



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Thursday, 22 May 2014 — No. 3

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

QUÉBEC

The Assembly was called to order at 9.45 o'clock a.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Members

Mrs. Blais (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne) made a statement about the 2014 Walk for Memories.

Mrs. Poirier (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) made a statement to underline the 30th anniversary of Chic Resto Pop.

Mrs. Charbonneau (Mille-Îles) made a statement about Québec Family Week.

Mr. Charette (Deux-Montagnes) made a statement to congratulate Mr. André Paquette for his 45-year volunteer commitment.

Mr. Barrette (La Pinière) made a statement about Medical Resident Day.

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Mrs. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) made a statement about homophobia, lesbophobia and transphobia.

Mr. Ouellette (Chomedey) made a statement about Police Week.

Mr. Picard (Chutes-de-la-Chaudière) made a statement about the MS Walk.

Mr. Rousselle (Vimont) made a statement to underline the 50th anniversary of the Kidney Foundation of Canada.

Mr. Bergeron (Verchères) made a statement to underline the 40th anniversary of the Club Optimiste de Varennes.

At 9.56 o'clock a.m., Mr. Ouimet, First Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 10.11 o'clock a.m.

Moment of reflection

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Introduction of Bills

Mr. Moreau, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Land Occupancy, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

1 An Act respecting the inspector general of Ville de Montréal

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 1 was introduced in the Assembly.

Mrs. Charbonneau, Minister of Families, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

2 An Act to amend the Educational Childcare Act

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 2 was introduced in the Assembly.

Presenting Papers

Mr. Leitão, Minister of Finance, tabled the following:

The report from the Comptroller of Finance on the special warrant adopted on 26 March 2014, in accordance with the *Financial Administration Act*;
(Sessional Paper No. 17-20140522)

The 2013 annual report and supplementary information of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec.
(Sessional Paper No. 18-20140522)

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Mr. Arcand, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, tabled the following:

The 2013 annual report of Hydro-Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 19-20140522)

Mr. President tabled the following:

The 2014-2015 budgetary forecasts and the 2013-2014 preliminary financial report, from the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec;

(Sessional Paper No. 20-20140522)

The 2014-2015 budgetary forecasts and the 2013-2014 preliminary financial report, from the Commission de la représentation électorale du Québec;

(Sessional Paper No. 21-20140522)

A letter, dated 23 April 2014, he had received from Mr. Jacques Drouin, Chief Electoral Officer of Québec, concerning his resignation, effective on 11 July 2014;

(Sessional Paper No. 22-20140522)

A letter, dated 28 March 2014, he had received from Mr. Alain Morissette, administrative law judge at the Commission d'accès à l'information du Québec, concerning his resignation on 11 April 2014;

(Sessional Paper No. 23-20140522)

A letter, dated 11 April 2014, he had received from M^c Denise Cardinal, member of the Commission de la fonction publique, informing him of her decision to step down from her duties at the end of her five-year term of office, on 19 July 2014;

(Sessional Paper No. 24-20140522)

A letter, dated 25 February 2014, he had received from Mr. Sylvain Simard, chairman of the board of directors of the Société des alcools du Québec, in reply to a motion carried by the National Assembly on 26 November 2013 concerning discounts given to employees and retirees of the Société des alcools du Québec and the tax treatment they enjoy;

(Sessional Paper No. 25-20140522)

The list of papers required by law to be tabled in the Assembly;

(Sessional Paper No. 26-20140522)

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The sessional calendar of the National Assembly for 2013-2014;
(Sessional Paper No. 27-20140522)

The new seating plan of the National Assembly, dated 22 May 2014.
(Sessional Paper No. 28-20140522)

Presenting Petitions

Mrs. David (Gouin) tabled the following:

The abstract of a petition respecting the Mental Health Action Plan, and signed by 1895 citizens of Québec.

(Sessional Paper No. 29-20140522)

Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly, Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT, notwithstanding the dissolution of the Assembly proclaimed on 5 March 2014, the Assembly accept to reintroduce Bill 52, An Act respecting end-of-life care, introduced during the first session of the 40th legislature, and that it pass this bill in principle;

THAT this bill be deemed to have been referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Health and Social Services;

THAT the report from this Committee having given clause-by-clause consideration to this bill on 21, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29 November, on 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 December 2013, as well as on 15 and 16 January 2014, be deemed to have been tabled;

THAT the amendments in appendix to this motion be considered to have been adopted and integrated into the report and that this amended report be deemed to have been concurred in, as amended;

THAT the Member for Joliette and the Minister of Health and Social Services be considered co-sponsors of the bill and that, for this purpose, they enjoy all the rights to which they are entitled under the Standing Orders;

THAT the Assembly may complete the consideration of this bill by adopting it during this sessional period, notwithstanding Standing Order 22;

THAT during this debate, the Members having already spoken at this stage of the consideration of the bill during the 40th legislature may speak again, notwithstanding Standing Order 209;

THAT this motion become an order of the Assembly.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 52 was again brought before the Assembly, introduced jointly by the Member for Joliette and the Minister of Health and Social Services, and passed in principle. The bill was referred for clause-by-clause consideration to the Committee on Health and Social Services. The report from the Committee on Health and Social Services having examined the bill clause-by-clause was tabled. The amendments to the report were adopted and the report, as amended, was concurred in.

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By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mrs. St-Pierre, Minister of International Relations and the Francophonie, together with Mrs. Poirier (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve), Mrs. Roy (Arthabaska) and Mrs. David (Gouin), moved:

THAT the National Assembly mark the 99th anniversary commemorating the Armenian Genocide;

THAT it pay tribute to the millions of victims who were savagely murdered during this dark period in the history of the 20th century.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

At the invitation of Mr. Ouimet, First Vice-President, the Assembly observed a minute of silence.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Bédard, Leader of the Official Opposition, together with Mr. Paradis, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mr. Charette (Deux-Montagnes) and Mr. Khadir (Mercier), moved:

THAT the National Assembly pay tribute to Robert Burns, strong advocate for workers, politician and retired judge who passed away last 15 May;

THAT it underline his steadfast commitment to the rights of workers;

THAT it underline his attachment to democracy and the improvement of political practices in Québec;

THAT it recognize the importance of the *Act to govern the financing of political parties*, passed in 1977 by the government of René Lévesque, thanks to the work of Robert Burns, then Minister of State for Electoral and Parliamentary Reform;

THAT it offer its sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Burns.

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By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

At the invitation of Mr. Ouimet, First Vice-President, the Assembly observed a minute of silence.

Mr. Deltell (Chauveau) moved a motion concerning the position of Mr. Couillard, then Leader of the Official Opposition, on limiting rising electricity prices to inflation; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mrs. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques), together with Mr. Moreau, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Land Occupancy, Mr. Lelièvre (Gaspé) and Mr. Spénard (Beauce-Nord), moved:

THAT, on the occasion of the annual conference of the Union des municipalités du Québec (UMQ), the National Assembly recognize the essential role played by municipalities in Québec;

THAT, in this regard, and based on the four major principles enumerated in the White Paper of the Union des municipalités du Québec, namely subsidiarity, democracy, flexibility and efficiency, the Government undertake a modernization of the legislative framework of municipalities and a tax and financial reform to give them the means to carry out their mission, which is to ensure social well-being and peaceful coexistence.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

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Pursuant to Standing Order 20, Mr. Fournier, Government House Leader, moved:

THAT the Assembly meet next Monday, 26 May 2014,
at 1.45 o'clock p.m.

The motion was carried.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr. Ouimet, First Vice-President, informed the Assembly that on Friday, 30 May 2014, Mrs. Lamarre (Taillon) would question Mr. Barrette, Minister of Health and Social Services, during an interpellation on "the wage agreement reached in 2011 between the current Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports and the current Minister of Health and Social Services, concerning the remuneration of medical specialists and its impacts on Québec's fiscal situation".

Mr. President heard comments from the House leaders of the three parliamentary groups and the Member for Mercier regarding the management of question period and the distribution of measures and speaking times for the 41st Legislature.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 53 and 59, Mrs. Maltais, Official Opposition House Leader, tabled the following:

A table entitled "Ordre des questions".

(Sessional Paper No. 30-20140522)

Mr. President took the matter under advisement.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

Business Having Precedence

Opening Speech Debate of the Session

Mr. Bédard, Leader of the Official Opposition, opened the debate on the Opening Speech of the Session and on the motion moved by Mr. Couillard, Premier, –That this Assembly approves the general policy of the Government, at the sitting of Wednesday, 21 May 2014.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 20, the proceedings continued beyond 1.00 o'clock p.m.

At the end of his speech, Mr. Bédard, Leader of the Official Opposition, moved the following motion stating a grievance:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Liberal Government for having deliberately chosen to create a climate of austerity that is detrimental to Québec's economy and for having failed to reassure middle-class families and the most vulnerable in our society.

The debate continued on the Opening Speech of the Session, on the motion by Mr. Couillard, Premier, and on the motion stating a grievance by Mr. Bédard, Leader of the Official Opposition, subject to the receivability of this motion.

At 1.46 o'clock p.m., Mrs. Gaudreault, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 3.00 o'clock p.m.

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The proceedings resumed at 3.10 o'clock p.m.

Opening Speech Debate of the Session

The Assembly continued the debate on the Opening Speech of the Session and on the motion by Mr. Couillard, Premier, –That this Assembly approves the general policy of the Government, as well as on the motion stating a grievance moved by Mr. Bédard, Leader of the Official Opposition, subject to the receivability of this motion.

Following a meeting with the House leaders, Mrs. Gaudreault, Second Vice-President, informed the Assembly of the allocation of speaking time with respect to this debate: 60 minutes shall be allotted to the Government representative for his reply; 11 hours 40 minutes shall be allotted to the parliamentary group forming the Government, including the Premier's speech; 6 hours 43 minutes 51 seconds shall be allotted to the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition, including its Leader's speech; 4 hours 56 minutes 9 seconds shall be allotted to the Second Opposition Group, including its Leader's speech; 40 minutes shall be allotted to the independent Members. Within this framework, any time not used by the independent Members or the Members from one of the parliamentary groups shall be redistributed between the parliamentary groups according to the same proportions. Lastly, individual speeches will not otherwise be limited.

The debate continued.

Debates Upon Adjournment

At 6.00 o'clock p.m., the Assembly held two debates upon adjournment:

- the first, on a question by Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière) to Mr. Heurtel, Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change, about the Liberal Government's policy directions as regards TransCanada's work in Cacouna within the framework of the Energy East Pipeline project;

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- the second, on a question by Mr. Bergeron (Verchères) to Mr. Barrette, Minister of Health and Social Services, about the CUSM scandal.

At 6.23 o'clock p.m., Mrs. Gaudreault, Second Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Monday, 26 May 2014, at 1.45 o'clock p.m.

JACQUES CHAGNON

President