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# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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FIRST SESSION

FORTIETH LEGISLATURE

## **Votes and Proceedings**

**of the Assembly**

**Wednesday, 7 November 2012 — No. 5**

**President of the National Assembly:**  
**Mr. Jacques Chagnon**

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**QUÉBEC**



The Assembly was called to order at 9.46 o'clock a.m.

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## **ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

### **Statements by Members**

Mr. Lisée (Rosemont) made a statement to underline the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of Québec Days for International Solidarity.

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Mrs. Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Jean-Paul Gagné, editor of *Les Affaires* newspaper and recipient of an honorary doctorate from UQAM.

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Mrs. Beaudoin (Mirabel) made a statement to pay tribute to the Fondation Héritage Saint-Benoît de Mirabel.

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Mrs. Weil (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) made a statement to congratulate Abri en Ville organization.

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Mr. Schneeberger (Drummond-Bois-Francis) made a statement to congratulate Mrs. Francine Ruest-Jutras on her 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as mayor of Drummondville.

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Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) made a statement to congratulate Mrs. Chantale Paradis on being named "Agricultrice Coup de cœur de l'année" in Québec.

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Mrs. Vallières (Richmond) made a statement about the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Danville-Windsor Canadian Legion.

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Mr. Turcotte (Saint-Jean) made a statement to underline the involvement of Mr. Paul Laforest in Rencontre des Arts.

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Mr. Lessard (Lotbinière-Frontenac) made a statement to underline the citizen mobilization for the Highway 112 project.

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Mrs. Champagne (Champlain) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Yvon Carignan.

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At 9.59 o'clock a.m., Mrs. Poirier, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

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The proceedings resumed at 10.10 o'clock a.m.

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Moment of reflection

### **Introduction of Bills**

Mr. Drainville, Minister responsible for Democratic Institutions and Active Citizenship, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

3        An Act to amend the Election Act for the purpose of establishing  
         fixed-date elections

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 3 was introduced in the Assembly.

### **Presenting Papers**

Mr. Hébert, Minister of Health and Social Services, tabled the following:

The 2011-2012 annual management report of the Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux (INESSS).

(Sessional Paper No. 41-20121107)

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Mr. President tabled the following:

A letter, dated 17 October 2012, he had received from Mr. Jacques Drouin, Chief Electoral Officer of Québec, concerning the extension until 2014 of the Strategic Plan of the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec, in effect since 2009;

(Sessional Paper No. 42-20121107)

The report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec on the implementation of section 90.5 of the *Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities*, within the framework of the municipal election held in the municipality of Notre-Dame-du-Laus, on 26 August 2012;

(Sessional Paper No. 43-20121107)

Two letters, dated 5 and 12 September 2012, the first he had received from Mr. Patrick Dupriez, President of the Walloon Parliament, concerning the tragic events that took place on election day last 4 September, and the second, in reply to this letter;

(Sessional Paper No. 44-20121107)

A letter, dated 20 September 2012, he had received from Mrs. Christiane Cantin, Commission de la fonction publique commissioner, informing him of her resignation as a commissioner of the Commission de la fonction publique, beginning on 13 February 2013;

(Sessional Paper No. 45-20121107)

A letter, dated 13 June 2012, he had received from Mr. Rob Nicholson, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, in reply to the motion carried by the Assembly on 26 April 2012 regarding abortion;

(Sessional Paper No. 46-20121107)

A letter, dated 18 July 2012, he had received from Mr. Keith Ashfield, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, in reply to the motion carried by the Assembly on 16 May 2012 regarding the maintaining of owner-operator and fleet separation policies;

(Sessional Paper No. 47-20121107)

A letter, dated 21 August 2012, he had received from Mr. Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence, in reply to the motion carried by the Assembly on 14 June 2012 regarding the cadet summer training centre located in Sainte-Angèle-de-Laval;

(Sessional Paper No. 48-20121107)

The following Decisions from the Office of the National Assembly, dated 14 June 2012:

Decision 1657 concerning the Regulation to amend the Regulation respecting parliamentary documents;

(Sessional Paper No. 49-20121107)

Decision 1658 concerning the Regulation to amend the Regulation on the remuneration and conditions of employment of a Member's staff and the Regulation respecting allowances to Members and parliamentary office holders and respecting the amounts granted for research and support;

(Sessional Paper No. 50-20121107)

Decision 1660 concerning the Regulation respecting the granting of supplementary remuneration to the assistant director acting as immediate supervisor of the security guards and special constables of the Security Directorate.

(Sessional Paper No. 51-20121107)

### **Presenting Reports from Committees**

Mr. President tabled the following:

The report from the Committee on the National Assembly, which met on 6 November 2012 to propose temporary amendments to the Standing Orders and to the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings in the National Assembly, as well as to establish the membership of the standing committees, and to adopt the list of temporary chairmen, pursuant to Standing Orders 127 and 139.

(Sessional Paper No. 52-20121107)

Mrs. Poirier, First Vice-President, moved:

THAT the report of the Committee on the National Assembly be concurred in;

THAT the amendments to the Standing Orders and to the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings in the National Assembly proposed therein be in force for the duration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Legislature, notwithstanding the prorogation of the session;

THAT the amendments contained therein be recorded in full in the Votes and Proceedings of this sitting.

STANDING ORDERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**36.1 Want of quorum** - A Member belonging to a parliamentary group may call attention to the want of a quorum only if no fewer than six Members from that group are then present.

When a committee is meeting, this number shall be reduced to three.

SECTION 1.1  
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

**117.1. Members** — The Committee on Public Administration shall consist of:

- (1) nine permanent members, who shall be apportioned as follows:
  - (a) four Members from the parliamentary group forming the Government;
  - (b) four Members from the Official Opposition; and
  - (c) one Member from the Second Group in Opposition; and
- (2) nine temporary members, who shall be apportioned as follows:
  - (a) four Members from the parliamentary group forming the Government;
  - (b) four Members from the Official Opposition; and
  - (c) one Member from the Second Group in Opposition.

**117.4. Participation of independent Members** - Any independent Member may take part in the proceedings of this committee; but he may not vote or move any motion.



**117.5. Chairman and vice-chairmen** - The committee shall, at the opening of the first session of every Legislature and, as the necessity may arise, during the course of a Legislature, elect one of its permanent members to be chairman and two others to be vice-chairmen; and they shall hold office for two years:

Provided that the chairman shall be chosen among the Members from the Official Opposition, one vice-chairman, among those from the parliamentary group forming the Government and the other vice-chairman, among those from the Second Group in Opposition.

### SECTION 3 MEMBERSHIP

**121. Members** - Every committee shall consist of nine Members, who shall be appointed for two years and shall be apportioned as follows:

- (1) four Members from the parliamentary group forming the Government;
- (2) four Members from the Official Opposition; and
- (3) one Member from the Second Group in Opposition.

**122. Additional members** - Notwithstanding Standing Order 121, any independent Member may be appointed to serve as a member of a committee; and such committee shall accordingly consist of eleven Members, who shall be apportioned as follows:

- (1) five Members from the parliamentary group forming the Government;
- (2) four Members from the Official Opposition;
- (3) one Member from the Second Group in Opposition; and
- (4) one independent Member.

**126. Allocation of chairmanships** - Five committees shall be chaired by Members from the parliamentary group forming the Government, three by Members from the Official Opposition and one by a Member from the Second Group in Opposition.

**128. Allocation of chairmanships failing consensus** – Failing consensus on the manner in which the chairmanships of the several committees are to be allocated, the parliamentary groups shall select the committees they wish to be chaired by one of their own Members in the following sequence:

First choice: group forming the Government;

Second choice: group forming the Government;

Third choice: Official Opposition;

Fourth choice: group forming the Government;

Fifth choice: Official Opposition;

Sixth choice: group forming the Government;

Seventh choice: Second Group in Opposition;

Eighth choice: group forming the Government;

Ninth choice: Official Opposition.

#### SECTION 4 CHAIRMEN, VICE-CHAIRMEN, AND CLERKS

**135. How elected** - The chairmen and vice-chairmen of the committees shall be elected by a majority of the members thereof from each parliamentary group.

**137. Election of vice-chairmen** - The chairman of each committee shall preside at the election of the vice-chairman or vice-chairmen of the committee.

The members of a committee who belong to the same parliamentary group as its chairman shall not be eligible for the office of vice-chairman.

**140. Vacancies** - Whenever the office of chairman of any committee becomes vacant, a vice-chairman of that committee shall take the Chair, and he shall perform the duties of the chairman and exercise his authority. The committee shall, within thirty days, elect a new chairman.

**141. Absence or inability to act** - In the unavoidable absence of the chairman of any committee or whenever asked by him to do so, a vice-chairman of that committee shall take the Chair, and he shall perform the duties of the chairman and exercise his authority.

Whenever the chairman and the vice-chairman, or both vice-chairmen, as the case may be, are absent or unable to act, the clerk shall so inform the committee, which shall take the appropriate measures.  
(See R.C.P. 6)

#### RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**4. Steering committees** - A committee shall, at the request of its chairman, establish a steering committee consisting of the chairman, the vice-chairman or vice-chairmen and the clerk.

The steering committee shall prepare and submit to the standing committee a plan of the latter's proceedings. The steering committee shall also, between meetings of the standing committee, take any decisions it may deem necessary.

**6. Unavoidable absence of chairman and vice-chairman or vice-chairmen** - Whenever the chairman and the vice-chairman, or both vice-chairmen, as the case may be, are absent or unable to act, the Chair of the committee may be taken by some other member thereof.  
(See S.O. 141).

The motion was carried.

### **Presenting Petitions**

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 63, Mr. Khadir (Mercier) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the purchasing power of public and parapublic sector retirees, and signed by 3616 citizens of Québec.  
(Sessional Paper No. 53-20121107)

### **Oral Questions and Answers**

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

At the request of Mr. President, Mr. Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion) withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 53 and 59, Mr. Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion) tabled the following:

Copy of a letter accompanied by two tables, dated 5 October 2012, addressed to Mr. Claude Lessard, president of the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation, from Mr. Pierre Duchesne, Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology, concerning the tuition fees of university students.  
(Sessional Paper No. 54-20121107)

### **Motions Without Notice**

Mr. Bonnardel (Granby), together with Mrs. St-Amand (Trois-Rivières), moved a motion concerning Gentilly-2 nuclear power station; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

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Mr. Cloutier (Lac-Saint-Jean), together with Mr. Khadir (Mercier), moved a motion concerning the office of lieutenant-governor; 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 (Saint-Henri-Sainte-Anne), together with Mr. Hébert, Minister of Health and Social Services and Minister responsible for Seniors, Mrs. Daneault (Groulx) and Mrs. David (Gouin), moved:

THAT the National Assembly of Québec recall that since 2007, the first week of November is dedicated to caregivers;

THAT it recognize the prominent and crucial role played by caregivers in our society; and

That it take this opportunity to express all of its consideration and gratitude to these women and men who show their solidarity to family and friends in this outstanding way.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

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Mr. Khadir (Mercier) moved a motion concerning the war on poverty; 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. Marois, Premier, together with Mr. Fournier, Leader of the Official Opposition, Mr. Legault, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, and Mrs. David (Gouin), moved:

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THAT the National Assembly congratulate President Barack Obama on his re-election and reiterate its friendship towards the American people.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 84.1 and pursuant to Standing Order 146, Mr. St-Arnaud, Deputy Government House Leader, moved:

THAT the Committee on Public Finance, within the framework of the consideration of Bill 1, Integrity in Public Contracts Act, hold special consultations and public hearings on 12, 13, 14 and 15 November 2012, and that, for this purpose, it hear the following groups:

Ville de Québec  
Association de la construction du Québec  
Association des constructeurs de routes et grands travaux du Québec  
Association des entrepreneurs en construction du Québec  
Association provinciale des constructeurs d'habitations du Québec  
Corporation des maîtres mécaniciens en tuyauterie du Québec  
Corporation des maîtres électriciens du Québec  
Fédération québécoise des municipalités  
Union des municipalités du Québec  
Unité permanente anticorruption (UPAC)  
Régie du bâtiment du Québec  
Commission de la construction du Québec  
Autorité des marchés financiers  
Agence du revenu du Québec  
Corporation des entrepreneurs généraux en construction  
Association professionnelle des ingénieurs du gouvernement du Québec

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Syndicat de professionnelles et professionnels du  
gouvernement du Québec  
Association des ingénieurs-conseils du Québec  
Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec  
Centrale des syndicats nationaux  
Barreau du Québec  
Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec  
Fédération des chambres de commerce du Québec  
Michel Dion, professor  
M<sup>c</sup> Gilles Thibault

A period of 12 minutes shall be allotted for the opening statements;

The party forming the Government and the party forming the Official Opposition shall each be allotted 5 minutes for the opening statements, and the Second Opposition Group shall be allotted 2 minutes;

The presentation by each group shall last no more than 10 minutes and the exchange with the members of the Committee shall last no more than 50 minutes;

The party forming the Government and the party forming the Official Opposition shall each be allotted 22 minutes; and the Second Opposition Group shall be allotted 6 minutes;

A period of 12 minutes shall be allotted for the closing statements, which time shall be shared in the same manner as that prescribed for the opening statements.

The Minister responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor shall be a member of the said Committee during its proceedings with respect to this order of reference.

The motion was carried.

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**Notices of Proceedings in Committees**

Mrs. Poirier, First Vice-President, gave the following notice:

- the Standing Committees shall meet for the purpose of electing the chairmen and vice-chairmen of each committee.

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**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**Business Having Precedence**

*Opening Speech Debate of the Session*

The Assembly resumed the debate, which had been adjourned on 6 November 2012, on the Opening Speech of the Session and on the motion by Mrs. Marois, Premier, —That this Assembly approves the general policy of the Government, as well as on the motions stating a grievance by Mr. Fournier, Leader of the Official Opposition, Mr. Deltell, Second Opposition Group House Leader, Mr. Bonnardel (Granby) and Mrs. Roy (Montarville), subject to the receivability of these motions.

At the request of Mrs. Poirier, First Vice-President, Mrs. St-Amand (Trois-Rivières) withdrew certain words deemed unparliamentary.

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At 1.00 o'clock p.m., Mrs. Poirier, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 3.00 o'clock p.m.



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The proceedings resumed at 3.00 o'clock p.m.

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*Opening Speech Debate of the Session*

The Assembly continued the debate on the Opening Speech of the Session and on the motion by Mrs. Marois, Premier, –That this Assembly approves the general policy of the Government, as well as on the motions stating a grievance by Mr. Fournier, Leader of the Official Opposition, Mr. Deltell, Second Opposition Group House Leader, Mr. Bonnardel (Granby) and Mrs. Roy (Montarville), subject to the receivability of these motions.

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At 5.58 o'clock p.m., Mr. Cousineau, Second Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Thursday, 8 November 2012, at 9.45 o'clock a.m.

**JACQUES CHAGNON**

*President*