



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

THIRD SESSION

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Tuesday, 5 May 2026 — No. 1

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

The Assembly was called to order at 2:09 p.m.

Moment of reflection

The President tabled the following:

A letter, dated 6 April 2026, to Mr. François Legault, Premier, from Mr. Simon Jolin-Barrette, Member for Borduas, informing him of his resignation as Government House Leader;

(Sessional Paper No. 1-20260505)

A letter, dated 7 April 2026, to Mr. François Legault, Premier, from Mr. Yves Montigny, Member for René-Lévesque, informing him of his resignation as Government Caucus Chair.

(Sessional Paper No. 2-20260505)

She then tabled letters, dated 21 April 2026, she had received from Ms. Christine Fréchette, Premier, informing her of the following appointments:

Mr. François Bonnardel, Member for Granby, as Government House Leader;

(Sessional Paper No. 3-20260505)

Mr. Yves Montigny, Member for René-Lévesque, as Government Caucus Chair;

(Sessional Paper No. 4-20260505)

Ms. Stéphanie Lachance, Member for Bellechasse, as Deputy Government House Leader.

(Sessional Paper No. 5-20260505)

She then tabled the following:

A letter, dated 24 April 2026, she had received from Mr. Gilles Bélanger, Member for Orford, informing her of his decision to sit as an independent Member, effective 22 April 2026.

(Sessional Paper No. 6-20260505)

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Lastly, she tabled the new seating plan of the National Assembly, dated 5 May 2026.

(Sessional Paper No. 7-20260505)

The President informed the Assembly that Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor would deliver the Opening Address of the Session.

Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor entered the National Assembly and, once seated in the Chair, read the following Opening Address:

Gwe, Hello,

Madam President,
Madam Premier,
Mr. Leader of the Official Opposition,
Madam Leader of the Second Opposition Group,
Mr. Leader of the Third Opposition Group,
Members of the Executive Council,
Members of the National Assembly,
Distinguished Guests,

Much like for my first address, which was delivered on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, fate would have it that today's address coincides with another day of great significance.

May 5 is the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people. This day is also known as Red Dress Day.

This day honours the victims. It also serves as a call for action. It reminds us that First Nations, Inuit and Métis women, girls and two-spirit people continue to be disproportionately affected by violence.

It is important to talk about this. It is necessary to talk about this. Because this has to stop.

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On this day, red dresses flutter in the breeze like silent presences. They do not shout. They call us to action. They compel us. They remind us of a greater duty.

For many years, we have seen an alarming increase in violence against women in Québec and elsewhere. Whether these women are Indigenous or not, this violence leaves a deep wound in our society.

These red dresses call for constant vigilance. A renewed commitment. A collective will to take action.

Despite the increase in violence against women, there is progress worth mentioning.

On a more positive note, today's Assembly reflects an important evolution. The political parties represented in this House are led equally by women and men. The President of the Assembly is a woman. The Government is led by a woman. And, for the very first time, my office is held by an Indigenous woman.

As Madam Pauline Marois said: "Every time a woman is elected or holds the highest office, it is a victory for all women." And Madam Marois, allow me to add that it is a victory for all of society as well.

It is with pride that I once again say the following: Québec is moving forward.

The progress made is significant. It reflects a society that is opening up, evolving, and undergoing a transformation. Each step forward helps make our democracy more just. More representative. More inclusive.

But beyond the symbolism, this reality calls on us to take action.

It reminds us that equality is not proclaimed. It is achieved. And it is achieved in collaboration with men. Through actions. Through decisions. Through the ability to provide every woman with safety, dignity, and opportunities.

Ladies and gentlemen, Members of the National Assembly. Your presence here is a testament to the trust Quebecers have placed in you.

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Debates will be necessary. Differences are inevitable. But what truly matters above all else is what we choose to uphold together.

Québec is evolving in a changing world. The times are changing. There are tensions. And there are uncertainties.

In this context, our nation stands strong. It stands strong for what it represents, for what it protects, and for what it chooses to achieve together. The common good that is Québec does not belong to us. For some, we are its stewards; for others, we are its guardians. Regardless, it is together that we ensure its continuity.

We have a responsibility to bring people together. Not by ignoring our differences, but by embracing them as part of a collective project where everyone has a role to play.

I would like to share with you a worldview that is dear to the First Nations. For us, the circle is a way of life. It is a space of balance. A space where everything is connected. Where every aspect of life is essential. Where "we" is more important than "I", because we are in the circle of life together.

The circle reminds us of certain fundamental values, such as generosity, respect, humility and honesty. It also reminds us that our decisions have an impact far beyond the present moment and must always aim to bring people together.

Our decisions build on the work of those who came before us, and they must take into account those who will come after us for the next seven generations.

Members of the National Assembly, I would like to conclude by saying that the coming weeks will be challenging. I encourage you to rise to the occasion with a sense of public duty. With respect for all institutions. With a commitment to the common good. May your debates be lively, but always respectful. May your decisions be firm, but always just. May your actions live up to the trust that has been placed in you.

Québec is cherished by all of us. But it transcends us. It was here before us. It will be here long after we are gone. What we do for Québec today will have an impact far beyond the present. It is in this spirit that we begin the proceedings of the Assembly.

Have a great session! Wela'lioq. Thank you.

Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor withdrew.

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The President took the Chair.

Ms. Fréchette, Premier, then delivered the Opening Speech of the Third Session of the 43rd Legislature.

At the end of her speech, Ms. Fréchette, Premier, moved that the Assembly approve the Government's general policy.

At 3:13 p.m., the President adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 6 May 2026 at 9:40 a.m.

NATHALIE ROY

President