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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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FIRST SESSION

THIRTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

## **Votes and Proceedings**

**of the Assembly**

**Tuesday, 10 November 2009 — No. 71**

**President of the National Assembly:  
Mr. Yvon Vallières**

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**QUÉBEC**



The Assembly was called to order at 1.45 o'clock p.m.

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## **ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

### **Statements by Members**

Mrs. Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) made a statement about the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fondation Alphonse Lepage.

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Mr. St-Arnaud (Chambly), in replacement of Mrs. Bouillé (Iberville), made a statement about an act of bravery performed by two citizens of Iberville.

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Mr. Béchard (Kamouraska-Témiscouata) made a statement to congratulate Mr. Paul-Émile Lafrance, founding member of the Club d'athlétisme Les Vaillants.

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Mrs. Hivon (Joliette) made a statement about the city of Joliette, the leading business place in Québec.

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Mr. Deltell (Chauveau) made a statement about the Highway of Bravery.

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Mr. Morin (Montmagny-L'Islet) made a statement to congratulate Mr. Yves Hébert.

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Mrs. Champagne (Champlain) made a statement about the Ordre de La Vérendrye.

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Mr. Pelletier (Saint-Hyacinthe) made a statement about Le parcours olympique à travers le temps.

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At 1.56 o'clock p.m., Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

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The proceedings resumed at 2.08 o'clock p.m.

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Moment of reflection

Mr. President tabled the following:

A letter, dated 6 November 2009, he had received from Mr. Éric Caire, Member for La Peltrie, informing him of his decision to sit as an independent Member;  
(Sessional Paper No. 863-20091110)

A letter, dated 6 November 2009, he had received from Mr. Marc Picard, Member for Chutes-de-la-Chaudière, informing him of his decision to sit as an independent Member.

(Sessional Paper No. 864-20091110)

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Mr. President rendered the following directive concerning the decision taken by two Members of the Second Opposition Group to sit as independent Members:

#### **DIRECTIVE FROM THE CHAIR**

Within the framework of the parliamentary reform of April 2009, the Assembly unanimously adopted new provisional rules regarding the recognition of a parliamentary group and the organization of parliamentary proceedings. These rules not only provided for the recognition of the Action démocratique du Québec as a parliamentary group, but also established the allocation of various measures among the Members sitting in opposition for the duration of the 39<sup>th</sup> Legislature.

The Chair intends to observe the spirit of this document. Solely a new ruling of the Assembly regarding these matters would justify the application of new rules by the Chair. Thus, in pursuance of the rules adopted last 21 April, the Action démocratique du Québec still constitutes a parliamentary group, that is, a political party in which not fewer than five Members were returned to the Assembly and which received not less than 11 % of the popular vote in the most recent general election.

As regards the allocation of measures among the Members sitting in opposition, in order to respect the choice of Members who unanimously adopted the new rules, the Chair intends to protect the rights of the Official Opposition as well as those of the Member for Mercier. For this reason the speaking times and the control measures granted to the two new independent Members shall be established on the basis of those currently enjoyed by the Second Opposition Group. Further directives will be rendered as required to explain this new allocation.

#### **Introduction of Bills**

Mrs. Gagnon-Tremblay, Minister responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

70        An Act to amend various pension plans in the public sector

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 70 was introduced in the Assembly.

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Mr. Hamad, Minister of Labour, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

73      An Act to provide for measures to fight crime in the construction industry

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 73 was introduced in the Assembly.

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Mr. President communicated to the Assembly and then tabled the report from the Law Clerk on the following Private Bill:

214      An Act to amend the charter of L'Abbaye de Saint-Benoît-du-Lac

The report states that the notice was drafted and published in accordance with the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings Respecting Private Bills.

(Sessional Paper No. 865-20091110)

Mr. Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi) then moved that leave be granted to introduce Private Bill 214, An Act to amend the charter of L'Abbaye de Saint-Benoît-du-Lac.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, moved that Private Bill 214 be referred for consultations and clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Public Finance and that the Minister of Finance be a member during its deliberations in respect of the said Bill.

The motion was carried.

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Mr. President communicated to the Assembly and then tabled the report from the Law Clerk on the following Private Bill:

215      An Act respecting Ville de Sept-Îles

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The report states that the notice was drafted and published in accordance with the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings Respecting Private Bills.

(Sessional Paper No. 866-20091110)

Mrs. Richard (Duplessis) then moved that leave be granted to introduce Private Bill 215, An Act respecting Ville de Sept-Îles.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, moved that Private Bill 215 be referred for consultations and clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain and that the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Regions and Land Occupancy be a member during its deliberations in respect of the said Bill.

The motion was carried.

### **Presenting Papers**

Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, tabled the following:

Answer to written question no. 28, concerning the "Persévérance et réussite scolaire" strategy, placed on the *Order Paper and Notices* of Wednesday, 29 October 2009, by Mr. Curzi (Borduas).

(Sessional Paper No. 867-20091110)

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Mr. President tabled the following:

The Strategic Plan 2009-2012 of the administration of the National Assembly;

(Sessional Paper No. 868-20091110)

Decision 1491 from the Office of the National Assembly, dated 27 October 2009, concerning the regulation respecting the promotion of the assistant executive chef at the Material Resources and Restaurants Directorate (Règlement concernant la promotion du chef exécutif adjoint à la Direction des ressources matérielles et des restaurants);

(Sessional Paper No. 869-20091110)

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The new seating plan of the National Assembly, dated 10 November 2009;  
(Sessional Paper No. 870-20091110)

Copy of the notice of motion by Mr. Khadir (Mercier) which will be placed on the *Order Paper and Notices* of Wednesday, 11 November 2009, under Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition.  
(Sessional Paper No. 871-20091110)

### Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 53 and 59, Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière) tabled the following:

Copy of two e-mail messages, dated 4 November 2009, concerning Hydro-Québec's customer service.  
(Sessional Paper No. 872-20091110)

### Motions Without Notice

Mr. Bédard (Chicoutimi), Mrs. Roy (Lotbinière) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier) jointly moved a motion concerning the construction industry in Québec; 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, Mrs. Blais, Minister responsible for Seniors, Mrs. Lapointe (Crémazie), Mr. Grondin (Beauce-Nord) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier) jointly moved:



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THAT the National Assembly mark National Seniors' Safety Week, which is being held from 6 to 12 November 2009, and that, on this occasion, may we show our solidarity toward seniors and, along with all our partners, enable them to live in an entirely safe environment.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

### **Notices of Proceedings in Committees**

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 143, Mr. Dupuis, Government House Leader, convened the following Committees:

- the Committee on Citizen Relations, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 60, An Act to amend the Consumer Protection Act and other legislative provisions;
- the Committee on Public Finance, to conclude its public hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 65, An Act respecting Infrastructure Québec; then to give clause-by-clause consideration to Bill 59, An Act to amend the Tobacco Tax Act and other legislative provisions primarily to counter tobacco smuggling.

### **Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly**

Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, informed the Assembly that on Wednesday, 11 November 2009, during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, a debate will be held on the motion by Mr. Khadir (Mercier).

This motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly demand that the Government of Québec include in its *Election Act* reform initiative a proportional voting system in keeping with the election commitment of all parties represented in the National Assembly in agreement with the fair representation of political diversity.

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## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### Debates on Reports from Committees

The Assembly took into consideration the report from the Committee on Health and Social Services, which, on 29 and 30 September, on 1, 6, 15, 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30 October, on 4 November 2008 and on 9 April 2009, held public hearings within the framework of special consultations with regard to its order of initiative on the phenomenon of homelessness in Québec. The report contains 33 recommendations.

Pursuant to the statement made by the Chair during Routine Proceedings earlier in today's sitting, Mr. Chagnon, Second Vice-President, informed the Assembly of the allocation of speaking time for the proceedings with respect to this limited debate: 5 minutes shall be allotted to the Member for Mercier; 3 minutes and 30 seconds shall be allotted to the remaining independent Members overall; 8 minutes and 30 seconds shall be allotted to the Members of the Second Opposition Group, while the parliamentary group forming the Government and the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition shall share equally the remaining time set aside for this debate. Within this framework, any time not used by the independent Members or by the Members of the Second Opposition Group shall be redistributed equally between the parliamentary group forming the Government and the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition. Any time not used by the parliamentary group forming the Government shall go the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition and vice versa. Lastly, individual addresses shall not be limited.

The debate arose thereon.

The debate expired and, pursuant to Standing Order 95, no question was put.

### 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 56, An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services with regard to the certification of certain resources offering lodging.

After debate thereon, the report was concurred in.

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**Debates Upon Adjournment**

At 5.30 o'clock p.m., by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 309, the Assembly held two debates upon adjournment:

- the first, on a question by Mr. Ratthé (Blainville) to Mr. Gignac, Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade, about the Regional Economic Intervention Fund (FIER);
- the second, on a question by Mr. McKay (L'Assomption) to Mrs. Beauchamp, Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, about Écolosol.

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Mrs. Beauchamp, Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, moved the adjournment of the Assembly until Wednesday, 11 November 2009, at 9.45 o'clock a.m.

The motion was carried.

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Accordingly, at 5.56 o'clock p.m., Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Wednesday, 11 November 2009, at 9.45 o'clock a.m.

**YVON VALLIÈRES**

*President*