement in access to public services for Quebecers.

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; 22 minutes 30 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Government; 11 minutes 15 seconds to the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition; 6 minutes 53 seconds to the Second Opposition Group; 4 minutes 23 seconds to the Third Opposition Group; and 5 minutes to the independent Members, subject to a maximum of 45 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.

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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.

At 4 :01 p.m., Ms. Soucy, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 4:09 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 2025–2026 – Table 1;

(Sessional Paper No. 656-20260318)

Summary of budgetary transactions – Forecasts for 2026–2027 – Table 2;

(Sessional Paper No. 657-20260318)

Revenue – Forecasts for 2026–2027 – Table 3;

(Sessional Paper No. 658-20260318)

Expenditure – Forecasts for 2026–2027 – Table 4;

(Sessional Paper No. 659-20260318)

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Budget Plan – Budget 2026–2027 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 660-20260318)

Additional Information – Budget 2026–2027 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 661-20260318)

Budget Speech – Budget 2026–2027 (French and English versions);
(Sessional Paper No. 662-20260318)

Budget in Brief – Budget 2026–2027 (French and English versions).
(Sessional Paper No. 663-20260318)

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.

At the request of the President, Mr. Beauchemin (Marguerite-Bourgeoys) withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

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

At the request of the President, Ms. Zaga Mendez (Verdun) withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

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

Mr. Jolin-Barrette, Government House Leader, moved the adjournment of the Assembly until Thursday, 19 March 2026 at 9:40 a.m.

The motion was carried.

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Accordingly, at 5:34 p.m., the President adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 19 March 2026 at 9:40 a.m.

NATHALIE ROY

President

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APPENDIX

Electronic Divisions

On the motion moved by Ms. Caron (La Pinière), together with Ms. Bélanger, Minister of Health, Mr. Cliche-Rivard, House Leader of the Second Opposition Group, Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine), Ms. Blanchette Vézina (Rimouski), Ms. Poulet (Laporte), Mr. Marissal (Rosemont), Ms. Rizqy (Saint-Laurent) and Ms. Lakhoyan Olivier (Chomedey):

(Division No. 122)

YEAS - 95

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