



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SECOND SESSION

THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Tuesday, 15 April 1997 — No. 88

**President of the National Assembly:
Mr. Jean-Pierre Charbonneau**

QUÉBEC

The Assembly was called to order at 2.10 o'clock p.m.

Moment of reflection

Mr. President communicated to the Assembly and then tabled the following:

A letter, dated 11 April 1997, he had received from Mr. Bouchard, Prime Minister, informing him of the appointment of Mrs. Diane Barbeau, the Member for Vanier, as Deputy Government Whip, thus replacing Mr. Claude Lachance, the Member for Bellechasse.

(Sessional Paper No. 772-970415)

A letter, dated 11 April 1997, he had received from Mr. Bouchard, Prime Minister, regarding the replacement of Mr. Michel Côté, the Member for La Peltrie, by Mr. Michel Morin, the Member for Nicolet-Yamaska, as member of the Office of the National Assembly, and of the replacement of the latter by Mrs. Nicole Léger, the Member for Pointe-aux-Trembles, as substitute member.

(Sessional Paper No. 773-970415)

Mr. Pinard, Vice-President, moved that these modifications to the composition of the Office of the National Assembly be adopted.

This motion was carried.

Mr. President then tabled the following:

A letter, dated 15 April 1997, he had received from Mr. Johnson, Leader of the Official Opposition, informing him of the appointment of Mr. Jean-Marc Fournier, the Member for Châteauguay, as Deputy Opposition House Leader, effective 10 April 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 774-970415)

A letter, dated 15 April 1997, he had received from Mr. Johnson, Leader of the Official Opposition, informing him of the appointment of Mr. Norman MacMillan, the Member for Papineau, as Deputy Opposition Whip, effective 10 April 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 775-970415)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Introduction of Bills

Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup) moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

195 An Act to amend the Labour Code as regards the transfer of an undertaking.

The motion was carried.

Presenting Papers

Mr. President tabled the following:

The following Decisions by the Office of the National Assembly, dated 26 March 1997:

Decision 827 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting the remuneration and the conditions of employment which apply to a Member's staff and respecting payment for professional services (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur la rémunération et les conditions de travail du personnel d'un député et sur le paiement des services professionnels);

Decision 828 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting the remuneration

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and the conditions of employment which apply to the staff of the cabinets at the National Assembly and respecting payment for professional services (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur la rémunération et les conditions de travail du personnel des cabinets de l'Assemblée nationale et sur le paiement des services professionnels);

Decision 829 concerning the regulation to amend the regulation respecting clothing allowances, uniforms and special garments (Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur les allocations vestimentaires, les uniformes et les vêtements spéciaux);

Decision 831 concerning the regulation respecting an additional allocation for professional services expenses incurred by a Member of the National Assembly (Règlement sur une allocation additionnelle pour le paiement de services professionnels encourus par un membre de l'Assemblée nationale);

Decision 832 concerning the regulation respecting parliamentary documents (Règlement sur les documents parlementaires);

Decision 833 concerning the regulation respecting certain fees charged by the National Assembly (Règlement sur certains frais exigibles par l'Assemblée nationale).

(Sessional Paper No. 776-970415)

He then tabled the following:

The new seating plan of the National Assembly, dated 15 April 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 777-970415)

Presenting Reports from Committees

Mr. Landry (Bonaventure) tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Institutions, which, on 10 April 1997, elected its vice-chairman.

(Sessional Paper No. 778-970415)

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Mr. Baril (Arthabaska) tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Public Finance, which, on 10 April 1997, elected its vice-chairman.

(Sessional Paper No. 779-970415)

A report from the Committee on Public Finance, which, on 9, 10 and 15 April 1997, continued the debate on the Budget Speech.

(Sessional Paper No. 780-970415)

Mrs. Blackburn (Chicoutimi) tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Education, which, on 10 April 1997, elected its vice-chairman.

(Sessional Paper No. 781-970415)

Mr. Chagnon (Westmount–Saint-Louis) tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Public Administration, which, on 10 April 1997, elected its chairman and its vice-chairman.

(Sessional Paper No. 782-970415)

Mr. Lachance (Bellechasse) tabled the following:

A report from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, which, on 10 April 1997, elected its chairman and its vice-chairman.

(Sessional Paper No. 783-970415)

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Presenting Petitions

The abstracts of three petitions respecting the maintaining of the choice between full-time and half-time kindergarten were laid upon the Table:

- the first, being the abstract of a petition signed by 316 citizens from the riding of Masson, by Mr. Blais (Masson);
(Sessional Paper No. 784-970415)

- the second, being the abstract of a petition signed by 99 citizens from the south shore of Montréal, by Mr. Beaulne (Marguerite-D'Youville);
(Sessional Paper No. 785-970415)

And, by leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 63 and 64:

- the third, being the abstract of a petition signed by 551 citizens of Québec, by Mr. Deslières (Salaberry-Soulanges)
(Sessional Paper No. 786-970415)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Deferred Divisions

The Assembly took the divisions, which had been deferred at the sitting of 9 April 1997, on the motion moved by Mr. Brassard, Minister for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, and on the amendment motion moved by Mr. Mulcair (Chomedey).

First, the question was put on the amendment motion moved by Mr. Mulcair. This motion reads as follows:

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THAT the motion under discussion be amended by adding, after the first "WHEREAS", the following:

"WHEREAS in so doing the National Assembly of Québec reaffirms the established rights of the English-speaking community of Québec. More specifically, whereas Quebeckers whose children are admissible in accordance with Chapter VIII of the *Charter of the French Language* have the right to have them receive their instruction in English language educational facilities under the management and control of this community, as provided by law, and which are financed through public funds;"

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. 122 in Appendix)

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

The question was then put on the motion by Mr. Brassard, Minister for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, as amended by the preceding vote. This motion reads as follows:

WHEREAS the Government intends to institute linguistic school boards as soon as possible;

WHEREAS in so doing the National Assembly of Québec reaffirms the established rights of the English-speaking community of Québec. More specifically, whereas Quebeckers whose children are admissible in accordance with Chapter VIII of the *Charter of the French Language* have the right to have them receive their instruction in English language educational facilities under the management and control of this community, as provided by law, and which are financed through public funds;

WHEREAS it is desirable, for that purpose, to amend the *Constitution Act, 1867*, so that Québec may recover its full capacity to act in matters of education;

WHEREAS such amendment in no way constitutes recognition by the National

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Assembly of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, which was adopted without its consent;

WHEREAS undertakings were given by the Federal Government to proceed rapidly with such amendment, through bilateral action and with the agreement of the National Assembly and of the Federal Parliament;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the National Assembly authorizes the amendment to the Constitution of Canada by proclamation of His Excellency the Governor General under the Great Seal of Canada, in accordance with the following text:

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF CANADA
CONSTITUTION ACT, 1867

1. The Constitution Act, 1867, is amended by adding, immediately after section 93, the following:

"93A. Paragraphs (1) to (4) of section 93 do not apply to Québec."

2. This Amendment may be cited as the Constitution Amendment, year of proclamation, (Québec).

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. 123 in Appendix)

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

Mr. President informed the Assembly that the text of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Privy Council of Canada.

Motions Without Notice

Mrs. Harel, Minister of State for Employment and Solidarity, moved:

THAT, on the occasion of Volunteer Week, the National Assembly pay

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homage to all of the people who do volunteer work in numerous sectors of Québec's community life. There are over one million Québeckers of all ages who willingly give of their time and energy in order to provide support and comfort for their fellow citizens.

By leave of the Assembly under Standing Order 84, the motion was carried.
Mr. Williams (Nelligan) moved a motion concerning the tabling of the bill giving effect to the motion previously carried, which aims to establish linguistic school boards; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mr. Bélanger, Government House Leader, convened the following Committees:

- X the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, to continue its special consultations on the proposals for basic principles with respect to the management of odours, noise and dust in the agricultural sector;
- X the Committee on Culture, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 40, An Act to amend the Charter of the French language;
- X the Committee on Institutions, to continue its clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 89, An Act respecting the implementation of the Act respecting administrative justice.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Having Precedence

Debate on the Budget Speech

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The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been suspended at the sitting of 9 April 1997, on the motion by Mr. Landry, Minister of Finance, —That the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government, and on the want of confidence motions moved by Mr. Johnson, Leader of the Official Opposition, Mr. Bourbeau (Laporte), Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup) and Mrs. Delisle (Jean-Talon).
The debate on the Budget Speech was concluded.

Recorded divisions were demanded on the want of confidence motions and on the motion by Mr. Landry, Minister of Finance.

The first motion to be put was that moved by Mr. Johnson, Leader of the Official Opposition. This want of confidence motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly condemn the budget of the Parti Québécois Government for its lack of perspective and of measures to create employment for Quebecers, and for the constant pursuit of its option, namely the separation of Québec, which is detrimental to the economy of Québec.

The motion was negatived on the following vote:

(Division No. 124 in Appendix)

Yeas: **35** Nays: **60** Abstentions: **0**

The next motion to be put was that moved by Mr. Bourbeau (Laporte). This want of confidence motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly blame the Parti Québécois Government for its budget which only aims at augmenting the overall tax burden of Quebecers, more particularly by the 1 % increase in the QST and by the new dues passed on to the municipal taxpayers and to the Québec school boards.

The motion was negatived on the following vote:

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(Division No. 125 in Appendix)

Yeas: **35** Nays: **60** Abstentions: **0**

The next motion to be put was that moved by Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup). This want of confidence motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Parti Québécois Government for the new obligations it imposes on middle-class taxpayers and condemn its refusal to acknowledge the fact that the abusive tax burden on Quebeckers acts as a brake upon economic development.

The motion was negated on the following vote:

(Division No.126 in Appendix)

Yeas: **35** Nays: **60** Abstentions: **0**

The next motion to be put was that moved by Mrs. Delisle (Jean-Talon). This want of confidence motion reads as follows:

THAT the National Assembly blame the Parti Québécois Government for its budget which only aims at augmenting the overall tax burden of Quebeckers, more particularly by the 1 % increase in the QST, by the \$625 million debt passed on to the municipalities, and by its incapacity to introduce a reform of the local tax system.

The motion was negated on the following vote:

(Division No. 127 in Appendix)

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Yeas: **35** Nays: **60** Abstentions: **0**

—————

The question was then put on the motion moved by Mr. Landry, Minister of Finance, XThat the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

(Division No. 128 in Appendix)

Yeas: **60** Nays: **36** Abstentions: **0**

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Following a meeting with the House Leaders of the parliamentary groups, Mr. Brouillet, Vice-President, informed the Assembly that the consideration of the estimates shall begin on Wednesday, 16 April 1997, and shall continue until Wednesday, 30 April 1997, according to the schedule agreed to.

If necessary, Mr. President shall, at the request of a House Leader, reconvene the House Leaders to make additional arrangements.

On 30 April 1997, a sitting of the Committee of the Whole shall be set aside for the consideration of the Estimates of the National Assembly for a period not exceeding three hours.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 53 and 143, Mr. Bélanger, Government House Leader, then convened the following Committees for the consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure:

X the Committee on Labour and the Economy, for those of the Mineral Resources Management and Development Programme;

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- X the Committee on Institutions, for those of the Ministère de la Justice;
- X the Committee on Social Affairs, for those of the Community Action sector.

Government Bills

Passage in Principle

Mr. Landry, Minister of State for the Economy and Finance, informed the Assembly that Her Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor recommended to its consideration Bill 95, An Act to establish a fund to combat poverty through reintegration into the labour market, and then moved –That this Bill do now pass in principle.

After debate thereon, the motion was carried and Bill 95 was accordingly passed in principle.

On motion by Mr. Bélanger, Government House Leader, Bill 95 was referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Public Finance.

At 5.45 o'clock p.m., on motion by Mr. Bélanger, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned until Wednesday, 16 April 1997, at 2.00 o'clock p.m.

JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU

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President

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APPENDIX

Recorded Divisions

On the motion moved by Mr. Mulcair (Chomedey) to amend the motion by Mr. Brassard, Minister for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs:

(Division No. 122)

YEAS - 103

Barbeau	Brodeur	Harel	Middlemiss
Baril	Brouillet	Houda-Pepin	Morin
<i>(Arthabaska)</i>	Campeau	Johnson	<i>(Dubuc)</i>
Baril	Caron	Jolivet	Morin
<i>(Berthier)</i>	Carrier-Perreault	Julien	<i>(Nicolet-Yamaska)</i>
Beaudet	Chagnon	Jutras	Mulcair
Beaudoin	Chenail	Kelley	Ouimet
Beaulne	Cherry	Kieffer	Paquin
Beaumier	Cliche	Lachance	Paradis
Bégin	Copeman	Lafrenière	Paré
Bélanger	Cusano	Landry	Parent
<i>(Anjou)</i>	Delisle	<i>(Bonaventure)</i>	Payne
Benoit	Désilets	Landry	Pelletier
Bertrand	Deslières	<i>(Verchères)</i>	Perreault
<i>(Charlevoix)</i>	Dion	Laporte	Pinard
Bertrand	Dionne	Laprise	Poulin
<i>(Portneuf)</i>	Dumont	Laurin	Rioux
Bissonnet	Facal	Leduc	Rivard
Blackburn	Farrah	Léger	Robert
Blais	Filion	Léonard	Rochon
Boisclair	Fournier	Létourneau	Saint-André
Bordeleau	Gagnon	Loiselle	Simard
Bouchard	Garon	Maciocia	<i>(La Prairie)</i>
Boucher	Gaulin	MacMillan	Simard
Boulerice	Gautrin	Malavoy	<i>(Richelieu)</i>
Bourbeau	Gauvin	Marois	Sirros
Brassard	Gendron	Marsan	Trudel
Brien	Gobé	Ménard	Vallières

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Vermette
Williams

NAYS - 0

ABSTENTIONS - 0

On the motion by Mr. Brassard, Minister for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, as amended:

(Division No. 123)

(Identical to Division No. 122)

On the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Johnson, Leader of the Official Opposition:

(Division No. 124)

YEAS - 35

Benoit
Bergman
Bissonnet
Bordeleau
Bourbeau
Brodeur
Chagnon

Chenail
Copeman

Cusano
Delisle
Dumont
Farrah
Fournier
Gautrin
Gauvin

Gobé
Houda-Pepin

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Johnson	Mulcair
Kelley	Paradis
Lafrenière	Parent
Laporte	Poulin
Loiselle	Sirros
Maciocia	Vaive
MacMillan	Vallières
Marsan	Williams
Middlemiss	

NAYS - 60

Barbeau	Boucher	Jutras	Morin
Baril	Boulerice	Kieffer	(<i>Nicolet-Yamaska</i>)
(<i>Arthabaska</i>)	Brien	Lachance	Paquin
Baril	Campeau	Landry	Paré
(<i>Berthier</i>)	Caron	(<i>Bonaventure</i>)	Payne
Beaudoin	Carrier-Perreault	Landry	Pelletier
Beaulne	Cliche	(<i>Verchères</i>)	Perreault
Beaumier	Désilets	Laprise	Rioux
Bégin	Deslières	Laurin	Rivard
Bélanger	Dion	Leduc	Robert
(<i>Anjou</i>)	Facal	Léger	Rochon
Bertrand	Gagnon	Léonard	Saint-André
(<i>Charlevoix</i>)	Garon	Létourneau	Simard
Bertrand	Gaulin	Malavoy	(<i>La Prairie</i>)
(<i>Portneuf</i>)	Gendron	Marois	Trudel
Blackburn	Harel	Ménard	Vermette
Blais	Jolivet	Morin	
Bouchard	Julien	(<i>Dubuc</i>)	

ABSTENTIONS - 0

On the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Bourbeau (Laporte):

(Division No. 125)

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(Identical to Division No. 124)

On the want of confidence motion moved by Mr. Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup):

(Division No. 126)

(Identical to Division No. 124)

On the want of confidence motion moved by Mrs. Delisle (Jean-Talon):

(Division No. 127)

(Identical to Division No. 124)

On the motion moved by Mr. Landry, Minister of Finance, XThat the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government:

(Division No. 128)

YEAS - 60

Barbeau	Bégin	Blais	Boucher
Baril	Bélanger	Bouchard	Boulerice
<i>(Arthabaska)</i>	<i>(Anjou)</i>		Brien
Baril	Bertrand		Campeau
<i>(Berthier)</i>	<i>(Charlevoix)</i>		Caron
Beaudoin	Bertrand		Carrier-Perreault
Beaulne	<i>(Portneuf)</i>		Cliche
Beaumier	Blackburn		Désilets

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Deslières	Jutras	Morin
Dion	Kieffer	<i>(Nicolet-Yamaska)</i>
Facal	Lachance	Paquin
Gagnon	Landry	Paré
Garon	<i>(Bonaventure)</i>	Payne
Gaulin	Landry	Pelletier
Gendron	<i>(Verchères)</i>	Perreault
Harel	Laprise	Rioux
Jolivet	Laurin	Rivard
Julien	Leduc	Robert
	Léger	Rochon
	Léonard	Saint-André
	Létourneau	Simard
	Malavoy	<i>(La Prairie)</i>
	Marois	Trudel
	Ménard	Vermette
	Morin	
	<i>(Dubuc)</i>	

NAYS - 36

Beaudet	Copeman	Houda-Pepin	Middlemiss
Benoit	Cusano	Johnson	Mulcair
Bergman	Delisle	Kelley	Paradis
Bissonnet	Dumont	Lafrenière	Parent
Bordeleau	Farrah	Laporte	Poulin
Bourbeau	Fournier	Loiselle	Sirros
Brodeur	Gautrin	Maciocia	Vaive
Chagnon	Gauvin	MacMillan	Vallières
Chenail	Gobé	Marsan	Williams

ABSTENTIONS - 0