



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

Votes and Proceedings

of the Assembly

Monday, 26 May 2014 — No. 4

President of the National Assembly:
Mr. Jacques Chagnon

QUÉBEC

The Assembly was called to order at 1.46 o'clock p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Statements by Members

Mrs. de Santis (Bourassa-Sauvé) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Daniel Malo of Un itinéraire pour tous.

Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) made a statement to underline the retirement of Mr. Émery Béland.

Mrs. Vallières (Richmond) made a statement to underline the 40th anniversary of Les Timoniers de Valcourt cadet corps.

Mr. Deltell (Chauveau) made a statement to congratulate the Chevaliers de Colomb de Loretteville.

Mr. Iracà (Papineau) made a statement to pay tribute to Mr. Michel Roy.

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Mrs. Zakaïb (Richelieu) made a statement to congratulate Laiterie Chalifoux, the Gold category grand prize winner of the 8th edition of Les médaillés de la relève contest.

Mr. Simard (Dubuc) made a statement to congratulate the winners of the Grands Prix du tourisme québécois of the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean region.

Mrs. David (Outremont) made a statement to pay tribute to Mrs. Liliane M. Stuart.

Mrs. Charbonneau (Mille-Îles) made a statement to underline the 27th Friendship is Ageless Week.

Mr. Lisée (Rosemont) made a statement to underline the 20th anniversary of L'Itinéraire.

At 1.59 o'clock p.m., Mrs. Gaudreault, Second Vice-President, suspended the proceedings for a few minutes.

The proceedings resumed at 2.09 o'clock p.m.

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Moment of reflection

Introduction of Bills

Mr. Coiteux, Minister responsible for Government Administration and Ongoing Program Review and Chair of the Conseil du trésor, moved that leave be granted to introduce the following Bill:

- 4 An Act to amend the Act authorizing the making of collective agreements with a term of more than three years in the public and parapublic sectors

The motion was carried.

Accordingly, Bill 4 was introduced in the Assembly.

Presenting Papers

Mr. President tabled the following:

The three bills passed by the members of the 18th Legislature of the Pupils' Parliament on 2 May 2014;

(Sessional Paper No. 31-20140526)

The new seating plan of the National Assembly, dated 26 May 2014.

(Sessional Paper No. 32-20140526)

Mr. President gave a directive on the management of question period and the distribution of measures and speaking times for the Forty-First Legislature.

DIRECTIVE FROM THE CHAIR

As regards business standing in the name of Members in opposition and interpellations, the Official Opposition will have six of these measures per cycle of 10, including the first of each sessional period. The Members of the Second Opposition Group will be allowed four of these measures per cycle of 10. For their part, the Members of Québec Solidaire together will be allowed one item of business standing in the name of Members in opposition and one interpellation per parliamentary year, but never during the same sessional period. As was the case previously, these measures allotted to the Members of Québec Solidaire will not count as part of the cycles.

With regard to debates upon adjournment, the Official Opposition will be allowed two debates per sitting during which such debates may be requested, and the Second Opposition Group will be allowed one debate. The Members of Québec Solidaire will each be allowed to request a debate upon adjournment per sessional period. Government Members may request a debate upon adjournment per six sittings during which such debates may be held. These rights will be distributed in this manner only to the extent that the Chair receives several requests and it must determine the order thereof.

Unlike the previous measures, statements by Members are not Government control measures. Instead, they allow all Members to express their views on issues that are of importance to them and that, in most cases, directly concern their fellow citizens. Hence, in the absence of any agreement to the contrary, the distribution of statements by Members must take into account some degree of proportionality to allow everyone, including Ministers who are Members first and foremost, to equitably exercise their rights. Consequently, the parliamentary group forming the Government, that forming the Official Opposition, and the Second Opposition Group will respectively be entitled to five, three and two statements per sitting, subject to the following rules. To reflect proportionality, the parliamentary group forming the Government will also be allowed four additional statements per cycle of nine sittings, in substitution for two statements by the Official Opposition and two statements by the Second Opposition Group. The Members of Québec Solidaire, for their part, will each be allowed one statement per cycle of nine sittings in substitution for a statement by the Official Opposition.

Regarding speaking times for limited debates, the total time allotted to the Members of Québec Solidaire will vary depending on the length of the debate. These Members may decide on the manner in which this time will be used. Half of the remaining time will be granted to the parliamentary group forming the Government and the other half will be distributed among the parliamentary groups in opposition in proportion to the number of seats they hold in the House. Any time that has not been used will be transferred to the parliamentary groups according to the same distribution.

Concerning the management of question period, parliamentary jurisprudence has also, over the years, adopted major principles that must be observed. These principles indicate that it is important to take into account the composition of the Assembly so that each group and each Member may take part in this important exercise of parliamentary control. Each parliamentary group in opposition will be entitled alternately to a set of three consecutive questions, while giving the Official Opposition priority with regard to the possibility of exercising this right, owing to the preponderant status conferred upon it. These sets of three consecutive questions for the parliamentary groups will foster better parliamentary control, by allowing them to enjoy a significant amount of time during question period. This is how it will actually play out.

The preponderant role that the Official Opposition has traditionally enjoyed confers upon it the right to ask the first two main questions at every sitting. The Official Opposition will also be allowed to ask the third main question during the first, third, fifth and seventh sittings of a cycle, thus giving it a set of three consecutive questions during four sittings per cycle. The first question by the Leader of the Official Opposition, regardless of rank, may be followed by three supplementary questions. All other main questions may be followed by only two supplementary questions. Furthermore, the Leader of the Official Opposition will be entitled to 1 minute 30 seconds to ask his main questions.

The Second Opposition Group will be allowed three sets of three consecutive questions during a cycle, namely the third, fourth and fifth questions. This set of three consecutive questions may be exercised during the second, fourth and sixth sittings of the cycle. Moreover, just as for the Leader of the Official Opposition, the Leader of the Second Opposition Group will also be entitled to 1 minute 30 seconds to ask his main questions.

The sixth and seventh questions will be granted to the Official Opposition, subject to three questions per cycle that may be asked by the Members of Québec Solidaire in seventh place, at any sitting of a cycle. Though the Members of Québec Solidaire do not form a parliamentary group under our Standing Orders, the Chair cannot ignore the fact that all three Members represent the same political party. As in the past, the Chair cannot deny this political affiliation and will therefore allow these Members to transfer their right to ask a question among themselves. This will also be the case with regard to all other measures conferred upon the Members of Québec Solidaire.

The eighth question will be granted to the Second Opposition Group while the ninth will be granted to the Official Opposition. Beginning at the tenth question, the Members of the Official Opposition and those of the Second Opposition Group will alternate at each sitting, as indicated in the document tabled.

As regards the Government Members, parliamentary jurisprudence also clearly confers upon them the right to ask questions. They will therefore be allowed to ask three questions per cycle of seven sittings in sixth and eighth places, in substitution alternately for a question by the Official Opposition or by the Second Opposition Group.

Lastly, the main questions that will not be asked by the leader of a parliamentary group will last no longer than 1 minute, and the supplementary questions, 30 seconds. The Premier's replies to the main questions will last 1 minute 45 seconds. The other ministers' replies to the main questions will last no longer than 1 minute 15 seconds, and replies to supplementary questions will last 45 seconds.

Tables indicating the distribution of measures and speaking times will be tabled. This distribution is deemed to be part of this directive.

As for the membership of the standing committees, the Chair asks that discussions continue with regard to the forming of these committees and that the Assembly's composition be taken into account.

Mr. President then tabled the following:

The tables indicating the distribution of control measures and speaking times for question period, business standing in the name of Members in opposition and interpellations, statements by Members, debates upon adjournment and speaking times for limited debates.

(Sessional Paper No. 33-20140526)

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Oral Questions and Answers

The Assembly proceeded to Oral Question Period.

Motions Without Notice

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Order 185, Mr. Couillard, Premier, together with Mr. Lisée (Rosemont), Mr. Legault, Leader of the Second Opposition Group, and Mrs. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques), moved:

THAT, on the occasion of the passing of Marcel Côté, the National Assembly of Québec underline the outstanding contribution of this great builder to the economic, cultural, political and community development and outreach of Montréal and offer its condolences to his wife, Louise Drouin, and to his family and friends.

By leave of the Assembly, a debate arose thereon.

The debate being concluded, the motion was carried.

At the invitation of Mrs. Gaudreault, Second Vice-President, the Assembly observed a minute of silence.

Mr. Gaudreault (Jonquière) moved a motion concerning Bill 37 introduced during the 40th Legislature, An Act to prohibit certain shale natural gas exploration and production activities; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

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Mr. Roberge (Chambly) moved a motion concerning the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport exams; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

Mrs. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques), together with Mr. Lisée (Rosemont), moved a motion concerning the fight against social exclusion and homelessness; this motion could not be debated for want of unanimous consent.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 84.1 and 185, Mrs. Vallée, Minister of Justice, together with Mr. Cloutier (Lac-Saint-Jean), Mrs. Roy (Montarville) and Mrs. Massé (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques), moved:

THAT the National Assembly underline the International Day Against Homophobia, held last 17 May, and that it recall the importance of continuing to fight against discrimination and intimidation based on sexual orientation.

By leave of the Assembly, the motion was carried.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

Mrs. Gaudreault, Second Vice-President, gave the following notice:

- the Committee on the National Assembly shall hold a meeting to establish the membership of the standing committees and to adopt the list of temporary chairmen.

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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 22 May 2014, 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.

By leave of the Assembly to set aside Standing Orders 53 and 59, Mr. Picard (Chutes-de-la-Chaudière) tabled the following:

Copy of an advertisement published in *Le journal de Lévis* newspaper, dated 26 March 2014, page 26, entitled "Ensemble on s'occupe des vraies affaires".
(Sessional Paper No. 34-20140526)

The debate continued.

At 5.59 o'clock p.m., Mr. Gendron, Third Vice-President, suspended the proceedings until 7.30 o'clock p.m.

The proceedings resumed at 7.30 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 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.

At the end of his speech, Mr. Traversy (Terrebonne) moved the following motion stating a grievance:

THAT the National Assembly severely blame the Liberal Government for potential disorganization within the network of childcare centres and for the ongoing uncertainty affecting all Québec families.

The debate continued on the Opening Speech of the Session, on the motion by Mr. Couillard, Premier, and on the motions stating a grievance by Mr. Bédard, Leader of the Official Opposition, and Mr. Traversy (Terrebonne), subject to the receivability of these motions.

The debate was adjourned in the name of Mr. Iracà (Papineau).

At 9.30 o'clock p.m., Mrs. Gaudreault, Second Vice-President, adjourned the Assembly until Tuesday, 27 May 2014, at 1.45 o'clock p.m.

JACQUES CHAGNON

President