2016 2017 ACTIVITY REPORT

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

2016
2017 ACTIVITY REPORT

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am proud to present the National Assembly's *2016–2017 Activity Report*, an overview of the year April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2017, and a testament to the institution's many achievements. This detailed account of our activities is filled with information to help citizens better understand the Assembly and the vital role it plays in Québec society.

The administration's values and objectives

The cradle of democratic life in Québec, the National Assembly is founded on the values of neutrality, openness, sustainable development, modernity and respect for heritage. It is also dedicated to delivering quality services to help Members perform their duties, improving accessibility and creating a workplace that fosters personal and professional development. The activities, events and information presented in this document support these objectives.

This year's theme: continuity

The National Assembly is where important debates are held and decisions made about policies and priorities that have direct repercussions on the day-to-day lives of all Quebecers. Every year, parliamentary proceedings result in the adoption of new pieces of legislation. But the National Assembly is also an open space where young people are invited to participate in model parliaments and citizens' groups can voice their opinion on issues in parliamentary committee, as well as a meeting place for other parliamentary organizations dedicated to protecting democracy, francophone identity and justice, as we do.

A National Assembly for the 21st century

The reception pavilion construction project continues on schedule and within budget. This ambitious project will strengthen parliamentary security and improve visitor access. Exterior form and concrete work will continue through fall 2017, at which point interior work will begin and last until the pavilion opens its doors in early 2019.

After all we have accomplished this year, I am enthusiastic about what the future holds. I would like to close by thanking the men and women who help make our organization run smoothly year after year. Speaking personally and on behalf of all Members, I hope this activity report gives readers a glimpse into the dynamic inner workings of the National Assembly.

Jacques Chagnon

President of the National Assembly of Québec

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

I am proud to join with the President in presenting this 18th activity report of the National Assembly. This document provides a comprehensive record of the Assembly's parliamentary proceedings and key achievements over the last fiscal year. As in years past, the Assembly has benefitted from the commitment and dedication of its highly qualified staff—individuals who work diligently to help Members perform their duties and continuously improve on the services we offer to Quebecers and outside visitors. I see the quality of the work of the Assembly staff every day firsthand and I extend my sincerest thanks.

It is because of them that the National Assembly administration can offer such a diverse range of services to parliamentarians, allowing them to concentrate on their three key roles: legislating, overseeing the actions of government and representing their fellow citizens, both on Parliament Hill and in their respective ridings. The administration also takes great pride in carrying out one of Parliament's most important missions: reaching out to build closer ties with citizens, especially the younger generations.

With that in mind, the new reception pavilion will not only enhance security at the Assembly, but also improve amenities for welcoming visitors. This is an opportunity to rethink our citizen outreach and communication methods and modernize the way we convey information about democracy and parliamentary institutions. A committee of employees representing all Assembly units was asked to define the experience we want to provide visitors that walk through the doors of the new reception pavilion. This historic and mission-critical milestone for our institution will be a shared source of pride for all Assembly Members and employees directly or indirectly involved in bringing it to fruition.

I encourage you to read this report to find out about all the parliamentary, diplomatic and institutional activities the National Assembly has been involved in in 2016–2017 and learn more about the functioning of our institution and the critical role it plays in our democratic society.

Michel Bonsaint

Secretary General of the National Assembly of Québec

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MISSION

The National Assembly administration is a dynamic, modern, competent and innovative organization. Its mission is to provide all the services and resources Members need to perform their duties, which consist of legislating, overseeing government action and representing their fellow citizens. The administration also works to meet citizens' needs by continuously improving the services it offers and maintaining a workplace that fosters creativity and professional development.

VALUES

NEUTRALITY | SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

OPENNESS | **MODERNITY** | RESPECT FOR HERITAGE

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR THREE TYPES OF CLIENTS

MEMBERS

- Maintain expertise based on best parliamentary and administrative practices.
- Consult Members on administrative decisions that affect them.
- Deliver high-quality, personalized service.
- Provide effective and reliable work tools that facilitate the work of Members in their dealings with the public.

CITIZENS

- Encourage citizens to participate in parliamentary proceedings through modern technology and communication networks.
- Make information for citizens more accessible and user-friendly.
- Enhance awareness and understanding of the democratic process and parliamentary procedure.

EMPLOYEES

- Strengthen their sense of belonging, pride and engagement.
- Encourage professional development to help employees hone their knowledge and skills in their areas of expertise.
- Provide work tools that are robust, effective and compatible with the latest technology.
- Create a workplace where creativity and personnel fulfillment are encouraged and employees and their health are a priority.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE RECEPTION PAVILION – PROGRESS REPORT

Construction of the reception pavilion

The new reception pavilion will enhance security at the Parliament Building and improve visitor access. Construction is progressing on schedule and on budget.

The exterior excavation and blasting work has been completed, the form and concrete work is underway and the interior walls will be constructed in fall 2017. Construction will continue through spring 2019.

Five phases of construction

Excavation and backfilling of inner courtyard
May 2016–February 2017

Excavation and backfilling of building facade
May 2016–October 2017

Blasting
June 2016–September 2016

Form and concrete work in the inner courtyard
August 2016–April 2017

Form and concrete work for building facade
October 2016–November 2017

Watching progress online in real time

Three webcams have been mounted on the Parliament Building roof, allowing citizens to watch construction in real time on the Assembly website. Captioned photos from the worksite are regularly added to the project Web page. Internally, four newsletters have been issued to keep employees, Members and members of the Press Gallery informed about the progress.

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Construction of the tunnel beneath Parliament: no small feat

Drilling of the tunnel under the Parliament Building took place from May to December 2016, marking a major milestone in the project. Carving a tunnel out of rock under a building more than a century old is an ambitious project requiring a high level of expertise.

The 20-meter long, 4.5-meter wide tunnel will connect the reception pavilion to the inner courtyard. Visitors will access the Parliament Building via an elevator in the inner courtyard.

Reception pavilion wins architecture award

The Provencher_Roy and GLCRM Architects consortium received the 2016 Award of Merit at the Canadian Architect Awards of Excellence gala for their design of the new National Assembly reception pavilion. The award recognizes outstanding architectural projects that demonstrate social awareness, sensitivity to the urban context and respect for the principles of sustainable development.

© Collection: Consortium of Gagnon, Letellier, Cyr, Ricard, Mathieu et associés, architectes and Provencher_Roy associés architectes

 Find out more about this topic at **www.assnat.qc.ca/en/pavillon**.

THE ROLE, COMPOSITION, AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Québec's three branches of government

Legislative branch

Studies, discusses, amends and passes laws. Oversees the actions of the executive branch. Debates matters of public interest.

Executive branch

Makes policies that guide government action. Administers and manages the government in accordance with the laws passed by the legislative branch.

Judicial branch

Interprets the laws passed by the legislative branch. Decides whether a citizen or group is compliant with the law.

To learn the ABCs of how the National Assembly operates, visit **www.assnat.qc.ca/en/abc-assemblee**.

Composition of the National Assembly

The Members of the National Assembly are democratically elected to represent their fellow citizens.

Members run for election and are chosen by constituents in their electoral divisions. Electoral divisions, more commonly known as "ridings," are communities based on geographic, demographic and sociological criteria. Every riding elects one Member.

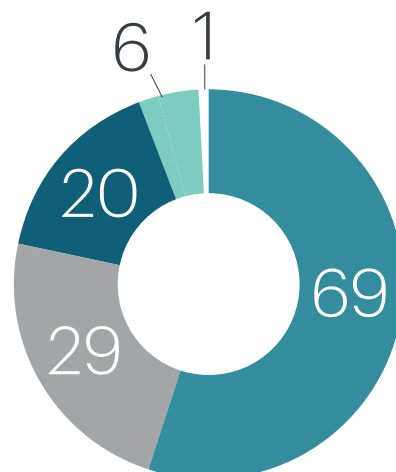Québec's population is represented in the Assembly by **125 Members** from 125 ridings. This is why Québec is known as a "representative" democracy.

Find out more about this topic at **www.assnat.qc.ca/en/fonctions**.

Distribution of seats as of March 31, 2017

- Quebec Liberal Party
- Parti québécois
- Coalition avenir Québec
- Independent Members (Québec solidaire: 2, others: 4)
- Vacant seat

6 1

20

69

29

MERLINI
La Prairie

MONTPETIT
Crémazie

PLANTE
Maskinongé

POLO
Laval-des-Rapides

SIMARD
Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré

ST-DENIS
Argenteuil

HARDY
Saint-François

HABEL
Sainte-Rose

GIGUÈRE
Saint-Maurice

FORTIN
Pontiac

BOURGEOIS
Abitibi-Est

BOUCHER
Ungava

BIRNBAUM
D'Arcy-McGee

AUGER
Champlain

TREMBLAY
Chauveau

ROUSSELLE
Vimont

IRACÀ
Papineau

BOLDUC
Mégantic

SIMARD
Dubuc

MATTE
Portneuf

CHEVARIE
Îles-de-la-Madeleine

GIRARD
Trois-Rivières

POËTI
Marguerite-Bourgeoys

CARRIÈRE
Chapleau

ROTIROTI
Jeanne-Mance–Viger

BOULET
Laviolette

DROLET
Jean-Lesage

BLANCHETTE
Rouyn-Noranda–
Témiscamingue

CHARLEBOIS
Soulanges

MOREAU
Châteauguay

HEURTEL
Viau

ARCAND
Mont-Royal

D'AMOUR
Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata

PROULX
Jean-Talon

DAVID
Outremont

COITEUX
Nelligan

ANGLADE
Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne

LEITÃO
Robert-Baldwin

HUOT
Vanier-Les Rivières

KELLEY
Jacques-Cartier

VALLÉE
Gatineau

LESSARD
Lotbinière-Frontenac

BARRETTE
La Pinière

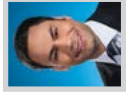QUELLET
Vachon

SURPRENANT
Groulx

PARADIS
Brome-Missisquoi

SKLAVOUNOS
Laurier-Dorion
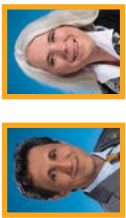
KHADIR
Mercier

MASSÉ
Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques

MELANÇON
Verdun

SAUVÉ
Fabre

BUSQUE
Beauce-Sud

VALLIÈRES
Richmond
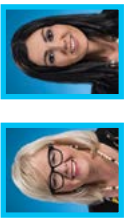
D'AMOURS
Mirabel

SOUCY
Saint-Hyacinthe

SPÉNARD
Beauce-Nord

PARADIS
Lévis

PICARD
Chutes-de-la-Chaudière

JOLIN-BARRETTE
Borduas
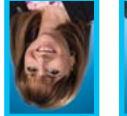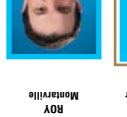
BONNARDEL
Granby

LEGAULT
L'Assomption

CAIRE
La Peltrie

LEBEL
Rimouski

BERGERON
Verchères

ROY
Montarville

MARTEL
Nicolet-Bécancour

CHARETTE
Deux-Montagnes

*Vacant seat

LAMARRE
Taillon

MALTAIS
Taschereau

SAMSON
Iberville

ROBERGE
Chambly

LARAMBOISE
Blainville

SCHNEEBERGER
Drummond–Bois-Francs

LECLAIR
Beauharnois

RICHARD
Duplessis

LAMONTAGNE
Johnson

LAVALLÉE
Repentigny

LEMAY
Masson

LEFEBVRE
Arthabaska

ROY
Bonaventure

TURCOTTE
Saint-Jean

Top section (Government — Quebec Liberal Party):

TANGUAY — LaFontaine
MÉNARD — Laporte
WEIL — Notre-Dame-de-Grâce
DE SANTIS — Bourassa-Sauvé
OUELLETTE — Chomedey
BERNIER — Montmorency
NICHOLS — Vaudreuil

*Sergeant at-Arms

VIEN — Bellechasse
BILLETTE — Huntingdon
FORTIN — Sherbrooke
ST-PIERRE — Acadie
REID — Orford
MORIN — Côte-du-Sud
GAUDREAULT — Hull

FOURNIER — Saint-Laurent
COUILLARD — Roberval
THÉRIAULT — Anjou–Louis-Riel
BLAIS — Charlesbourg
CHARBONNEAU — Mille-Îles
HAMAD — Louis-Hébert
OUIMET — Marquette

Legend (right, top):

Vice-president
Leader of the Group forming the Government
House Leader of the Group forming the Government
Chief Whip of the Group forming the Government
Minister

* Public servant

Centre:

* Table Officer
Mace
* Secretary General
* Table Officer

JACQUES CHAGNON
President
Westmount–Saint-Louis

Bottom section (Opposition — Parti québécois):

BERNÉ — Matane-Matapédia
LISÉE — Rosemont
HIVON — Joliette
MARCEAU — Rousseau
LÉGER — Pointe-aux-Trembles
LELIÈVRE — Gaspé
GENDRON — Abitibi-Ouest

ROCHON — Richelieu
POIRIER — Hochelaga-Maisonneuve
CLOUTIER — Lac-Saint-Jean
THÉRRIEN — Sanguinet
GAUDREAULT — Jonquière
PAGÉ — Labelle
COUSINEAU — Bertrand

KOTTO — Bourget
TRAVERSY — Terrebonne
FOURNIER — Marie-Victorin
VILLENEUVE — Berthier
OUELLET — René-Lévesque
JEAN — Chicoutimi
BOURCIER — Saint-Jérôme

Legend (bottom):

Vice-president
Leader of the Official Opposition
House Leader of the Official Opposition
Chief Whip of the Official Opposition
Leader of the Second Opposition Group
House Leader of the Second Opposition Group
Whip of the Second Opposition Group

Party colour legend:

Quebec Liberal Party
Parti québécois
Coalition avenir Québec
Independent – Québec solidaire
Independent – Other

New Members

Five by-elections were held in the last fiscal year.

In the electoral division of Chicoutimi, April 11, 2016:
Mireille Jean, Parti québécois, candidate elected

In the electoral division of Arthabaska, December 5, 2016:
Éric Lefebvre, Coalition avenir Québec, candidate elected

In the electoral division of Marie-Victorin, December 5, 2016:
Catherine Fournier, Parti québécois, candidate elected

In the electoral division of Saint-Jérôme, December 5, 2016:
Marc Bourcier, Parti québécois, candidate elected

In the electoral division of Verdun, December 5, 2016:
Isabelle Melançon, Parti libéral du Québec, candidate elected

Resignations

Pierre Karl Péladeau, Member for Saint-Jérôme, May 2, 2016
(First elected: April 7, 2014)

Bernard Drainville, Member for Marie-Victorin, June 14, 2016
(First elected: March 26, 2007)

Jacques Daoust, Member for Verdun, August 19, 2016
(First elected: April 7, 2014)

Françoise David, Member for Gouin, January 19, 2017
(First elected: September 4, 2012)

Death in office

Sylvie Roy, Member for Arthabaska, July 31, 2016

Changes in status

Gerry Sklavounos, Member for Laurier-Dorion, sitting as an independent since October 20, 2016

Claude Surprenant, Member for Groulx, sitting as an independent since January 24, 2017

Pierre Paradis, Member for Brome-Missisquoi, sitting as an independent since January 26, 2017

Martine Ouellet, Member for Vachon, sitting as an independent since February 5, 2017

Member profile

As at March 31, 2017

Average parliamentary experience:	Number of women:	Average Member age:
7 years, 4 months	36 of 124[1] Members in office (29%)	53

Breakdown of Members by age

Age 18–39	10.5%	13 Members
Age 40–49	21.8%	27 Members
Age 50–59	41.9%	52 Members
Age 60+	25.8%	32 Members

0   10   20   30   40   50

Total
100%
124[1] Members
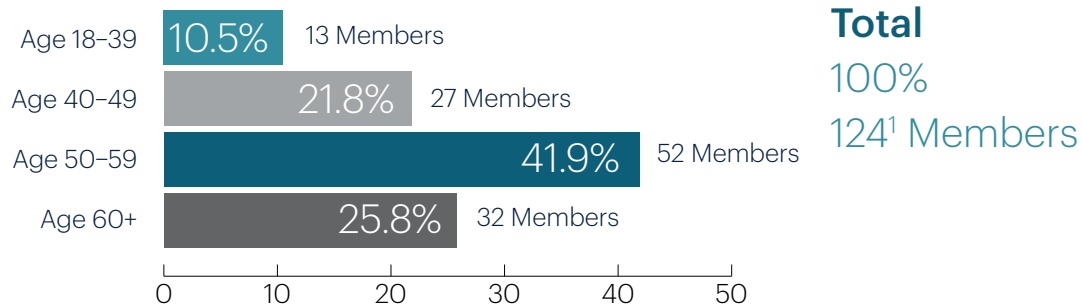
Breakdown in the number of Members according to parliamentary experience

- Less than 5 years (64 Members)
- 5–9 years (36 Members)
- 10–19 years (18 Members)
- 20 years+ (6 Members)

4.8%
14.5%
51.6%
14.5%

Total
100%
124[1] Members
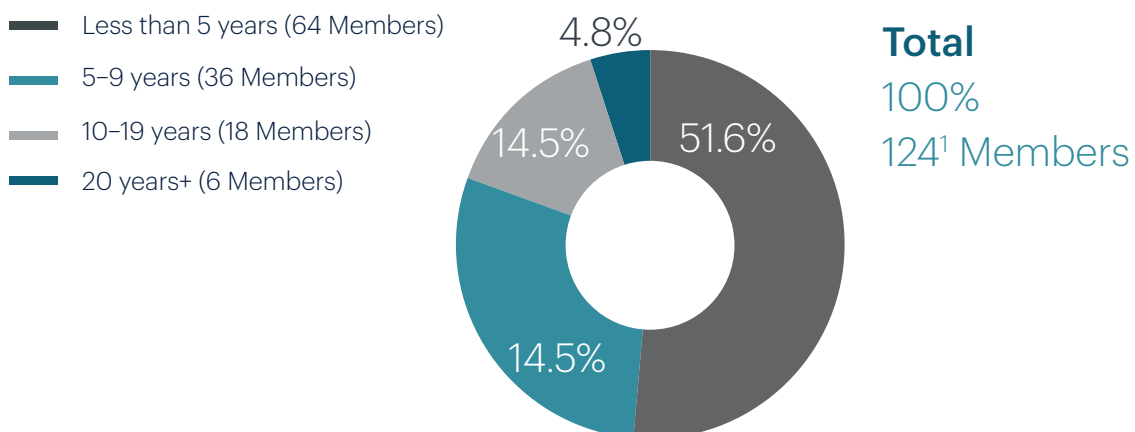
Find out more about this topic at www.assnat.qc.ca/en/deputes.

[1] The electoral division of Gouin is vacant.

President of the Assembly

Jacques Chagnon
President

The President of the National Assembly ranks fourth in the order of precedence in Québec, behind the Lieutenant Governor, the Premier and the cardinals.

First elected President on **April 5, 2011,** and re-elected for a third time on **May 20, 2014,** Jacques Chagnon, Member for Westmount-Saint-Louis, performs his duties impartially, abstaining from debates and voting only to break a tie. As President of the National Assembly, he does not take part in his party's activities.

- The President arbitrates Assembly proceedings, applying the Standing Orders of the National Assembly to maintain order, ensure the proper conduct of proceedings and protect Members' rights.

- The President manages the Assembly's administrative services, ensuring they meet the needs of Members and citizens.

- The President represents the Assembly. He plays a key role in raising the National Assembly's profile at home and abroad, notably by building relations with other parliaments. The President promotes democratic values and informs the public about the work of Members through communication and educational activities.

Vice-presidents of the Assembly

François Ouimet
Member for Marquette
First Vice-President

Maryse Gaudreault
Member for Hull
Second Vice-President

François Gendron
Member for
Abitibi-Ouest
Third Vice-President

Find out more about this topic at **www.assnat.qc.ca/en/president**.

Parliamentary anniversaries

10 years

July 30, 2016: Raymond Bernier

March 26, 2017: Pierre Arcand, Pascal Bérubé, François Bonnardel, Éric Caire, Alexandre Cloutier, Sylvain Gaudreault, Nicole Ménard, Guy Ouellette, Gerry Sklavounos, Christine St-Pierre, Stéphanie Vallée

15 years

October 1, 2016: Julie Boulet, Sylvain Pagé

February 9, 2017: François Legault

20 years

June 17, 2016: Jean-Marc Fournier

40 years

November 15, 2016: François Gendron

On Tuesday, November 15, 2016, Members recognized François Gendron for four decades of parliamentary service. The Member for Abitibi-Ouest received a special tribute from the National Assembly President and numerous parliamentarians who paid homage to his dedication to public service and commitment to defending the interests of his constituents.

Parliamentary proceedings

The business, discussions and debates of the Assembly and the parliamentary committees are known collectively as *parliamentary proceedings*.

Find out more about this topic at www.assnat.qc.ca/en/travaux-parlementaires.

Assembly sittings

Number of sittings **85**	Extraordinary sittings **3** (included in the number of sittings)	Number of hours of sittings **349 hr. 48 min.**	Number of rulings made by the President **11**
	Number of Order Papers and Notices published **87** (including 2 special editions)	Written questions entered on the Order Papers and Notices **60**	Number of Votes and Proceedings published **85**

Monthly breakdown of sittings held and hours worked, 2016–2017

	Sittings	Hours
April 2016	12	37 hr. 40 min.
May	10	33 hr. 50 min.
June	8	45 hr. 38 min.
July	0	0
August	0	0
September	6	26 hr. 55 min.
October	9	35 hr. 51 min.
November	14	50 hr. 9 min.
December	7	34 hr. 53 min.
January 2017	0	0
February	10	50 hr. 36 min.
March	9	34 hr. 16 min.
Total	**85**	**349 hr. 48 min.**

These figures cover the period April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2017, including three extraordinary sittings held on June 10, 2016, December 9, 2016 and February 27, 2017 (p. 25).

DID YOU KNOW...

The Order Paper and Notices is available at 8:00 a.m. on the morning of every sitting except extraordinary sittings. It is an important document that lists the business the Assembly is likely to address during a sitting, Members can use it to prepare their interventions. A special edition is published at the end of each sessional period—in the spring and in the fall.

Written questions are also entered on the Order Paper and Notices. The Encyclopedia of Québec Parliamentarism defines a written question as a question posed in writing that receives a response in the same format. Questions on matters that are not sufficiently urgent or important to justify an immediate answer or that require research must be formulated in writing and placed on the Order Paper and Notices.

Find out more about this topic at **www.assnat.qc.ca/en/procedures**.

In addition, all topics debated are entered in the Votes and Proceedings, the official record of a National Assembly sitting. It provides an account of the Assembly's decisions and the proceedings introduced and concluded during a sitting. It also reports rulings made by the President.

Conduct of a National Assembly sitting

DID YOU KNOW...

In parliamentary language, each day of National Assembly deliberations is called a sitting. Sittings are divided into two parts: Routine Proceedings and Orders of the Day. The primary purpose of the Routine Proceedings portion is to provide information to Members, while the Orders of the Day portion is devoted to the consideration of bills. The Assembly also takes into consideration all other substantive motions for debate during the Orders of the Day.

Three extraordinary sittings

The National Assembly was convened for three extraordinary sittings between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017.

- The first on **June 10, 2016,** to complete the consideration of Bill 100, *An Act to amend various legislative provisions respecting mainly transportation services by taxi;*

- The second on **December 9, 2016,** to complete the consideration of Bill 106, *An Act to implement the 2030 Energy Policy and to amend various legislative provisions;*

- The third on **February 27, 2017,** to present and consider Bill 127, *An Act to ensure the continuity of the provision of legal services within the Government and to allow continued negotiation and the renewal of the collective agreement of the employees who provide those legal services.*

Find out more about this topic at www.assnat.qc.ca/en/organisation.

The ten headings in the Routine Proceedings are dealt with in the following order:

1. Statements by Members
2. Statements by Ministers
3. Introduction of Bills
4. Presentation of Documents (documents, committee reports, petitions)
5. Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations

6. Oral Questions and Answers
7. Deferred Divisions
8. Motions Without Notice
9. Notices of Proceedings in Committees
10. Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

Find out more about this topic at www.assnat.qc.ca/en/questions-reponses.

Routine Proceedings

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS PERIOD							
Statements by Members	**Statements by Ministers**	**Introduction of Bills de loi**	Presentation of Documents	Oral Questions and Answers*			
				Periods	Main questions	Supplementary questions	No. of hours
825	None	56	1043	Spring 2016	447	851	32 hr. 18 min.
				Fall 2016	331	641	24 hr. 3 min.

* Statistics on the Oral Questions and Answers period are based on the parliamentary calendar (spring and fall 2016), not the fiscal year.

Bills

56 bills were presented to the National Assembly, compared to 74 the year before.

Government bills	37
Private Members' bills	12
Private bills	7

Of the bills presented since the opening of the 40th Legislature, 44 were adopted this year.

Government bills	36 bills, with 56% adopted unanimously
Private Members' bills	2 bills, with 1 adopted unanimously
Private bills	6 bills, with 5 adopted unanimously

Of all bills adopted, 59% were adopted unanimously.

Adopted bills are presented at the end of this section. Find out more about this topic at www.assnat.qc.ca/en/projets-loi.

Documents tabled

DOCUMENT CATEGORIES	TOTAL	%
Replies to written questions placed on the Order Paper	61	5.8
Decisions of the Office of the National Assembly	16	1.5
Petitions	158	15.2
Replies to petitions	119	11.4
Committee reports	111	10.6
Annual reports (departments and agencies)	224	21.5
Other documents	354	34.0
Total	1043	100

A greener Assembly

In fall 2016 the National Assembly conducted a pilot project on the tabling of documents by ministers and the Assembly President during the Presentation of Documents heading. The goal was to reduce the number of copies printed and get documents posted online faster. At the end of the pilot project, the decision was made to establish a standard procedure for the number of print copies required starting in February 2017.

The new sustainable development policy will cut the number of documents printed for tabling in the House by 60%. Once tabled, papers will now be available on a new Assembly Web page, Newly Tabled Documents.

Find out more about this topic at www.assnat.qc.ca/en/documents-deposes and www.assnat.qc.ca/en/depots.

DID YOU KNOW...

A petition is a document by which a person or association of persons petitions the Assembly for the redress of a perceived grievance that lies within the competence of the Québec government. Every Québec citizen has the right to petition the Assembly through a Member. Petitions may be signed on paper or online on the website of the National Assembly. The site also allows citizens to consult petitions that have already been presented to the Assembly. Since the Government must answer every petition, the 158 petitions presented this year will all receive an answer. If the Government responds in writing, its answer will also be posted on the website.

Petitions

	Paper petitions	Online petitions	Total petitions presented
2013-2014	135 petitions 180,351 signatures	100 petitions 360,121 signatures	235 petitions 540,472 signatures
2014-2015[1]	70 petitions 195,436 signatures	71 petitions 354,499 signatures	141 petitions 549,935 signatures
2015-2016	64 petitions 333,532 signatures	98 petitions 366,387 signatures	162 petitions 699,919 signatures
2016-2017	59 petitions 128,450 signatures	99 petitions 301,918 signatures	158 petitions 430,368 signatures

[1] Election year

To learn more about starting a petition, visit www.assnat.qc.ca/en/petitions and www.assnat.qc.ca/en/cheminement-petitions.

Orders of the Day

Some statistics on headings that may be considered during the Orders of the Day

ORDERS OF THE DAY					
Business Having Precedence	Urgent Debates	Debates on Reports from Committees	Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition	Other Business Standing: Approval of International Agreements	Number of Debates Upon Adjournment
See explanations provided below*	2	4	18	3	14

The Orders of the Day are divided into **five headings**:

1. Business Having Precedence
2. Urgent Debates
3. Debates on Reports from Committees
4. Other Business Standing on the Order Paper
5. Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

The National Assembly considered a number of urgent debates, including the **budget speech debate** initiated on March 30, 2017.

* Business having precedence

Business having precedence takes precedence over all other matters due to its importance or urgency.

- The Premier's opening speech and the ensuing debate
- Motions relating to breaches of privilege or contempt
- Motions relating to the conduct of Members of Parliament
- The budget speech and the ensuing debate
- The consideration of interim supply
- The limited debate on the committee reports respecting the main estimates
- Want of confidence motions

Find out more about this topic at **www.assnat.qc.ca/en/affaires-prioritaires.**

Urgent Debates

Two urgent debates were held.

1. One dealt with allegations of intimidation and document falsification at Ministère des Transports, de la Mobilité durable et de l'Électrification des transports.

2. The other centred on disturbing revelations regarding police surveillance of journalists and their sources.

Parliamentary committees

542 sittings and 1,515 hours on 151 different orders

436 public sittings and 106 deliberative meetings

1,082 hours spent considering 42 public bills
and 6 private bills

2,122 sections and 1,594 amendments examined during clause-by-clause
consideration of 38 bills

632 witnesses heard and 773 briefs tabled as part of
58 orders including public hearings

41 sittings and 193 hours spent on consideration of the 2016–2017 estimates
of expenditure

7 reports tabled in the Assembly containing observations,
conclusions and recommendations

534 comments received online from citizens
regarding 75 orders and bills

Eleven National Assembly standing committees

1. National Assembly
2. Public Administration

Including nine sectoral committees

3. Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources
4. Land use planning and development
5. Culture and Education
6. Labour and the Economy
7. Public Finance
8. Institutions
9. Citizen Relations
10. Health and Social Services
11. Transportation and the Environment

DID YOU KNOW...

Parliamentary committees are made up of Members from various parliamentary groups who consider bills, consult with individuals and organizations in the course of public hearings, examine the activities and management of departments and public bodies, and, by their own initiative, consider any matter of public interest.

Members conduct a great deal of their business within the nine sectoral committees, the Committee on the National Assembly and the Committee on Public Administration.

Committee sittings open to the public

Most committee sittings are public and open to citizens. The proceedings of public sittings are transcribed in their entirety in the *Journal des débats*. Real-time and recorded committee proceedings can also be viewed on the National Assembly website.

Overview of parliamentary committee proceedings

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES	HOURS	%
Estimates of expenditure	193 hr. 39 min.	12.8%
Interpellations	27 hr. 48 min.	1.8%
Public body oversight and accountability	5 hr. 34 min.	0.4%
Orders carried out by the Committee on Public Administration	58 hr. 34 min.	3.9%
SUBTOTAL FOR PARLIAMENTARY CONTROL ACTIVITIES	**285 hr. 35 min.**	**18.8%**
Consideration of public bills	1,076 hr. 46 min.	71.0%
Consideration of private bills	5 hr. 23 min.	0.4%
Other orders of the Assembly	28 hr. 4 min.	1.9%
Election of President and Vice-Presidents	0 hr. 59 min.	0.1%
Other orders under the Standing Orders	10 hr. 32 min.	0.7%
Statutory orders	40 hr. 39 min.	2.7%
Examination of petitions	4 hr. 16 min.	0.3%
Other orders of initiative	33 hr. 46 min.	2.2%
General organization of deliberative meetings	29 hr. 43 min.	2.0%
TOTAL FOR ALL ACTIVITIES	**1,515 hr. 43 min.**	**100%**

Find out more about this topic or view the *Statistical Report on Committee Proceedings* at www.assnat.qc.ca/en/commissions.

Consideration of bills

The consideration of bills is an essential component of committee work.

- Committees spent 71.4% of their time examining 42 public bills and 6 private bills.
- Consideration of public bills in committee stage required a total of 217 sittings and 707 hours.
- During clause-by-clause examination, 2,122 sections were considered and 1,104 of the 1,594 proposed amendments were adopted.
- Over the last 10 years, committees spent an average of 53.9% of their time considering bills.

Public consultations

- Parliamentary committees held 1 general consultation and 34 special consultations, 27 of which were related to bills.
- During these consultations, Members met with 562 individuals and organizations and received 773 briefs.
- Over the last 10 years, committees have heard an average of 555 individuals and organizations per year.

Parliamentary scrutiny

Parliamentary committee members have various means available to fulfill their role overseeing the activities of the Government and public service.

- Committees devoted 18.8% of their time to such oversight activities, the most important being consideration of the estimates of expenditure.

Consideration of the estimates of expenditure

The committees examine estimates of expenditure according to their areas of competence. Consideration of the estimates usually takes place in April every year, as early as 15 days after the budget has been tabled in the Assembly and lasts for 10 consecutive sittings.

- The 2016–2017 estimates of expenditure were considered from April 13 to 26, 2016, for a total of 193 hours and 39 minutes.

Find out more about this topic at **www.assnat.qc.ca/en/commissions**.

Areas of competence and highlights of the 11 parliamentary committees

COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Draft the Standing Orders and the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings in the Assembly

Coordinate the proceedings of the other committees	Authorize committees to travel or meet in a place outside the Assembly

If necessary, hear persons appointed by the Assembly

Attend to any other matter not expressly referred to some other committee

The parliamentary committees were formed in **June 2014** and their **members** were **appointed** for 2 **years**. The Committee on the National Assembly formed the committees again in June 2016.

In September the Committee **examined** the preliminary report of the Commission on Electoral Representation in accordance with the provisions of the Election Act. The Committee held 3 **sittings** to hear the Electoral Representation Commission and Members representing all regions of Québec.

The Committee's steering committee, comprising the President of the National Assembly, the House Leaders of the parliamentary groups and the committee clerk, also met multiple times to amend the list of chairs and sittings and approve travel requests submitted by the parliamentary committees.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Examine the financial commitments

Hear the Auditor General regarding the annual management report

Hear deputy ministers and chief executive officers
of public bodies regarding their administrative management

Examine the annual report on the implementation of the
Public Administration Act

Examine any other matter that the Assembly may refer to it

The Committee on Public Administration tabled its **34th** *Report on the Accountability of Deputy Ministers and Chief Executive Officers of Public Bodies* in the Assembly in June 2016. The report contained **45** unanimous **recommendations** pursuant to **7 hearings** held on the following topics:

- The administrative management and financial commitments of the Ministère de la Sécurité publique

- The administration and control of physician compensation

- The administrative management and financial commitments of the Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et des Exportations

- Information technology contracts

- The administrative management and financial commitments of the Ministère de la Famille and educational childcare services

- Green Fund management and financial assistance

- The administrative management and financial commitments of the Ministère des Transports, de la Mobilité durable et de l'Électrification des transports and the inspection of road network structures and planning of their maintenance

In December 2016, the Committee tabled its **35th report** containing **15** unanimous **recommendations** pursuant to **5 hearings** on the following topics:

- Investissement Québec's financial profitability and economic performance

- The administrative management and financial commitments of the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications et de la Régie du cinéma

- The purchase and sale of alcoholic beverages and performance of Société des alcools du Québec

- The administrative management, financial commitments and processing of applications of the Régie du logement

- The administrative management, financial commitments and electronic tendering system of the Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor

Over the past year, the Committee also **reviewed the annual management reports** of **12 ministries** and **agencies** and followed up on the recommendations made in previous reports.

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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Agriculture	Energy	Fisheries
Natural resources		Food

Over the summer the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources heard **30 individuals** and **organizations** and received **58 briefs** in special consultations on Bill 106, An Act to implement the 2030 Energy Policy and to amend various legislative provisions. The subsequent clause-by-clause consideration of the bill took **26 sittings** and **109 hours**.

The Committee also heard Hydro-Québec representatives in September 2016 as part of its examination of Hydro-Québec's *Strategic Plan 2016–2020*.

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Land use planning and development	Municipal affairs	Housing
Local and regional community development		Sport and recreation

In 2016–2017, the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain held public hearings as part of special consultations on **4 bills**: Bill 109, *An Act to grant Ville de Québec national capital status and increase its autonomy and powers*; Bill 110, *An Act respecting the process of negotiation of collective agreements and the settlement of disputes in the municipal sector*; Bill 121, *An Act to increase the autonomy and powers of Ville de Montréal, the metropolis of Québec*; and Bill 122, *An Act mainly to recognize that municipalities are local governments and to increase their autonomy and powers*. In hearings on this bill, the Committee heard **41 individuals** and **organizations** over **7 sittings**.

Bills 109 and 110 also received clause-by-clause consideration, along with Bill 83, *An Act to amend various municipal-related legislative provisions concerning such matters as political financing*; Bill 120, *An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs*; and Bill 492, *An Act to amend the Civil Code to protect seniors' rights as lessees*. This bill, presented by independent Member Françoise David (Gouin), was subsequently adopted by the Assembly on June 10, 2016.

Over the last year the Committee heard interested parties and considered **5 private bills**.

Lastly, Members examined the policy directions, activities and administrative management of Société d'habitation du Québec. After hearing representatives of the organization, the Committee tabled a report containing observations and conclusions in the Assembly in November 2016.

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

Culture	Education	Vocational training

Higher education	Communications

In the fall the Committee on Culture and Education considered the following **bills**: Bill 105, *An Act to amend the Education Act* and Bill 114, *An Act to modernize the governance of national museums*.

In November Committee members decided to consider **3 petitions** respecting opposition to weighing students in physical education classes, signed by **4,357 individuals**. A total of **5 organizations** were heard in public hearings on January 26, 2017. The Committee's report containing **2 recommendations** was tabled in the Assembly in February 2017.

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY

Industry	Trade	Tourism	Labour	Manpower

Science	Technology	Income security

Members of the Committee on Labour and the Economy examined **3 bills** clause by clause: Bill 70, *An Act to allow a better match between training and jobs and to facilitate labour market entry*; Bill 75, *An Act respecting the restructuring of university-sector defined benefit pension plans and amending various legislative provisions*; and Bill 116, *An Act to transfer the activities of the enterprise registrar to the Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale*. Consideration of Bill 70 took **130 hours** over **38 sittings**.

The Committee also held public hearings as part of special consultations on Bill 53, An Act to update the Act respecting collective agreement decrees mainly to facilitate its application and enhance the transparency and accountability of parity committees.

Pursuant to public hearings held August 25, 2016 and multiple deliberative meetings, in December 2016 the Committee tabled its report on a self-initiated order to examine the process that led to the sale of Investissement Québec's shares in RONA. In February 2017 the Committee heard the Regroupement des activistes pour l'inclusion au Québec and Régie du bâtiment to examine their policy directions, activities and administrative management.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE

Finance	Budget	Government administration	Services
Public service	Revenue	Supply	Pension plans
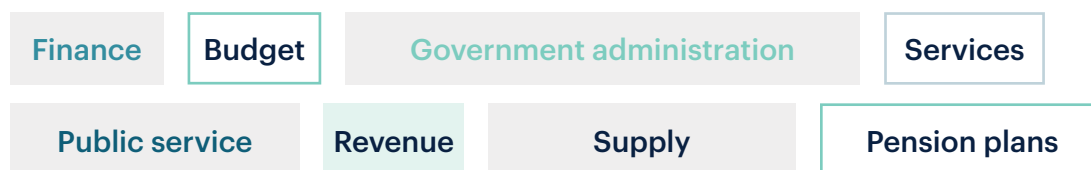
After **31 sittings** and some **73 hours**, the Committee on Public Finance completed the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 87, *An Act to facilitate the disclosure of wrongdoings within public bodies*. **Seven other bills** were also subject to consultations or clause-by-clause examination by the Committee, including Bill 693, *An Act to amend the Act respecting the governance of state-owned enterprises to promote the presence of young people on the boards of directors of such enterprises*, a public bill tabled by a young Member of the parliamentary group forming the Government, Jean Habel (Sainte-Rose).

In 2016–2017 the Committee also continued its work on the self-initiated order on the tax havens phenomenon, hearing a number of accounting firms in May and experts in September 2016.

Lastly, **3 sittings** were allocated to ongoing debate on the budget speech and **4 sittings** were spent on special consultations on the Régime des rentes, as mandated by the Act respecting the Québec pension plan.

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

Chairmanship of the Conseil exécutif	Public security	Aboriginal affairs
Justice	The Constitution	International and intergovernmental relations
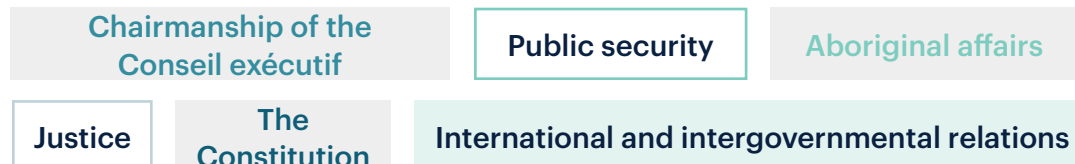
Over the last year, the Committee on Institutions held public hearings on **6 bills**: Bill 62, *An Act to foster adherence to State religious neutrality and, in particular, to provide a framework for religious accommodation requests in certain bodies*; Bill 63, *An Act respecting inmate identity verification through fingerprinting*; Bill 64, *Firearms Registration Act*; Bill 98, *An Act to amend various legislation mainly with respect to admission to professions and the governance of the professional system*; Bill 101, *An Act to give effect to the Charbonneau Commission recommendations on political financing*; and Bill 113, *An Act to amend the Civil Code and other legislative provisions as regards adoption and the disclosure of information*. For bills 62 and 98 alone, **86 witnesses** were heard during **14 sittings** and **105 briefs** were submitted.

The Committee met for clause-by-clause consideration of bills 63, 64 and 101 and began consideration of Bill 98.

In September 2016 the Assembly gave the Committee the mandate to hear the Commissaire au lobbyisme on the report entitled *The study on non-profit organizations being subject to lobbying framework rules*, as provided for in Bill 56, *Lobbying Transparency Act*.

Lastly, multiple deliberative meetings were held to continue the examination of the *Report on the implementation of the Code of ethics and conduct of the Members of the National Assembly.*

COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN RELATIONS

Citizen relations	Cultural communities		
Immigration	Status of women	Family	Seniors
Youth	Consumer protection		
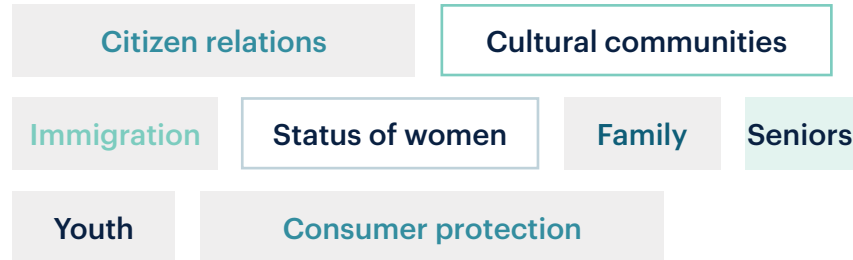
In June 2016, Bill 103, *An Act to strengthen the fight against transphobia and improve the situation of transgender minors in particular,* was adopted by the Assembly after having been considered by the Committee on Citizen Relations.

In early fall 2016, **3 sittings** were devoted to a general consultation on the *Québec Immigration Planning for the 2017–2019 Period* consultation booklet.

The year 2017 kicked off with special consultations on Bill 115, *An Act to combat maltreatment of seniors and other persons of full age in vulnerable situations*, during which **33 individuals** and **organizations** were heard.

Committee members also continued their work on **2 self-initiated orders**, one on women's place in politics and a second on the living conditions of Aboriginal women as they relate to sexual assault and domestic violence. The Committee tabled an **interim report** in the Assembly in relation to this second order in May 2016.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

| Health | Social and community services |

The following bills were the subject of special consultations by the Committee on Health and Social Services over the last year: Bill 92, *An Act to extend the powers of the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec, regulate commercial practices relating to prescription drugs and protect access to voluntary termination of pregnancy services*; Bill 99, *An Act to amend the Youth Protection Act and other provisions*; Bill 118, *An Act respecting medical laboratories, orthopedic service centres and respiratory physiology centres operated by an entity other than a health and social services institution*; and Bill 130, *An Act to amend certain provisions regarding the clinical organization and management of health and social services institutions*.

The Committee also proceeded with clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 81, *An Act to reduce the cost of certain medications covered by the basic prescription drug insurance plan by allowing*

calls for tenders and Bill 92, *An Act to extend the powers of the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec, regulate commercial practices relating to prescription drugs and protect access to voluntary termination of pregnancy services.*

In June 2016 the Committee tabled its report on the living conditions of adults staying in residential and long-term care centres. The report contained **20 recommendations** and presented a summary of the public hearings held in January and February 2014 in which **36 individuals** and **organizations** took part as well as **comments received** during visits to **6 CHSLDs** by **3** Committee **members**.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Transportation   The environment   Wildlife and parks

Before adjournment of the proceedings in June 2016, the Committee on Transportation and the Environment held special consultations on Bill 100, *An Act to amend various legislative provisions respecting mainly transportation services by taxi,* before proceeding with clause-by-clause consideration.

On environmental issues, the Committee heard a number of **witnesses** and **organizations** during special consultations on Bill 102, An Act to amend the *Environment Quality Act* to modernize the environmental authorization scheme and to amend other legislative provisions, in particular to reform the governance of the Green Fund and Bill 104, *An Act to increase the number of zero-emission motor vehicles in Québec in order to reduce greenhouse gas and other pollutant emissions.* Members also proceeded with clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 104 in **2 sittings** in September 2016.

REPORTS CONTAINING OBSERVATIONS, CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

DID YOU KNOW...

? Once a committee completes an order, it tables its report in the Assembly. The report contains the Votes and Proceedings and, where applicable, the committee's observations, conclusions and recommendations.

The National Assembly's parliamentary committees tabled 7 **reports** containing observations, conclusions and recommendations.

🔗 The list of reports can be consulted on the Assembly website at
http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/travaux-parlementaires/commissions/rapports-documents-reflexion/41-1.html.
Orders of reference in the Standing Orders

COMMITTEE	DOCUMENT TITLE
Committee on Planning and the Public Domain	Examination of the policy directions, activities and administrative management of the Société d'habitation du Québec (November 2016)
Committee on Culture and Education	Examination of the petitions 2753-20161115, 2754-20161115 and 2755-20161115 on opposition to weighing students in physical education classes – Observations, conclusions and two recommendations (February 2017)

Self-initiated orders

COMMITTEE	DOCUMENT TITLE
Committee on Labour and the Economy	The process that led to the sale of Investissement Québec's shares in RONA – Observations and conclusions (December 2016)
Committee on Citizen Relations	Self-initiated order on Aboriginal women's living conditions as affected by sexual assault and domestic violence – Interim report (May 2016)
Committee on Health and Social Services	The living conditions of adults staying in residential and long-term care centres – Observations, conclusions and 20 recommendations (June 2016)

Orders completed by the Committee on Public Administration

DOCUMENT TITLE
Auditions des sous-ministres et des dirigeants d'organismes publics sur leur gestion administrative – Observations, conclusions et 45 recommandations – 34e rapport (June 2016) (In French only)
Auditions des sous-ministres et des dirigeants d'organismes publics sur leur gestion administrative – Observations, conclusions et 15 recommandations – 35e rapport (December 2016) (In French only)

Public comments on bills and committee orders

Citizens may comment on a bill or the order of a parliamentary committee on the Assembly website. Comments are forwarded to the Members concerned.

- Over the year, 534 **comments** were received regarding 75 **orders** and **bills.**

Legislative translation and publishing

Pages of legislation translated and published

Over **1300** **pages** of bills presented, **translated** and **published**	Over **400 pages** of bills presented, adopted and assented to in 2016	Some **900 pages** of bills presented and not adopted, but **translated** and **published nevertheless**

Texts other than legislation translated

443 606 **words translated**	Votes and Proceedings: 216,027 **words**	Other documents: 227,579 **words**
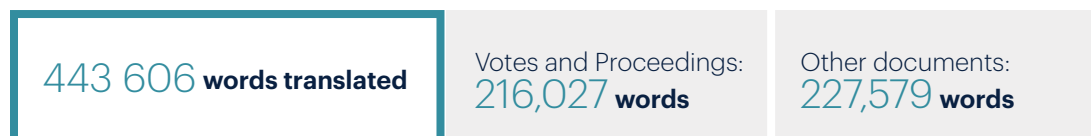
These figures cover the period of January 1 to December 31, 2016.

DID YOU KNOW...

Pursuant to Section 133 of the *Constitution Act*, 1867 and Section 7 of the Charter of the French Language, the French and English versions of legislation are equally authoritative, so the two versions must correspond legally and semantically, down to the letter. Particular attention is paid to meaning, consistency of terminology, syntax, spelling and punctuation in both languages as a bill moves through the legislative process. **The Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate** therefore plays a critical role in the National Assembly's mission.

Prepared by the National Assembly and published by Publications du Québec, the ***National Assembly's legislative directory*** provides a summary of the legislative activity for calendar year 2016.

Visit **www.assnat.qc.ca/en/repertoire-legislatif** to learn more.

Prepared by the National Assembly and published by Publications du Québec, the ***Annual Volume of the Statutes of Québec*** contains the texts of all the public and private acts assented to in the course of calendar year 2016.

Visit **www.assnat.qc.ca/en/recueil-annuel-lois** to learn more.

Updated on an ongoing basis by the National Assembly and published annually in a bilingual version by Publications du Québec, the ***Cumulative Table of Amendments to the Revised Statutes*** lists all amendments made to public acts since 1977.

Visit **www.assnat.qc.ca/en/modifications-lois** to learn more.

Journal des débats

The *Journal des débats* celebrated its 53rd year of publication on January 14, 2017.

The *Journal des débats* Service provides a transcribed verbatim account of all debates and interventions by Members and other speakers during Assembly and parliamentary committee sittings and press activities taking place in the Parliament Building. Special events may also be transcribed with approval from the Secretary General.

Production of the *Journal des débats*

For this year's *Journal,* 2,013 hours and 22 minutes of parliamentary proceedings were transcribed, reviewed, edited and laid out.

As in years past, the *Journal des débats* was represented at the **43rd annual conference of the Hansard Association of Canada (HAC)** in St. John's, Newfoundland, August 15 to 19. HAC was founded in 1972 and held its first annual meeting in Quebec City on August 22 and 23, 1974. Members from the **17 jurisdictions** that CHA represents in Canada and the Commonwealth meet on an annual basis to discuss legislative debate production approaches and issues.

Parliamentary proceedings, 2016–2017

21 hr. 9 min.
192 hr. 36 min.
360 hr. 29 min.
1,439 hr. 48 min.

Parliamentary proceedings, 2015–2016

37 hr. 28 min.
167 hr. 53 min.
359 hr. 46 min.
1,382 hr. 45 min.
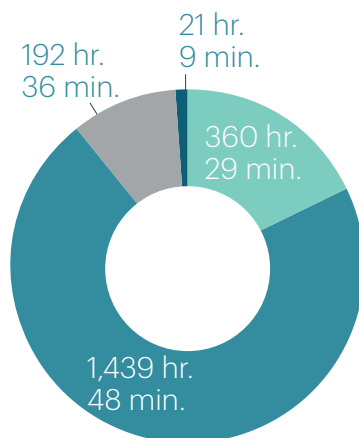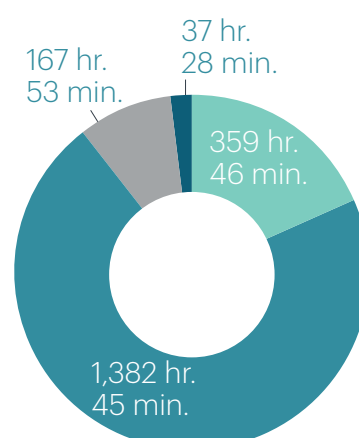
- National Assembly sittings
- Parliamentary committees
- Meetings and press briefings
- Special events

There was a 3.4% increase in the number of hours of events transcribed in 2016–2017 over 2015–2016.

The number of hours of sittings (360 hr. 29 min.) in the graphic above includes breaks, which is why the figures are different than those on page 23 (349 hr. 48 min.).

36 government bills adopted

The following list includes all government bills adopted between April 1, 2016, and March 31, 2017.

Bill 59   CI   *An Act to amend various legislative provisions to better protect persons* (modified title) (unanimously adopted) (spring 2016)

Bill 63   CI   *An Act respecting inmate identity verification through fingerprinting* (unanimously adopted) (spring 2016)

Bill 64   CI   *Firearms Registration Act* (Vote: Yeas 99, Nays 8, Abstentions 0) (adopted by a majority vote) (spring 2016)

Bill 70   CLE   *An Act to allow a better match between training and jobs and to facilitate labour market entry* (Vote: Yeas 76, Nays 26, Abstentions 0) (adopted by a majority vote) (fall 2016)

Bill 74   CPF   *An Act respecting mainly the implementation of certain provisions of the Budget Speech of 26 March 2015* (adopted by a majority vote) (spring 2016)

Bill 75   CLE   *An Act respecting the restructuring of university-sector defined benefit pension plans and amending various legislative provisions* (unanimously adopted) (spring 2016)

Bill 76   CTE   *An Act to modify mainly the organization and governance of shared transportation in the Montréal metropolitan area* (modified title) (Vote: Yeas 88, Nays 19, Abstentions 0) (adopted by a majority vote) (spring 2016)

Bill 77   CCR   *Québec Immigration Act* (adopted by a majority vote) (spring 2016)

Bill 81   CHSS   *An Act to reduce the cost of certain medications covered by the basic prescription drug insurance plan by allowing calls for tenders* (unanimously adopted) (spring 2016)

Bill 82   Comm. of the whole   *An Act to proclaim Memorial Day for Crimes Against Humanity Committed in Cambodia Between 1975 and 1979* (unanimously adopted) (spring 2016)

Bill 83   CPPD   *An Act to amend various municipal-related legislative provisions concerning such matters as political financing* (Vote: Yeas 93, Nays 20, Abstentions 0) (adopted by a majority vote) (spring 2016)

Bill 87   CPF   *An Act to facilitate the disclosure of wrongdoings relating to public bodies* (modified title) (unanimously adopted) (fall 2016)

Bill 88   CPF   *An Act respecting development of the small-scale alcoholic beverage industry* (Vote: Yeas 110, Nays 0, Abstentions 0) (unanimously adopted) (spring 2016)

Bill 89   CI   *An Act to ensure better consistency between the French and English texts of the Civil Code* (Stéphanie Vallée) (unanimously adopted) (spring 2016)

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Bill 92   CHSS   *An Act to extend the powers of the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec, regulate commercial practices relating to prescription drugs and protect access to voluntary termination of pregnancy services* (modified title) (unanimously adopted) (fall 2016)

Bill 93   Comm. of the whole   *An Act to amend the Act respecting the National Assembly to reflect changes made to the delimitation of electoral divisions in accordance with the Notice of the establishment of the list of electoral divisions dated 12 October 2011* (unanimously adopted) (spring 2016)

Bill 94   CPF   *An Act to authorize the making of collective agreements with a term of more than three years in the public and parapublic sectors* (unanimously adopted) (spring 2016)

Bill 95   *Appropriation Act No. 2, 2016-2017* (Vote: Yeas 60, Nays 43, Abstentions 0) (adopted by a majority vote) (spring 2016)

Bill 97   CPF   *An Act to amend certain Acts establishing pension plans applicable to public sector employees* (unanimously adopted) (spring 2016)

Bill 100   CTE   *An Act to amend various legislative provisions respecting mainly transportation services by taxi* (Vote: Yeas 57, Nays 41, Abstentions 0) (adopted by a majority vote) (spring 2016)

Bill 101   CI   *An Act to give effect to the Charbonneau Commission recommendations on political financing* (unanimously adopted) (spring 2016)

Bill 102   CTE   *An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act to modernize the environmental authorization scheme and to amend other legislative provisions, in particular to reform the governance of the Green Fund* (Vote: Yeas 96, Nays 3, Abstentions 0) (adopted by a majority vote) (spring 2017)

Bill 103   CCR   *An Act to strengthen the fight against transphobia and improve the situation of transgender minors in particular* (unanimously adopted) (spring 2016)

Bill 104   CTE   *An Act to increase the number of zero-emission motor vehicles in Québec in order to reduce greenhouse gas and other pollutant emissions* (Vote: Yeas 112, Nays 0, Abstentions 0) (unanimously adopted) (fall 2016)

Bill 105   CCE   *An Act to amend the Education Act* (Vote: Yeas 80, Nays 16, Abstentions 0) (adopted by a majority vote) (fall 2016)

Bill 106   CAFENR   *An Act to implement the 2030 Energy Policy and to amend various legislative provisions* (Vote: Yeas 62, Nays 38, Abstentions 0) (adopted by a majority vote) (fall 2016)

Bill 109   CPPD   *An Act to grant Ville de Québec national capital status and increase its autonomy and powers* (unanimously adopted) (fall 2016)

Bill 110   CPPD   *An Act respecting the process of negotiation of collective agreements and the settlement of disputes in the municipal sector* (Vote: Yeas 81, Nays 27, Abstentions 0) (adopted by a majority vote) (fall 2016)

Bill 111   Comm. of the whole   *An Act to ensure resumption of the regular maritime transport services provided by Relais Nordik inc. and to settle the dispute between that company and some of its employees* (Vote: Yeas 95, Nays 3, Abstentions 0) (adopted by a majority vote) (spring 2016)

Bill 112   CPF   *An Act to give effect mainly to fiscal measures announced in the Budget Speech delivered on 17 March 2016* (adopted by a majority vote) (spring 2017)

Bill 114   CCE   *An Act to modernize the governance of national museums* (unanimously adopted) (fall 2016)

Bill 116   CLE   *An Act to transfer the activities of the enterprise registrar to the Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale* (unanimously adopted) (fall 2016)

Bill 120   CPPD   *An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs* (unanimously adopted) (fall 2016)

Bill 125   Comm. of the whole   *An Act to amend the Courts of Justice Act* (unanimously adopted) (fall 2016)

Bill 127   Comm. of the whole   *An Act to ensure the continuity of the provision of legal services within the Government and to allow continued negotiation and the renewal of the collective agreement of the employees who provide those legal services* (Vote: Yeas 52, Nays 38, Abstentions 0) (adopted by a majority vote) (spring 2017)

Bill 129   *Appropriation Act No. 1, 2017-2018* (adopted by a majority vote) (spring 2017)

2 private Members' bills adopted

Bill 492   CPPD   *An Act to amend the Civil Code to protect seniors' rights as lessees* (Vote: Yeas 109, Nays 0, Abstentions 4) (adopted by a majority vote) (spring 2016)

Bill 693   CPF   *An Act to amend the Act respecting the governance of state-owned enterprises to promote the presence of young people on the boards of directors of such enterprises* (Vote: Yeas 108, Nays 0, Abstentions 0) (unanimously adopted) (spring 2016)

6 private bills

Bill 212   CPPD   *An Act respecting Ville de Saguenay* (adopted by a majority vote) (spring 2016)

Bill 215   CPPD   *An Act respecting Municipalité de Sainte-Anne-de-Sorel* (unanimously adopted) (spring 2016)

Bill 218   CPPD   *An Act respecting Ville de Chibougamau* (unanimously adopted) (spring 2016)

Bill 219   CPPD   *An Act respecting Ville de Sherbrooke* (unanimously adopted) (spring 2016)

Bill 220   CPPD   *An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures* (unanimously adopted) (spring 2016)

Bill 222   CPF   *An Act to allow the conversion and amalgamation of L'Assurance Mutuelle de l'Inter-Ouest and L'Assurance mutuelle des fabriques de Montréal* (unanimously adopted) (spring 2016)

List of acts having received assent

This list presents, by section number, all acts having received assent in 2016, along with the bill number with which they were presented.

Section	Title	Bill
1	*Funeral Operations Act*	Bill 66
2	*Appropriation Act No. 1, 2016-2017*	Bill 90
3	*Québec Immigration Act*	Bill 77
4	*An Act to ensure better consistency between the French and English texts of the Civil Code*	Bill 89
5	*An Act to amend the Act respecting the National Assembly to reflect changes made to the delimitation of electoral divisions in accordance with the Notice of the establishment of the list of electoral divisions dated 12 October 2011*	Bill 93
6	*Appropriation Act No. 2, 2016-2017*	Bill 95
7	*An Act respecting mainly the implementation of certain provisions of the Budget Speech of 26 March 2015*	Bill 74

8	*An Act to modify mainly the organization and governance of shared transportation in the Montréal metropolitan area (modified title)*	Bill 76
9	*An Act respecting development of the small-scale alcoholic beverage industry*	Bill 88
10	*An Act to authorize the making of collective agreements with a term of more than three years in the public and parapublic sectors*	Bill 94
11	*An Act to proclaim Memorial Day for Crimes Against Humanity Committed in Cambodia Between 1975 and 1979*	Bill 82
12	*An Act to amend various legislative provisions to better protect persons (modified title)*	Bill 59
13	*An Act respecting the restructuring of university-sector defined benefit pension plans and amending various legislative provisions*	Bill 75
14	*An Act to amend certain Acts establishing pension plans applicable to public sector employees*	Bill 97
15	*Firearms Registration Act*	Bill 64
16	*An Act to reduce the cost of certain medications covered by the basic prescription drug insurance plan by allowing calls for tenders*	Bill 81
17	*An Act to amend various municipal-related legislative provisions concerning such matters as political financing*	Bill 83
18	*An Act to give effect to the Charbonneau Commission recommendations on political financing*	Bill 101
19	*An Act to strengthen the fight against transphobia and improve the situation of transgender minors in particular*	Bill 103
20	*An Act to ensure resumption of the regular maritime transport services provided by Relais Nordik inc. and to settle the dispute between that company and some of its employees*	Bill 111
21	*An Act to amend the Civil Code to protect seniors' rights as lessees*	Bill 492
22	*An Act to amend various legislative provisions respecting mainly transportation services by taxi*	Bill 100
23	*An Act to increase the number of zero-emission motor vehicles in Québec in order to reduce greenhouse gas and other pollutant emissions*	Bill 104

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24	*An Act respecting the process of negotiation of collective agreements and the settlement of disputes in the municipal sector*	Bill 110
25	*An Act to allow a better match between training and jobs and to facilitate labour market entry*	Bill 70
26	*An Act to amend the Education Act*	Bill 105
27	*An Act to amend the Act respecting the governance of state-owned enterprises to promote the presence of young people on the boards of directors of such enterprises*	Bill 693
28	*An Act to extend the powers of the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec, regulate commercial practices relating to prescription drugs and protect access to voluntary termination of pregnancy services (modified title)*	Bill 92
29	*An Act to transfer the activities of the enterprise registrar to the Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale*	Bill 116
30	*An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs*	Bill 120
31	*An Act to grant Ville de Québec national capital status and increase its autonomy and powers*	Bill 109
32	*An Act to modernize the governance of national museums*	Bill 114
33	*An Act to amend the Courts of Justice Act*	Bill 125
34	*An Act to facilitate the disclosure of wrongdoings relating to public bodies (modified title)*	Bill 87
35	*An Act to implement the 2030 Energy Policy and to amend various legislative provisions*	Bill 106
36	*An Act respecting Ville de Saguenay*	Bill 212
37	*An Act respecting Municipalité de Sainte-Anne-de-Sorel*	Bill 215
38	*An Act respecting Ville de Chibougamau*	Bill 218
39	*An Act respecting Ville de Sherbrooke*	Bill 219
40	*An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures*	Bill 220
41	*An Act to allow the conversion and amalgamation of L'Assurance Mutuelle de l'Inter-Ouest and L'Assurance mutuelle des fabriques de Montréal*	Bill 222

PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

Parliamentary diplomacy

The National Assembly of Québec maintains diplomatic relations with other parliaments and various interparliamentary organizations around the world, including **Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie**, the **Commonwealth Parliamentary Association**, **the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas and institutions in the United States and Europe**.

By participating in interparliamentary events, the Assembly seeks to strengthen the effectiveness of the institution and its Members, enhance its international influence, help build a global community founded on democracy, peace, justice and prosperity and promote those sectors in which Québec excels. Parliamentary diplomacy also allows Members to better grasp the potential impact of international issues and gives them an opportunity to influence responses to these issues in the interests of Québec and its people.

By virtue of the separation of powers, the Assembly pursues its international relations independently. The President represents the Assembly internationally and oversees its interparliamentary relations. The President is assisted by Members from all parliamentary groups who make up the 16 sections or delegations for interparliamentary relations.

This year the National Assembly...

hosted over

62

delegations of parliamentarians and **officials from other states**.

met with over

9,000

foreign participants during international events in Québec and abroad.

signed 3 **cooperative agreements** with partner parliaments: the Louisiana House of Representatives and Senate, the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate and the National Assembly of Senegal.

Sections and delegations of the National Assembly for interparliamentary relations...

participated in more than

55 **meetings of interparliamentary** and **bilateral organizations**.

explored 59 **themes of interest** to Québec, including transportation electrification, refugee resettlement, the fight against climate change and the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement.

The Interparliamentary and International Relations and Protocol Directorate team...

- Held **144 international activities**

- Organized **3 major events**: the **56th** **Annual Meeting of the Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference** (**550 delegates** from **11 U.S. states**, **2 U.S. territories** and **5 Canadian provinces**), the **38th** **Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association** (**30 delegates**, including **6 speakers of Canadian parliaments**) and the **Bureau Meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie** (**80 delegates**, including **7 speakers of French-language parliaments**)

- Worked more closely with the Assembly's parliamentary proceedings sector and Research Service to better address themes of interest to Québec: parliamentary committees were directly involved in **6 hosted events** and over **60% of the proposed themes** were related to Research Service studies

- Created and organized the first leadership workshop for French-speaking female parliamentarians

- Developed a range of cooperative services involving the Assembly and specific individuals

- Established indicators and targets to better evaluate results

Relationships with interparliamentary organizations

Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie

The Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF) was founded in 1967. It comprises 83 parliaments and interparliamentary organizations from every continent. The National Assembly of Québec has been a member since 1975 and considers its role in APF as one of its top diplomatic priorities. Assembly Members hold leadership positions within each APF body.

Over the last year, Québec parliamentarians took part in **14 statutory meetings** and **conferences** held by APF and attended by **650 participants** as well as **7 collaborative events** and **meetings organized by international organizations** (e.g., WTO, UNESCO, etc.).

Impact: Participation helps protect Québec's interests and promote its best practices in relation to issues such as cultural diversity, gender equality, the fight against religious extremism, citizenship education, youth political participation, democratic consolidation and agricultural policy.

This year the **President of the National Assembly** attended the **Francophonie Summit** in Antananarivo, Madagascar, November 22 to 27.

> **Impact**: In his capacity as First Vice-president of APF, the Assembly President gave a presentation to the 20 heads of State and government in attendance on the opinion adopted a few months earlier by parliamentarians at their 42nd annual session to. It was an opportunity to draw attention to the important role parliamentarians play in preventing and mediating political crises that affect the international Francophone community.

Seminar on the diversity of cultural expressions in the digital age and second session of the Young Francophone Parliamentarians program

A seminar on the diversity of cultural expressions in the digital age was held on November 1, 2016. Some 30 parliamentarians, artists and experts attended the seminar, organized in conjunction with the **20th anniversary of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions**. The seminar was an opportunity to gauge the impacts of the Convention 20 years after its adoption and discuss the challenges digital technology poses to cultural diversity. During this same period, the National Assembly hosted the **2nd session of the Young Francophone Parliamentarians program**, whose mission is to introduce **8 young elected representatives** from Europe, Africa and the Americas to the Francophonie and encourage them to get involved in Francophone initiatives.

APF Bureau meeting and intersessional meeting of the APF Network of Women Parliamentarians

From February 1 to 4, 2017, the National Assembly hosted the **APF Bureau** Meeting, which was attended by some **40 parliamentarians**, including **8 Assembly speakers**.

The meeting of the **APF Network of Women Parliamentarians** held March 9–11 was an opportunity for **29 female parliamentarians** from **17 different parliaments** to explore the theme of women and migration, an issue that impacts a number of Francophone states that receive displaced persons fleeing civil war and terrorism in their homelands. Attendees and guest experts identified health, judicial and legal measures to implement to specifically aid women, who are often subject to abuse in forced migration situations.

> **Impact**: Hosting four major APF events attended by 150 participants from 30 different parliaments over the year helped enhance Québec's international profile.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) was founded in 1911. The National Assembly of Québec has been a member since 1933. CPA represents some 180 parliaments from the Commonwealth member states. The Québec Branch of CPA is especially active in the organization's Canadian section, which comprises 14 branches representing each of Canada's legislative assemblies.

Over the year the Assembly participated in **7** CPA **statutory events** and sent Québec parliamentary delegates to **3 workshops** and **conferences** on the British parliamentary system, security, and other topics.

38th Canadian Regional Seminar of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Some 30 parliamentarians from Canada's provinces and territories took part in **CPA's 38th Canadian Regional Parliamentary Seminar**. Under the chairmanship of Jacques Chagnon, Canadian parliamentarians and civil servants attended working sessions on topics of interest to legislative assemblies and elected representatives.

Impact: Parliamentarians in attendance gave presentations on transportation electrification and the Zero Emission Vehicle Act (unanimously adopted by the National Assembly), the Committee on Citizen Relations' self-initiated order and women's role in politics.

Parliamentary organizations in the United States

The National Assembly is a member of two major U.S. interparliamentary organizations: the National Conference of State Legislatures and the Council of State Governments and its eastern branch, the Eastern Regional Conference.

Over the year, the Delegation of the National Assembly for Relations with the United States actively participated in some **20 statutory meetings** organized by these organizations and attended by more than **7,000 participants**. Members also took part in the Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit and Great Lakes Legislative Caucus. Attendance at events hosted by these organizations provides Québec with access to a host of U.S. decision-makers.

56th Annual Meeting of the Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference

Over **550 delegates** attended the **56th Annual Meeting** of the **Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference** August 7 to 10, 2016, in Québec City.

Impact: Three resolutions were adopted, including one on pre-registration and pre-clearance at the border and another on measures aimed at stabilizing the price of milk.

This high-level conference was attended by U.S. and Canadian parliamentarians, representatives of the private sector and guest speakers. The theme of this year's meeting, "Global Challenges, Regional Solutions" spurred discussion on Canada-U.S. relations, agriculture, sustainable development, health, education and transportation.

Find out more about this topic at **www.assnat.qc.ca/en/erc56**.

Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas

The Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) brings together the congresses and parliamentary assemblies of unitary, federal, federated and associated states, regional parliaments and interparliamentary organizations of the Americas. The National Assembly of Québec houses one of the interparliamentary organization's three secretariats and the secretariat of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas. The Québec Branch of COPA is actively involved in the organization, with Québec Members occupying four seats on the Executive Committee.

Over the year the Québec Branch participated in **3 events** organized by COPA—**an election observation mission to Peru** (April 2016), **the Executive Committee meeting in Brazil** (June 2016) and the **15th General Assembly held in Argentina** (October 2016).

16th election observation mission

The Member for Rosemont led COPA's 16th election observation mission, which took place in Peru from April 7 to 11, 2016, in conjunction with the first round of the presidential election. **A total of 24 parliamentarians** from **14 COPA member countries** acted as observers.

Impact: Parliamentarians met with 20-odd stakeholders in the electoral process, including election authorities, heads of observation missions from international organizations and representatives of civil society. On election day, the delegation of observing parliamentarians split into 13 teams, allowing them to observe some 120 polling stations.

15th General Assembly

A delegation of three National Assembly of Québec Members attended COPA's **15th General Assembly** in Salta, Argentina, October 11 to 14, 2016. The event brought together **80 participants** from **16 countries in the Americas**.

Impact: Eight resolutions and declarations were adopted at the General Assembly. Parliamentarians also attended presentations, exchanged ideas and explored a broad range of topics. The Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas and the Inter-American Commission of Women organized the 9th Consultation of Parliamentarians of the Americas to coincide with the event.

Relations with partner parliaments and European institutions

Over the years the National Assembly has developed an extensive network of bilateral relations with partner parliaments. Agreements with partner parliaments provide for regular meetings between National Assembly members and their foreign counterparts, usually annually. This gives parliamentarians an opportunity to discuss topics of mutual interest in depth and take advantage of their respective legislative and policymaking experience. The meetings also serve to promote Québec's areas of excellence and enhance Québec's international profile.

This year **11 statutory meetings of interparliamentary groups** were held (see the list of events on page 60).

Impact: The year 2016–2017 was marked by the development and strengthening of bilateral relations between the National Assembly of Québec and two partner parliaments in the United States: the Louisiana House of Representatives and Senate and the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate.

Establishing official bilateral relations in the United States allows the National Assembly to strengthen its alliances with U.S. interparliamentary organizations so it can push issues of importance for Québec, such as hydropower exports and creation of a North American carbon market.

Impact: The Massachusetts-Quebec Collaborative Research Council was established in 2016–2017. Comprising 12 members (six from Québec and six from Massachusetts) from the higher education, private and legislative sectors, the Council will give Québec a forum to showcase its prowess in certain areas of expertise, specifically clean energy, electric transportation, the environment and biotech. The Council will also create networking opportunities for Québec stakeholders and open the door to innovative new partnerships.

Québec-Massachusetts Parliamentary Association

The **3rd** **session of the Québec-Massachusetts Parliamentary Association** was held in Montréal August 10 to 12, 2016. Discussion revolved around education, establishment of a direct air link between Québec City and Boston, transportation electrification, public transit infrastructure funding and hydropower exports. It was during this session that representatives decided to establish the **Massachusetts-Quebec Collaborative Research Council**, which was officially launched in Boston on December 5, 2016. The Council met for the first time in Québec City on February 8, 2017. The meeting was followed by the **4th** **session of the Québec-Massachusetts Parliamentary Association** from February 8 to 10, 2017—an opportunity for parliamentarians to further explore topics addressed in summer 2016.

Québec-Louisiana Parliamentary Association

The **1st** **session of the Québec-Louisiana Parliamentary Association** was held May 5 to 7, 2016, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Discussion revolved around tourism, artistic and cultural policies in an effort to better understand underlying issues and map out opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation. Parliamentarians agreed on the importance of strengthening political ties between Québec and Louisiana, fostering trade and supporting francophone linguistic and cultural development in Louisiana.

Québec-Sénégal Parliamentary Association

Jacques Chagnon visited Senegal in December 2016 at the invitation of Moustapha Niasse, the President of the National Assembly of Senegal. At the conclusion of the working sessions the presidents of the two institutions signed a memorandum of understanding to create a new parliamentary association between the National Assembly of Québec and the National Assembly of Senegal.

Impact: This agreement will enhance cooperation in various areas of shared interest, including education, training and health. The two presidents also agreed on the venue for the 4th edition of the International Parliamentary Training Program, which will be in Dakar in 2018.

Interparliamentary cooperation

For almost 20 years, the National Assembly of Québec has provided technical support to parliamentary institutions in emerging and consolidating democracies, underpinning their efforts at the parliamentary and administrative levels. These interparliamentary cooperation activities speak to the Assembly's determination to actively contribute to promoting and strengthening democratic institutions and processes around the world.

International Parliamentary Training Program

From June 7 to 17, 2016, the National Assembly of Québec and Université Laval hosted the **2nd edition** of the International Parliamentary Training Program, organized in partnership with the World Bank and with financial support from the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie. The goal of the program is to deliver advanced training to French-speaking parliamentary officials and provide a forum for sharing experiences.

Fifteen French-speaking parliamentary officials from Haiti, Morocco, Niger, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Togo took advantage of the program. Content covered everything from human resource management and parliamentary oversight to how sittings are organized, and included a mix of university research and parliamentary practice. Workshops and seminars were delivered by stakeholders and trainers from Benin, Canada, France and Québec.

Leadership workshop for female parliamentarians

A leadership workshop for female parliamentarians was held March 6 to 10, 2017, to hone the skills of French-speaking female parliamentarians. A total of **23 women** from **11 parliaments** attended the workshop, a National Assembly of Québec initiative organized in partnership with École nationale d'administration publique and Groupe Femmes, Politique et Démocratie. The program, which also received support from the governments of Canada and Québec, focused on strengthening the individual skills of female parliamentarians by combining theoretical university-level presentations with hands-on activities and support sessions.

Finally, the National Assembly hosted **28 official visits by foreign delegations**, **10 government representatives** and **intergovernmental organizations** and **24 diplomatic** and **consular representatives**. A detailed list of these visits is provided at the end of this section.

Find out more about this topic at www.assnat.qc.ca/en/diplomatie.

Statutory meetings
of interparliamentary groups

EVENTS	THEMES
29th session of the France-Québec Interparliamentary Committee (May 2–6, 2016, Paris, France)	- The fight against religious extremism and terrorism - The francophone digital sphere
1st session of the Québec-Louisiana Parliamentary Association (May 2–6, 2016, Baton Rouge, Louisiana)	- Tourism - Culture
4th session of the Morocco-Québec Interparliamentary Committee (May 9–11, 2016, Québec City, Québec)	- Education sector reform - Agricultural policy reform
22nd General Meeting of the Ontario-Québec Parliamentary Association (May 12–13, 2016, Québec City, Québec)	- Immigrant and refugee reception and integration - Cycling and pedestrian infrastructure in transportation planning
26th session of the ANQ-Parliament of the Federation of Wallonia-Brussels Joint Committee (June 12–16, 2016, Brussels, Belgium)	- Immigrant and refugee reception and integration - Youth protection and troubled youth support services
10th French Senate-National Assembly of Québec Annual Meeting (July 4–6, 2016, Paris, France)	- Human genome editing - Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)
3rd session of the Québec-Massachusetts Association (August 10–13, 2016, Montréal, Québec)	- Higher education and research - Direct Québec–Boston air link - Public transit - Transportation electrification - Hydropower exports
9th session of the ANQ-Parliament of Wallonia Joint Committee (October 3–8, 2016, Québec City, Québec)	- The fight against climate change - Public and private housing policy
9th session of the Québec-Bavaria Joint Parliamentary Committee (October 9–13, 2016, Bavaria, Germany)	- Refugee integration - Blue Angel environmental label and ecolabelling - Innovation, energy development and green technology - Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)
4th session of the Québec-Massachusetts Parliamentary Association (February 8–10, 2017, Québec City, Québec)	- Air transport - Public transit electrification - Genome editing - Tourism - Higher education
30th session of the France-Québec Interparliamentary Committee (February 21–24, 2017, Québec City, Québec)	- Innovation, energy development and green technology - Immigrant and refugee reception and integration

Parliamentary diplomacy
Official visits to the Assembly

As Québec's central democratic institution, the National Assembly welcomes numerous foreign parliamentarians, representatives of governments and intergovernmental organizations and foreign dignitaries to Québec City every year.

Foreign parliamentary delegations

Parliamentary speakers

- Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, Tricia Marwick (April 13, 2016)

- Chairman of the Kyoto Prefectural Assembly, Yoshihiro Ueda, and Vice-governor of the Kyoto Prefecture, Shuichi Yamauchi (May 26–27, 2016)

- President of the Parliament of Wallonia, André Antoine (October 3–8, 2016)

- President of the Parliament of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, Philippe Courard (November 2, 2016)

- President of the Massachusetts Senate, Stanley C. Rosenberg (February 8–10, 2017)

- For the Bureau Meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (February 1–4, 2017): President of the National Assembly of Madagascar, Jean Max Rakotomamonjy; President of the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg, Mars Di Bartolomeo; President of the National Assembly of Senegal, Moustapha Niasse; President of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Aubin Minaku Ndjalandjoko, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville), Justin Koumba; and President of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire, Kigbafori Guillaume Soro.

Parliamentarians

- A delegation from the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (April 26–27, 2016)

- A delegation of members of the Landtag of Bavaria Committee on Education and Culture

- A delegation from the European Parliament (May 24, 2016)

- A delegation from the National Assembly of the Republic of Cameroon (May 30–31, 2016)

- A delegation from the Legal Committee of the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau and the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China (June 2, 2016)

- A delegation of members of the Committee on Cultural Affairs and Education of the National Assembly of France (June 7, 2016)

- A delegation of members of the Committee on Culture and Education of the Parliament of the Faroe Islands (September 15, 2016)

- A delegation from the Standing Committee of the Jinan Popular Assembly (September 22, 2016)

- The Member for Gironde and President of the France-Québec Friendship Group of the National Assembly of France (October 3, 2016)

- A delegation of parliamentarians from the United Kingdom (October 5, 2016)

- A delegation from the Flemish Parliament (October 26, 2016)

- A delegation of parliamentarians from the six Grand Councils of the cantons of Romandy (October 26–27, 2016)

- A member of the Senate of France representing the constituency of French citizens living abroad, Jean-Yves Leconte (November 3, 2016)

- A delegation of members of the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee of the British Parliament (March 23, 2017)

Representatives of governments and intergovernmental organizations and other foreign dignitaries

- Secretary of State for State Reform and Simplification of the French Republic, Jean-Vincent Placé (April 5, 2016)

- A delegation from the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet and recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize for 2015 (May 19, 2016)

- Minister of the Civil Service of the French Republic, Annick Girardin (April 28, 2016)

- Governor of Goias in the Federative Republic of Brazil, Marconi Perillo (September 21, 2016)

- Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Mali, Moussa Mara (September 27, 2016)

- A delegation from the Southern African Development Community (October 27, 2016)

- Prime Minister of France, Manuel Valls, in conjunction with the 19th Alternating Meeting of the Premier of Québec and the Prime Minister of France (October 14, 2016)

- Minister of Justice of the Free State of Bavaria, Winfried Bausback (October 26, 2016)

- Governor of the State of Queretaro of the United Mexican States, Francisco Dominguez Sirvien (November 8, 2016)

- Administrator of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, Adama Ouane (February 1, 2017)

It is also customary for the President of the National Assembly to welcome diplomats and consular officers for a courtesy visit upon their arrival and departure. These representatives are also invited to attend an annual information session.

Visits by diplomatic and consular representatives

- Ambassador of Hungary, His Excellency Balint Ódor (April 5, 2016)

- Ambassador of France, His Excellency Nicolas Chapuis (April 6, 2016)

- High Commissioner of India, His Excellency Vishnu Prakash (April 6, 2016)

- Ambassador of Nepal, His Excellency Kali Prasad Pokhrel (April 19, 2016)

- Consul General of Brazil in Montreal, Élisa Teofilo de Luna (April 20, 2016)

- Consul General of the Kingdom of Morocco in Montreal, Habiba Zemmouri (April 26, 2016)

- Consul General of Switzerland in Montreal, Beat Urs Kaser (farewell visit) (May 11, 2016)

- Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea, His Excellency Saramady Toure (May 17, 2016)

- Ambassador of the Republic of Chad, His Excellency Mahamat Ali Adoum (May 24, 2016)

- Consul General of France in Québec City, Laurence Haguenauer (October 5, 2016)

- Ambassador of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, His Excellency Hocine Meghar (October 18, 2016)

- Group of Heads of Francophone Diplomatic Missions Accredited to Ottawa (October 19–20, 2016)

- Consul General of Switzerland in Montreal, Elisabeth Andrea Bosch Malinen (October 25, 2016)

- Consul General of Italy in Montreal, Marco Riccardo Rusconi (October 25, 2016)

- Consul General of Peru in Montréal, Manuel A. Cossio Klüver (October 26, 2016)

- Consul General of the United States in Québec City, Allison Areias-Vogel (November 22, 2016)

- Consul General of Argentina in Montréal, Maria Fabiana Loguzzo (December 6, 2016)

- Consul General of Mexico in Montréal, Alejandro Ives Estivill Castro (December 7, 2016)

- Ambassador of Mongolia, His Excellency Altangerel Radnaabazar (February 7, 2017)

- Consul of the Republic of Tunisia in Montréal, Lamia Kedadi Siala (February 21, 2017)

- Consul General of the Republic of Colombia in Montréal, Sergio Armando Restrepo Otalora (March 14, 2017)

- Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Daeshik Jo (March 16, 2017)

- Ambassador of the Republic of Peru, Her Excellency Doraliza Marcela Lopez Bravo (March 21, 2017)

- Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway, Her Excellency Anne Kari Hansen Ovind (March 29, 2017)

THE ASSEMBLY, THE PUBLIC AND INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Assembly and the public

The Assembly welcomes visitors

This year 115,387 **people** visited the National Assembly.

36,110 **visitors** came from Québec, **11,102 from the rest of Canada**, **10,997 from the United States**, **7,433 from France** and **10,183 from other countries**.

12,352 **information requests**.

9,787 **visitors** attended **parliamentary proceedings** in the National Assembly Chambers.

Construction of the reception pavilion has not deterred visitors. Daily National Assembly tours remain popular, and many visitors also attend parliamentary proceedings.

Open House

The National Assembly opened its doors for Québec's National Holiday as it does every year. Visitors could take a self-guided tour at their own pace and explore different facets of the institution where their elected representatives conduct parliamentary business.

The **Hospitality and Information Service** welcomed 1,927 **visitors** for the open house.

Le Parlementaire restaurant

Le Parlementaire has been open to the public for nearly 50 **years**. The Beaux Arts–style dining room serves cuisine inspired by Québec regional specialities and featuring produce from the National Assembly's own gardens.

Nearly 35,000 **people** dined at Le Parlementaire this year. The restaurant also hosted 78 **private receptions** for 8,925 **guests** who enjoyed a fine meal and lively conversation in a venue renowned for its outstanding service. This represented an **increase** of 9 **receptions** and 1,152 **guests compared to last year**.

DID YOU KNOW...

For the 4th year in a row, Le Parlementaire restaurant served produce harvested from the Parliament's own gardens. Although smaller in size this year due to construction work on the reception pavilion, the gardens produced a bountiful crop, much to the delight of visitors and discerning diners.

Theme menus were composed around Québec products like apples, corn, squash, rye and maple products. Fresh garden herbs were used to make herbes salées and an after-dinner herbal tea served in the restaurant. Fresh-picked blueberries, honeyberries, mint and cedar were used throughout the summer in inventive craft cocktails featuring Québec spirits. The chef-in-residence appeared on the *Les Urbaincultrices* television program to show off his talents by preparing home-grown kale in three delicious ways.

Also this year the Café du Parlement served 27,000 **customers** in a casual atmosphere. Several new dishes were added to the menu, which now features a broader selection of take-away options as well.

Find out more about this topic at **www.assnat.qc.ca/en/restaurant**.

The Parliament gardens

The vegetable gardens were completely redesigned this year due to the reception pavilion construction project. A vertical garden was set up along a section of the temporary fencing.

🔗 Find out more about this topic at **www.assnat.qc.ca/en/jardins**.

Visitors could observe over 130 **varieties of organically grown vegetables**, **herbs**, **edible plants**, **berries** and **tree fruits**. As in years past, the gardens' bounty was showcased in dishes prepared by Le Parlementaire chefs. Visitors were also able to pick vegetables in three rowed sections of the vegetable garden.

The gardens were planted and tended in partnership with Université Laval and Les Urbainculteurs.

The National Assembly's bees

More than 100,000 **bees** were busy on the roof of the Jean-Antoine-Panet Building producing honey for the National Assembly, in partnership with Miellerie de Champlain. The many species of flowers in the Parliament gardens offer worker bees a smorgasbord of food sources. A hundred liters of honey was harvested this year, some of which is used to sweeten dishes served in the Assembly's restaurants.

National Assembly Library

The National Assembly Library provides information, documents and reliable and impartial analyses to meet the research and documentation needs of Members and administrative personnel. Library services include reference, research, indexing, archiving, and document processing and management.

🔗 Find out more about Library **users** and **services** at www.bibliotheque.assnat.qc.ca.

The Library by the numbers

SUPPORTING MEMBERS' WORK

6,000+
information and research requests

6,500+
document loans

200+
assignments completed by the Research Service

16,500+
pages of indexed parliamentary debates

A LIVELY, OPEN AND CONNECTED LIBRARY

9,500+
Library **visitors and users**

1.5 million
Web pages accessed from the catalogue and subject guides

70,000+
searches from the *Journal des débats online index*

150
activities such as lunch seminars, guided tours and book launches

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COLLECTIONS TO BROWSE

2.3 million
documents in various collections

13,000+
new loans processed

195,000+
pages scanned

6 documents
from the collection of rare and valuable books restored

80,000+
files of loans documents

6,000+
heritage **objects**

63
Archival **fonds and collections**

73,000+
hours of audio and video **recordings** of parliamentary proceedings

Major projects

Integrated document management

The Library implemented a software solution to manage the National Assembly's administrative documents, archives and heritage objects and preserve its institutional memory. **Integrated document management** solutions are designed to optimize the document and object management process in order to make it more efficient, logical and secure.

New website

In keeping with the 2013–2016 action plan objective to *better manage information and make it more accessible*, the Library worked on designing a **new website** with all-new sections such as Services, Collections and Activities. The *search* feature provides access to a range of search tools for the Library's priority patrons as well as researchers and citizens.

Sharing Québec's political and parliamentary expertise

Assembly publications

Cinq lectures pour comprendre

The new bimonthly series *Cinq lectures pour comprendre* presents a selection and synopsis of five books, essays and articles on important and compelling topics. The works featured are usually available at the Library or online. **Seven issues** were published in 2016–2017.

Find out more about this topic at
www.bibliotheque.assnat.qc.ca/fr/618-cinq-lectures-pour-comprendre (in French).

Subject guides

Regularly updated **subject guides** are available online. Guides in this series include *Les documents politiques et parlementaires du Québec, L'étude des crédits budgétaires produits par les ministères et organismes* and *Le Code civil du Québec : du Bas-Canada à aujourd'hui*. The bibliography on parliamentarianism in Québec is another searchable online tool and the most comprehensive source of information on parliamentary proceedings in Québec.

Find out more about this topic at www.bibliotheque.assnat.qc.ca/guides (in French).

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Le Bulletin de la Bibliothèque

The purpose of *Le Bulletin de la Bibliothèque* is to disseminate knowledge on the history and evolution of Québec's parliamentary institutions and system. It combines content from National Assembly employees and authors from various spheres.

Read the latest issue at
www.bibliotheque.assnat.qc.ca/fr/1797-bulletin-de-la-bibliotheque
(in French).

Encyclopedia of Québec Parliamentarianism

Numerous additions were made to the Encyclopedia of Québec Parliamentarianism, the French-language resource for historical and institutional research available on the National Assembly website. It was created to organize and disseminate knowledge of the parliamentary system acquired over time. The encyclopedia currently numbers some 625 **subject headings**, with 22 **new entries** posted in 2016–2017.

Find out more about this topic at www.assnat.qc.ca/fr/patrimoine/lexique/index.html (in French).

Public events

Lectures

The Library hosted **five lunchtime lectures** on a range of topics.

Conférence midi	Conférence midi	Conférence midi	Conférence midi	Conférence midi
FRANCE'S 2017 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: THE END OF A CYCLE?	**PRESIDENTIAL DUEL:** THE U.S. ELECTIONS AND THEIR IMPORTANCE FOR QUÉBEC	**VICTOR HORTA 1861-1947** THE MAN, THE ARCHITECT AND ART NOUVEAU	**A LIGHT IN THE GREAT DARKNESS:** THE COMMITMENT OF FATHER GEORGES-HENRI LÉVESQUE, 1930–1950	**STIMULATING THE QUÉBEC ECONOMY** USING NATURE'S INGENUITY

They can be viewed on the Library website at www.bibliotheque.assnat.qc.ca/fr/548-conferences (in French).

Exhibitions

Three exhibitions were held at the National Assembly this year. **Histoires de députés**, an exhibition that opened in the Parliament Building in 2014, presents the roles, responsibilities and day-to-day work of Québec parliamentarians. The *Entre savoir et pouvoir, l'édifice Pamphile-Le May et la Bibliothèque de l'Assemblée nationale* exhibition ran in the Library through September 2016. Curated from various heritage collections, *Les trésors de la Bibliothèque* was on display in the Library windows, showcasing exceptional objects and a few of the Library's oldest and rarest tomes. **Over** 150 **visitors** took a guided tour of the Library, which also develops virtual exhibitions to complement its traditional displays.

View the virtual exhibition *Les trésors de la bibliothèque* at
www.bibliotheque.assnat.qc.ca/fr/546-expositions (in French).

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Political Book Prize 2016

For the **14th year** in a row, the National Assembly paid tribute to political writing and the talent of authors in the field. Assembly Vice-president François Gendron announced the names of the winners at the Scène des Rendez-vous littéraires at the Salon international du livre de Québec book fair on April 14, 2016.

Martine Tremblay was awarded the **Prix de la présidence de l'Assemblée nationale** for her book *La rébellion tranquille : une histoire du Bloc québécois (1990-2011)*. Left to right: Vice-président François Gendron, finalists Claude Cardinal and Guillaume Lamy, winner Martine Tremblay and Université de Montréal's Managing Director of Publications Patrick Poirier.

Jules Racine St-Jacques was awarded the **Prix de la Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant** in the Doctoral Thesis category and the **Prix Ministère des Relations internationales du Québec/ Ministère des Affaires étrangères et du développement international de France** for his thesis *L'engagement du père Georges-Henri Lévesque dans la modernité canadienne-française, 1932-1962. Contribution à l'histoire intellectuelle du catholicisme et de la modernité au Canada français*.

Finally, the **Prix de la Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant** award in the Master's Thesis category went to **Lauréanne Daneau** for her thesis, *La régionalisation de l'immigration au Québec : le débat public entre le gouvernement et la société civile à l'origine de la politique, 1987-2000*.

🔗 Find out more about this topic at **www.bibliotheque.assnat.qc.ca/fr/549-prix-du-livre-politique** (in French).

Citizens honoured at the Assembly

Medal of Honour of the National Assembly

The Medal of Honour of the National Assembly of Québec is awarded by the President to public figures of various backgrounds who deserve recognition from National Assembly Members and the people of Québec for their careers, work or engagement.

National Assembly President Jacques Chagnon bestowed the Medal of Honour of the National Assembly on 9 **Québec public figures** who have left a mark in their respective fields of endeavour. The President recognized their valuable contribution to society, their commitment, their dedication and their active efforts to promote and develop Québec in their spheres of influence.

The medals were awarded in two separate ceremonies.

May 10, 2016 (in alphabetical order)

- Arlette Cousture
- Oliver Jones
- Pierre Lapointe
- Lise Watier

November 14 and 15, 2016 (in alphabetical order)

- Sylvie Bernier
- Denise Filiatrault
- Marie Laberge
- Pierre Nadeau (November 14)
- Jasmin Roy

 Find out more about this topic at www.assnat.qc.ca/en/medailles-assemblee.

The National Assembly: a proud proponent of healthy living

Université de Montréal's Carabins women's hockey team recognized

On May 25, 2016, President Jacques Chagnon and other parliamentarians, including Premier Philippe Couillard, officially received the Université de Montréal Carabins women's hockey team. The Carabins won their second national championship when they soundly defeated the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds 8 to 0.

President Chagnon commended them for their stellar performance and the positive role model they provide to young people who dream of following in their footsteps as athletes and successful university students.

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Energy Cubes Challenge 2016

On June 7, 2016, Assembly President Jacques Chagnon once again hosted the Grand Défi Pierre Lavoie. The winning schools in this year's Energy Cubes Challenge were announced before Members and elementary school students.

The National Assembly is proud to partner with Québec's biggest health promotion event, the Grand Défi Pierre Lavoie, whose mission is to encourage Quebecers to make healthy living part of their routine and model healthy habits for future generations.

Top honours for Université Laval Rouge et Or teams

On February 22, 2017, President Jacques Chagnon paid tribute to three of Université Laval's 2016 winning Rouge et Or teams: the men's cross-country team, the women's soccer team and the football team. The President lauded the athletes for their physical prowess, determination and courage. For three sports teams from Université Laval to win top honours was no small feat—and one that will not soon be forgotten.

Tribute to Saint-Ferréol-les-Neiges cross-country skier Alex Harvey

On March 29, 2017, President Chagnon and other parliamentarians honoured cross-country skier Alex Harvey, who captured the 50-kilometre freestyle world championship at a hotly contested race in Lahti, Finland, in March 2017. Thanks to this victory, he is now ranked among the top cross-country skiers in the world. The President lauded the world-class athlete for his exceptional career.

The Assembly's educational mission

The National Assembly of Québec operates a number of educational programs to teach Québec citizens, especially young people, the importance of contributing to the vitality of our democracy. These activities are designed to familiarize citizens with Québec's parliamentary institutions. The **Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant** was actively involved in organizing the following activities:

- Parliamentary simulations for citizens of all ages
- A quiz game on various facets of the democratic system
- A democratic immersion internship
- Educational publications and teaching tools for educators

Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant

DID YOU KNOW...

Every year the Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant offers five 10-month internships along with a $21,000 scholarship to graduates of a Québec university. Selected candidates get to see how the National Assembly and related institutions work from the inside. Interns are alternately paired with a Government Member and an Opposition Member. They also participate in an international exploratory mission and share impressions with their counterparts in the Parliament of Canada and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. In tandem with these activities, they are required to write an essay on a topic related to the parliamentary system and democracy.

The 2015–2016 internships ended in June of this financial year—a milestone that was marked by an official ceremony and submission of the essays written by interns **Joëlle Boucher-Kirouac**, **Sophie Jacques-Barma**, **Katéri Lalancette** and **Julien Mc Donald-Guimond**.

The **new interns, Gabriel Arruda**, **Alexis Aubry**, **Geoffroy Boucher**, **Ariane Godbout** and **Julie Martel,** arrived in September 2016. As part of their program, they helped the educational programming team conduct parliamentary simulations, worked closely with their mentor Members and participated in fact-finding missions to Toronto, Ottawa, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Their mission report, *Les pays baltes aux frontières de la démocratie,* and individual essays will be tabled and released in July 2017 so that everyone can benefit from what they have learned.

Find out more about this topic at **www.fondationbonenfant.qc.ca.**

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Strengthening school democracy with Vox Populi

This program is made possible with **the support of Directeur général des élections** and the **Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant**.

Vox Populi is an interactive tool designed to engage elementary and high school students. More than 200 **schools** have participated since it was launched. The training sessions developed and delivered across Québec by the National Assembly and Directeur général des élections strengthen democracy in schools. Vox Populi fosters the acquisition and adoption of democratic values, specifically through the electoral process. It teaches students and others about democracy, the roles of an elected representative, project management and communication skills. The program offers elementary and high schools an organizational framework for their student councils and encourages them to participate in making decisions that affect their schools.

The student council projects that best met these educational objectives were recognized **in May 2016**.

For the program's second year, which kicked off in August 2016, Vox Populi introduced improved teaching tools and training sessions better tailored to schools' needs. As of March 31, 2017, 111 **training sessions** had been delivered across Québec.

Winning schools

Registered schools were invited to submit a student council project **in May 2016**. A selection committee chose 6 **projects** that best illustrated the principles of democracy and school participation, based on criteria reflecting program values. Three **elementary schools** and three **high schools** were recognized in an official ceremony at the National Assembly. Their outstanding efforts earned them a $500 **grant**, presented by Maryse Gaudreault, Vice-president of the National Assembly and Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant, and Pierre Reid, Chief Electoral Officer of Québec.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	HIGH SCHOOLS
Bourgeoys-Champagnat School (Movie night)	**Paul-Gérin-Lajoie-d'Outremont High School** (Café Crok'Dedans)
Wahta' School (La foire des différences)	**Ste-Thérèse Academy** (Compostage : la porte est ouverte pour une école verte!)
Sainte-Martine School (Semons des semeurs en 2016!)	**Saint-Luc High School** (Civic engagement week)

Find out more about this topic at www.pariciliademocratie.com (in French).

Democracy: Why and for whom?

The President's Tour comes to the schools

The Assembly's educational programming reached new heights in 2016–2017 with a **new-and-improved President's Tour program** For many years now, citizens of all ages have enjoyed access to learning tools and parliamentary simulations offered by the National Assembly. Learning was supplemented with a visit by the President or a Vice-president, but this service was only available to high school students. In 2016 this three-part program (educational materials, simulations in the National Assembly and in-school visits by the President or a Vice-president) was extended to all schools, be they elementary or high school.

The **President's Tour** is a creative way to introduce students to democracy, the roles of the President, Vice-presidents and Members of the National Assembly, and the importance of getting involved in their community. *Democracy: Why and for whom?* provides a forum for open dialogue between National Assembly leaders and young people, as well as an opportunity to hold symbolic and official events, like student council swearing-in ceremonies and the sanctioning of bills adopted by student council.

The high school version of the **President's Tour** was such a success that the program was expanded to elementary schools in winter 2016. The first visits with younger audiences went very well. The program content and format at both the elementary and high school levels have been revamped to achieve better learning outcomes. The program is now open to all elementary schools and high schools interested in meeting with the Assembly President or a Vice-president to discuss democracy and related topics.

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Parliamentary simulations

The National Assembly pursues its educational mission on a number of fronts. The production of teaching materials and tools for classroom teachers is a key component. Parallel to this effort, **parliamentary simulations** help students **apply theoretical concepts**, **further their learning**, **become engaged citizens** and **test what they have learned in the classroom**. Every year for the past 25 **years** the National Assembly has welcomed **students of all levels** for a unique experience: a chance to sit in the National Assembly and parliamentary committees where they debate, seek compromise, adopt legislation and get a first-hand understanding of Québec's legislative process.

20th Pupils' Parliament

The Pupils' Parliament is designed for 6th **grade students**. Each class participating in the parliamentary simulation elects a representative and drafts a bill. The representatives spend a day at the National Assembly working through the steps involved in adopting a bill, both in the Assembly and in committee. Participants not only learn about Québec's parliamentary system, but also grow personally and experience civic engagement first-hand.

Date: May 6, 2016

Target group: **6th** grade elementary **school students**

Number of participants: 93 **students** and 34 **teachers**

Titles of the three bills considered:
1. *An Act on market gardening*
2. *An Act on teaching first aid in elementary schools*
3. *An Act to require all elementary cycle 3 students to participate in an intramural sport twice a week*

Bills 1 **and** 2 **were adopted**.

15th Young People's Parliament

Over 2 **days**, participants in this parliamentary simulation present and debate bills on issues of interest to them. This allows them to **experience the work of Assembly Members** and **understand** how the **National Assembly operates** This year a parliamentary committee explored issues related to concussions in young athletes. As part of the self-initiated order, committee members discussed the impact of these injuries and potential solutions before drafting their report.

Date: January 25–27, 2017

Target group: Secondary **3** and **4 students**

Number of participants : 136 **students** and 44 **teachers**

Number of schools represented: 39

Titles of the three bills considered:

1. *An Act to implement measures aimed at better integrating immigrants in Québec's high schools*
2. *An Act respecting financial incentives for vocational and college studies*
3. *An Act respecting the promotion of health products*

Bill 1 was adopted.

25th Student Forum

The 2016 Forum was a festive event and a fitting way to mark the 25th **anniversary** of this **successful program**. Highlights included an **official ceremony**, **honouring the colleges that have participated** since the program's inception and **two** particularly active **professors**, as well as a first-ever **minority government simulation** that was very popular with participants.

Student Forum participants hone their knowledge of parliamentary procedure, the legislative process and the functioning of a democratic state. Some students participate as press attachés and reporters. Two newspapers, *Vox Populi* and *Respublica*, are published every day during the Forum.

In addition, for the past 4 **years**, Université Laval law students with an interest in **legislative drafting** and **the parliamentary process of bill consideration** have participated in the **Student Forum**. Three **students** served as legislative drafters for the 25th **legislature**. Under the supervision of a NationalAssembly law clerk and Lucie Lauzière, professor and Chair of the Steering Committee of the Louis-Philippe-Pigeon Legal Writing Chair, the students helped draft the three bills considered by participants in this parliamentary simulation.

Date: January 9–13, 2017

Target group: **College** students

Number of participants: 146 **students** and 47 **professors**

Number of CEGEPs represented: 26

Titles of the three bills considered:
1. *An Act to increase the birth rate and promote family values*
2. *An Act to improve the integration of immigrants in Québec*
3. *An Act to make organ and tissue donation universal*

All 3 **bills were passed.**

Youth Parliament and Student Parliament of Québec

In addition to its own parliamentary simulations, the National Assembly provides logistics support for two simulations designed for **young people age** 18 to 25.

The Youth Parliament of Québec, organized by the Association québécoise des jeunes parlementaires Inc.

The 67th Youth Parliament, held December 26–30, 2016, had 99 **participants**.

The Student Parliament of Québec, organized by the Assemblée parlementaire des étudiants du Québec Inc.

The 31st Student Parliament held January 2–6, 2017, **drew** 147 **participants**. These annual events are designed to introduce young people to the legislative and parliamentary process.

Young Democrats Tournament

The Young Democrats Tournament is a quiz game in which participants test their knowledge of Québec's political history and the evolution of democracy from ancient Greece to the present.

Date: April 8–10, 2016

Target group: Students in **secondary 4** and **5** and **college**

Number of participants : 194, including 71 **young women** and 123 **young men** from 27 **schools**

Par ici la démocratie: a website for students

The website logged an average of 8,000 **visits** a month during the school year and had 1,000 **subscribers** as of March 31, 2017.

Par ici la démocratie is the **National Assembly's website for young people**. It takes a fresh look at our parliamentary institutions and helps students see the fundamental role Parliament plays in society. Launched in summer 2014, the educational tool offers easily accessible yet comprehensive content to help students develop their critical thinking skills and understand the underpinnings of Québec society.

🔗 Find out more about this topic at www.pariciladémocratie.com (in French).

Student Page Program

Created in 2009 in partnership with Université Laval, the National Assembly's Student Page Program gives 14 **undergraduate students** a rewarding work experience and an opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of Québec's parliamentary institutions. The program was originally limited to Université Laval students but is now open to students from other Québec universities. Nine **young women** and five **young men** were selected for 2016–2017, including one student from a Montréal university admitted through an interuniversity exchange program run by Bureau de coopération interuniversitaire. The student pages began working with Assembly Members in late August 2016 under the supervision of the Page Supervisor and Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms. Student pages are paid for a 10–15 hour work week and must do a research project recognized by Université Laval. The **internship** and **directed research project** earn students 6 **credits** toward **the bachelor's degree** they are pursuing.

🔗 Find out more about this topic at
www.pariciladémocratie.com/participer/983-programme-des-pages (in French).

Research Chair in Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions

Inaugurated in November 2007, the Research Chair in Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions is the result of a partnership between the National Assembly and Université Laval. Chair partners include the French National Assembly, the CROP polling firm and Québec's Chief Electoral Officer, Auditor General, Ombudsman and Lobbyists Commissioner.

Seminar on parliaments in the international context

On March 1, 2017, the Chair held its biannual symposium in the National Assembly's Legislative Council Chamber on the theme of **parliaments in the international context**. Former and active parliamentarians, university experts and practitioners in the field of international relations and cooperation came together for a rare opportunity to reflect critically on different forms of international relations developed and maintained by the legislative branch in Québec and elsewhere.

The event marked the 20th **anniversary** of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas and the 50th **anniversary** of the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (2 **interparliamentary organizations** in which the National Assembly of Québec and its Members are particularly active). Participants discussed the benefits of parliamentary diplomacy and the contribution parliaments make to democratic institution building.

Recognition event

National Assembly of Québec **President** Jacques Chagnon welcomed the Chair's **partners** and its 4 2016–2017 **scholarship recipients** for a ceremony on Thursday, December 8, 2016. The scholarship recipients were rewarded for their research on democracy and parliamentary institutions.

Find out more about this topic at **www.democratie.chaire.ulaval.ca** (in French).

"Jeunes explorateurs d'un jour" one-day internship program

On April 21, 2016, for the third year in a row, the *Journal des débats* team welcomed 2 **students** from 2 **different high schools** interested in **finding out more about the work of an editor**.

For one day they shadowed 2 **seasoned editors** at the *Journal des débats* to learn the ins and outs of the job. The students visited the *Journal des débats* office, talked to team members involved in each stage of production, sat in on the question period, visited the Library and Press Gallery and attended a luncheon with *Journal des débats* employees at the Le Parlementaire restaurant. They also had an opportunity to edit short excerpts from various debates.

Find out more about this topic at **http://www.jeunes-explorateurs.org/en**.

Training in parliamentarianism and parliamentary law

The National Assembly actively contributes to courses and programs at Université Laval in an effort to **develop** and **advance knowledge about parliamentary systems and parliamentary law** for an audience made up primarily of university students, but also of researchers, parliamentarians and civil servants. For the past 13 **years, the Assembly has offered the course** *Droit et procédure parlementaires* to students enrolled in a bachelor's program in law, political science, public affairs or international relations. Students gain insight into **parliamentary procedure**, **parliamentary privilege** and the **work** of the National Assembly and its parliamentary committees. The Assembly also helped create a **distance learning course,** *Parlementarisme comparé Québec-France*, in partnership with the French National Assembly and Université Laval's Research Chair in Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions. Offered for the 4th **consecutive year** at **Université Laval**, the course is a comparative introduction to how the Québec and French assemblies operate.

In 2016–2017, 33 **students** took the course.

Tailored training

In accordance with the Assembly's mission of providing services to help Members in their roles as legislators and overseers of government action, various training options are available to teach citizens about the Assembly and the work its Members do.

This year 28 **people**, including new Members, National Assembly employees and university students, benefitted from over 20 **hours of training** tailored to their needs.

A well-connected Assembly

Social media: a real-time window on institutional and parliamentary life

Over the past two decades the National Assembly has adapted to changing technology to keep citizens and specialized audiences up-to-date on its work and activities. It continually strives to find newer and better ways of reaching citizens and encouraging their participation in democratic life. In 2011 the National Assembly expanded its communication efforts by launching a social media presence. **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **YouTube** are now key communication channels and **another option for citizens to engage in Québec's democratic life**. The Assembly's social media accounts are managed by professionals who post unbiased news on the institution, parliamentary proceedings and goings-on at the Assembly.

Social media presence as of March 31, 2017

FACEBOOK:
official page
and specialized
pages

NA of Québec
(official page)
(±8,000 followers)

**Fondation
Jean-Charles-Bonenfant
Internship program**
(1,000 followers)

**NA archives
and history**
(3,590 followers)

**NA of Québec
youth section**
(±2,500 followers)

TWITTER:
official account
and specialized
accounts

@AssnatQc
(±10,000 followers)

@BiblioAssnat
(3,600 followers)

@CommParlQc
(3,747 followers)

YOUTUBE:
To get around an
issue with displaying
content
on the assnat.qc.ca website

QuebecAssnat

GOOGLE+ PAGE:
to optimize Google search
rankings of NA activities
dans Google

AssnatQuebec

LINKEDIN:
So employees can link to
the NA page

AssnatQuebec

HISTORYPIN:
To make the Assembly
archives accessible to the
public

(1,718 searches)

Find out more about this topic at www.assnat.qc.ca/en/accueil/mediassociaux.

9 facts about the Service aux courriéristes parlementaires et les médias

1. The Service sent 3,688 **press releases** and **invitations to members** of the **Press Gallery**.

2. The Press Gallery's phone service fielded 3,244 **calls**. A paging service is offered for last-minute summons to the Parliament Building. This service is used multiple times a day when parliament is in session.

3. The Service issued 887 **temporary accreditations** to 68 **media outlets**.

4. The Service's main clientele consists of 60 **individuals** (journalists, camera operators, researchers, producers and photographers) from 14 **media outlets**, all of whom are members of the Press Gallery.

5. The Service provides the Press Gallery with reception, documentation, information, research, messaging and telephone services as well as a liaison service with various groups and stakeholders involved with the Assembly (parliamentary wings, elected officials and stakeholders from government and civil society).

6. The Service works closely with all Assembly departments to meet its clients' needs (Library, real estate management, protocol, security, etc.).

7. All documents tabled in the House and in committee are indexed and distributed in hard copy or electronic versions as required by Press Gallery members. Some 30 lists are updated before the beginning of each session.

8. The Service coordinates media outlets' technical requirements for special events at the Parliament Building.

9. The Service launched a new accreditation system for some 350 **media outlets**.

🔗 Find out more about this topic at **www.assnat.qc.ca/en/tribune**.

IT and Web initiatives

Search engine revamp

The National Assembly redesigned the search engine on its website to improve functionality and search results. With over 170,000 **pages** and a lot of traffic, the website was in dire need of a redesign to make it easier for visitors to find the information they need.

Clerk website

The National Assembly launched the *Clerk* website, which features a tablet-friendly design. The website provides information for Members, political staff, certain administrative staff (Library, Journal des débats) and specific outside individuals (e.g., legal experts from ministries and agencies). The primary purpose is to give these users access to committee documents and provide other administrative support. There have been more than 14,500 **visits** to the website since its launch in spring 2016.

Section dedicated to the Cercle des femmes parlementaires

The Cercle des femmes parlementaires du Québec (circle of women Members of the National Assembly) now has its own section on the Assembly website. Users can stay up-to-date on meetings, seminars and conferences where female parliamentarians discuss topics of mutual interest.

🔗 Find out more about this topic at **www.assnat.qc.ca/en/cerclefemmes**.

National Assembly website traffic statistics

	VISITS
April 2016	365,046
May	260,023
June	170,122
July	108,776
August	144,987
September	187,551
October	207,197
November	212,019
December	151,737
January 2017	139,821
February	276,523
March	207,181
Total	**2,430,983**

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

Debate broadcasting service

The Debate Broadcasting Service broadcasts parliamentary proceedings as well as institutional and educational activities held at the Assembly.

Television broadcasting and archiving of proceedings and events

More than
1,500
parliamentary sittings,
press events and
institutional activities

Including
561
press events

Archives and video clips of Assembly proceedings and activities

The Debate Broadcasting Service archives and stores some 2,000 **hours of** Assembly proceedings and activities annually. Content is available to Members and the general public on request.

This year 2,109 **requests** were processed:

Members and their staff:	National Assembly employees:	Media outlets:	Audio/video production companies:	Private citizens:
1,637	312	134	10	16

Find out more about this topic at www.assnat.qc.ca/en/videos.

Broadcasting technology

In fall 2016 Québec's cable operators completed the switch to a high-definition television transmission system. To comply with the new standards, the **Debate Broadcasting Service** upgraded its internal cable broadcasting equipment.

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ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

Office of the National Assembly

The Office of the National Assembly oversees and directs the National Assembly's administration. Among other things, it is responsible for adopting the Assembly's administrative organization plan, approving the Assembly's budget estimates and regulating areas of immediate concern to Members and their staff, such as their allowances and working conditions.

Composition

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AS AT MARCH 31, 2017

Chair: Jacques Chagnon

MEMBERS

Quebec Liberal Party (5)	**Parti québécois (3)**	**Coalition avenir Québec (1)**
Paul Busque (Beauce-Sud)	Guy Leclair (Beauharnois)	Jean-François Roberge (Chambly)
Jean-Denis Girard (Trois-Rivières)	Sylvain Roy (Bonaventure)	
Pierre Giguère (Saint-Maurice)	Mathieu Traversy (Terrebonne)	
Jean Habel (Sainte-Rose)		
Guy Hardy (Saint-François)		

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Quebec Liberal Party (5)	**Parti québécois (3)**	**Coalition avenir Québec (1)**
Stéphane Billette (Huntingdon)	Carole Poirier (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve)	Donald Martel (Nicolet-Bécancour)
Patrick Huot (Vanier-Les Rivières)	Dave Turcotte (Saint-Jean)	
Michel Matte (Portneuf)	André Villeneuve (Berthier)	
Marie-Claude Nichols (Vaudreuil)		
Guy Ouellette (Chomedey)		

The Assembly assumes responsibility for ministers' riding offices

The transition to the Assembly assuming responsibility for ministers' riding offices was completed in the fall. The Assembly now provides **each minister with** a **budget** for the **rental** and **operation of his or her riding office** as well as **computer and telecommunications equipment**. This is intended to **ensure continuity of services for citizens in a variety of circumstances** (e.g., cabinet shuffle, general election) and, over time, also generate human resources and budget savings for the Assembly and for ministers.

The Assembly now acts as the tenant for these offices. It pays the rent from the operating budget it provides to ministers and allocates resources needed to run the offices, pursuant to the provisions of the *Regulation Respecting Members' and House Officers' Allowances and Research and Administrative Support Funding* (Decision No. 1603 dated November 10, 2011).

From January through March 2016, staff focused on preparing for the relevant administrative units to assume management responsibility, including configuring the required equipment, establishing a process for hiring staff needed for management activities, and drafting and and revising documents such as leases, checklists and information sheets. **New communication tools** for these new clients were developed, including an **extranet site** for monitoring activities. The site was designed to facilitate the transition and provides key stakeholders with an array of information on the services offered by the Assembly's administrative units.

The **first phase of the rollout** was initiated subsequent to the cabinet shuffle of January 2016. The rest of the transition was completed between March and October 2016.

Administrative structure as at March 31, 2017

Vice-presidents
François Ouimet
Maryse Gaudreault
François Gendron

PRESIDENT
Jacques Chagnon

Office of the National Assembly

Secretary General
Michel Bonsaint
General Secretariat and Office Secretariat
Marc Painchaud, Director

Legal and Legislative Affairs and Parliamentary Procedure Directorate
Ariane Mignolet, Director

General Directorate for Parliamentary Affairs
François Arsenault, Director
Debate Publishing Service
Carole Lessard, Director

Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate
Catherine Morin, Director
Translation Service
Evelyn Wever, Director

General Directorate for Administration
Serge Bouchard, Director General
Infrastructure Improvement Service
Hélène Foy, Director
Restaurant Services

Building Management and Material Resources Directorate
Guy L. Huot, Director

Computer Services, Debate Broadcasting and Telecommunications Directorate
Claude Dugas, Director
Service Centre and Office Technology
Catherine Grétas, Director
Information Systems and Networks
François Asselin, Director
Debate Broadcasting Service
Dominique Drouin, Director

Financial Resources, Procurement and Audit Directorate
Dominique Gingras, Director

Human Resources Directorate
Claudia Rousseau, Director

Security Directorate
Yves Bouchard, Director

General Directorate for Institutional Affairs and the National Assembly Library
Michel Bonsaint, Director
Research Service
Jacques Gagnon, Director

Communications, Educational Programs and Visitor Services Directorate
Isabelle Giguère, Director

Interparliamentary and International Relations and Protocol Directorate
Daniel Cloutier, Director

—— Reporting relationship

Members' payroll, allowances and expenses

MEMBER PAYROLL EXPENSES

Regular remuneration (includes basic allowance and additional allowance)	$12,931,703

ALLOWANCES

Allowances for expenses, attendance and political activities	$3,293,875
Transition allowances (includes allowances paid when a Member leaves)	$439,202
Travel between a riding and the Parliament Building	$1,003,754
Lodging in or around Québec City	$1, 594,867
Additional allowances for the purchase of office furniture and equipment during the first term of office	$24,543
Riding office operating expenses	$6,772,721

EXPENSES

	Member payroll expenses	House officer payroll expenses	Total
Payroll expenses	$14,378,418	$8,010,357	$22,388,775
Travel expenses	$475,855	$364,306	$840,161
Political party research services			$2,794,523

Use of appropriations allocated to the National Assembly in 2016–2017

	Appropriations used* ($000)
Secretary General	
Office of the Secretary General	1,035.2
General Directorate for Parliamentary and Legal Affairs	
General Directorate for Parliamentary and Legal Affairs	1,250.7
Parliamentary Proceedings Directorate	3,444.3
Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate	514.7
	5,209.7
General Directorate for Institutional Affairs **and the National Assembly Library**	
General Directorate for Institutional Affairs and the National Assembly Library	4,857.6
Interparliamentary and International Relations and Protocol Directorate	3,233.4
Communications, Educational Programs and Visitor Services Directorate	3,335.8
	11,426.8
General Directorate for Administration	
General Directorate for Administration	368.0
Restaurant Services	1,613.5
Building Management and Material Resources Directorate	10,431.7
Computer Services, Debate Broadcasting and Telecommunications Directorate	8,967.0
Financial Resources, Procurement and Audit Directorate	1,864.5
Human Resources Directorate	10,396.3
Security Directorate	5,471.8
	39,112.8
Administrative total	**56,784.5**
Statutory support services to parliamentarians	**68,652.9**
Expenditures incurred by transferring **surpluses to own-source revenue account**	**8,918.1**
Appropriations used	**134,355.5**
Fixed assets amortization	**5,416.8**

* The appropriations used include fixed assets, salaries, operating expenses and advances.

Human resources

Orientation program for new administrative employees

The Human Resources Directorate provides orientation to all regular and casual new hires in the administrative sector. The orientation program is designed to smooth their integration into the Assembly work environment and familiarize them with their specific working conditions. From April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2017, 67 **new employees** went through orientation.

As part of the program, new hires are also invited to a coffee hour with the Secretary General. This gives them an opportunity to meet the Secretary General and directors in a casual and welcoming environment. From April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2017, 71 **new employees** attended the coffee hour.

Staff

As at March 31, 2017, the Assembly's administrative sector had 458 **regular employees**, 184 **casual employees** and 23 **students and interns**.

The political sector, comprising chiefs of staff, political attachés, advisors and support staff, had a total of 510 **employees** working on Parliament Hill and in Members's riding offices.
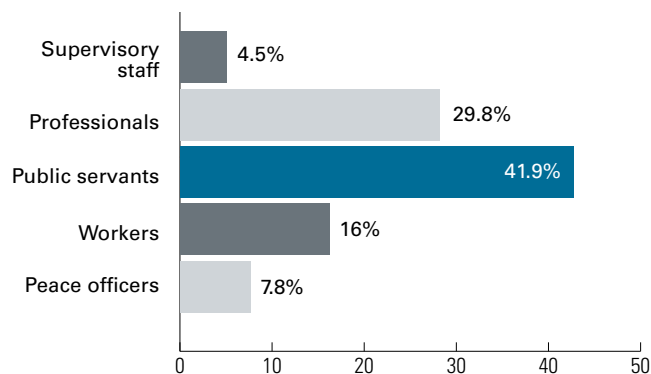
Administrative staff by age group (regular and casual employees)

| Under 35 | 19.5% |
| 35+ | 80.5% |
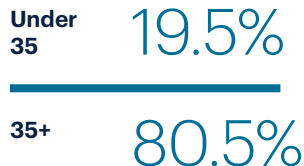
Gender distribution (regular and casual employees)

50.8% 49.2%

Administrative staff by job category (regular and casual employees)

Supervisory staff	4.5%
Professionals	29.8%
Public servants	41.9%
Workers	16%
Peace officers	7.8%

Demographic representation (regular and casual employees)

Cultural communities	23	3.6%
Anglophones	13	2%
Aboriginals	6	0.9%
Individuals with disabilities	9	1.4%
Total:	**51**	**7.9%**

Opportunities for students and interns

To promote the National Assembly as a top employer and offer future job seekers a unique work experience within the institution, 20 **interns** and 23 **students** were placed in various directorates over the past fiscal year. Although some of the internships are of a short-term, introductory nature students and interns represent a pool of potential candidates for filling regular and casual positions that open up.

Employee training and professional development

One of the objectives of the National Assembly *Administration's strategic plan for 2013–2017* is to **encourage its employees' professional development** to help them rise to the top in their area of expertise. Throughout the year, employees have opportunities to attend training sessions and other professional development events that meet their specific needs. Training sessions are sometimes combined based on the field of study to explore a specific topic in-depth.

The Assembly organizes a workplace professional development program for employees who are members of the Québec Bar, Barreau du Québec, allowing staff lawyers to meet their continuing education requirements. Training events at the Assembly are also open to Bar members working for the Assembly officers and ministerial offices on Parliament Hill. In 2016, 3 **training sessions were offered**, with an average of 31 **participants per activity**.

Wellness program

The National Assembly is concerned with every aspect of employee health and safety, specifically physical and mental health and workplace safety and prevention. A number of health and safety activities were organized for Assembly staff:

- Vaccination campaign (November 2016): 148 **individuals** were vaccinated

- Promotion of the **Quit to Win! Challenge**

- 2 **seminars** on caregiving and employee burnout offered as part of the Employee Assistance Program

Since the adoption of the *Policy on Preventing and Managing Situations Involving Harassment* on June 4, 2015, the Assembly has taken various steps to reach out to Members, political division staff, managers and Assembly employees to emphasize the importance of adhering to the policy and let them know where to go for support when needed. Information and training sessions on preventing disrespect, conflict and harassment in the workplace were offered to Members and managers. An awareness campaign is underway, with brief informative articles and videos posted on the Assembly intranet.

Reception to honour 15 National Assembly employees with 25+ years of civil service

On December 1, 2016, a reception was held at Le Parlementaire Restaurant to highlight the dedication of **staff members** with $25+$ **years** of service at the National Assembly or in public service. Lucie Bédard, Claire Dumais-Faber, Lucie Giasson, Annie Poisson, Catherine Vachon, MM. François Boulanger, François Bourassa, Mario Gagnon, Rolland Larochelle, Richard L'Hérault, Paul Ouellet, Denis Perreault, Bruno Tremblay, Martin Sirois and Tien Hy Étienne Vu were all honoured during the special event, also attended by Assembly President Jacques Chagnon, Secretary General Michel Bonsaint and a number of other guests.

Left to right: Denis Perreault, Tien Hy Étienne Vu, Rolland Larochelle, Lucie Bédard, François Boulanger, Michel Bonsaint (Secretary General), Jacques Chagnon (President), Mario Gagnon, Lucie Giasson, Bruno Tremblay, Catherine Vachon, François Bourassa, Richard L'Hérault.

Building management and material resources

The Building Management and Material Resources Directorate offers advice and services in building and landscaping management, tangible and intangible property conservation management and material resources management.

Every year, the directorate...

- fields over **20,000 phone requests**, **8,000 of which are priority**
- sends **90,000 letters and packages**
- produces **6 million copies**
- disseminates **9,000** parliamentary **documents**
- recycles more than **150** metric **tons** of waste
- fulfills **5,000** building management service **requests**
- sets up the rooms for **events** held in the Parliament Building
- manages **5 buildings** with a total surface area of **60,000 m²**
- invests some **$4.0 million** in building conservation and upgrade **work**
- spends **$1.9 million on energy** of all forms: electricity, steam, chilled water and natural gas
- manages **15 leases** that bring in **$530,000** in rent

Computer services, broadcasting and telecommunications

The Computer Services, Debate Broadcasting and Telecommunications Directorate provides IT services to the National Assembly's administrative and political divisions. The directorate operates and maintains the systems that it installs and enforces the Assembly's IT security policy. It also provides support and training to staff to make it easier for them to use the equipment, software and IT systems it operates.

The directorate was one of several to assist in the transition when **the Assembly assumed responsibility for ministers' riding offices**—a project intended to improve the consistency of services provided to constituents and maintain continuity in the event of a Member's change in status.

As part of the project, the directorate...

- Supplied computer, office and telecommunications equipment to some 100 new users in 37 **riding offices**

- Deployed required equipment and services, equipping up to 3 **offices** a week to meet established deadlines

- Identified and implemented robust, secure solutions to meet the technology requirements of ministers requiring access to the networks of the Assembly and their respective departments

The Computer Services, Debate Broadcasting and Telecommunications Directorate's Service Centre and Office Technology department supports staff in using IT and telecommunications equipment, software and systems.

This year the Centre...

- Responded to 12,000 **user requests**, a number to that of the past four **years**

- Delivered a dozen **training sessions on office technology** and **IT workshops** to 125 **participants**

The Information Systems and Networks department operates and maintains the National Assembly's network infrastructure and systems. The team develops new information systems in addition to maintaining and providing support on existing systems.

This year the department...

- Maintained and provided support for the network architecture, server rooms, storage systems and over 70 **information systems**

- Helped analyze and implement more than 15 **new information systems** related to:

  . management of institutional information (enhancement of the search functionality on the Assembly website, Web form design solution for educational event registration, development of the Library section of the website, management of committee summons and overhaul of the extranet used by the Canadian Association of Clerks-at-the-Table whose IT infrastructure is hosted by the Assembly)

101

. management of administrative information (accreditation for journalists and construction workers, revamping of the budget tracking systems and replacement of material management systems)

Security

The Security Directorate protects the people, buildings and property on the premises of the National Assembly so the President can ensure parliamentary proceedings run smoothly. It advises the President on prevention and protection measures for maintaining security at the National Assembly and in riding offices. The directorate also coordinates security services offered to riding offices, their staff and Members. It monitors risks using threat and vulnerability detection systems. It informs the President of any incidents of concern that could impact parliamentary security.

Outside its around-the-clock routine security operations, the **Security Directorate** implements additional security measures as needed for special events and activities at the Assembly, including demonstrations, protocol events (visiting dignitaries, official ceremonies, awards ceremonies, etc.), private events (events held in Assembly buildings but unrelated to parliamentary proceedings) and any other activities, including parliamentary simulations and social and cultural events taking place near the Assembly (e.g., Carnaval de Québec, the National Holiday, the Québec City Summer Festival and book launches).

This year the **Security Directorate** oversaw the conduct of…

101 **demonstrations** and 246 **private, protocol** and **other events**.

Other projects

Restoration of the masonry on the Pamphile-Le May Building walkway

The masonry on the walkway connecting the Parliament Building to the Pamphile-Le May Building was restored. The goal of the project was to replace broken stones posing a falling hazard. It included restoration of Door 30, the front entrance hall of the Pamphile-Le May Building.

Key upgrades included replacement of some 300 **stones** and patching of many more. All surfaces were cleaned, the masonry was repointed and the vaulted ceiling under the walkway was replaced. Tinned copper flashing was installed on all horizontal surfaces to keep water out of the walls.

The pavers in the front hall were replaced by a new granite-tile-over-concrete floor and the wood-work on the entrance door was restored.

**The conservation project made the walkway safer for building users**.

Project cost: $1.3 million

## Partial replacement of the André-Laurendeau Building roof

The copper sheeting on the south and west sides of the André-Laurendeau Building roof and on certain sections of the north and west roof and parapets was replaced. The project included replacement of the waterproof membranes on the interior copper sheeting on certain downspouts and repair of the lead sheeting on the rounded dormer windows and pilasters. A section of the wooden decking under the copper that had been damaged in a fire in the 1950s was also replaced.

The work was the culmination of an extensive repair project that began with replacement of the east and north sides of the roof in 2001. The copper sheeting that was replaced dated back 80 years to the building's construction in 1937. The project will ensure the long-term conservation of this stately building, one of the first high-rises built in Québec City.

Project cost: $750,000
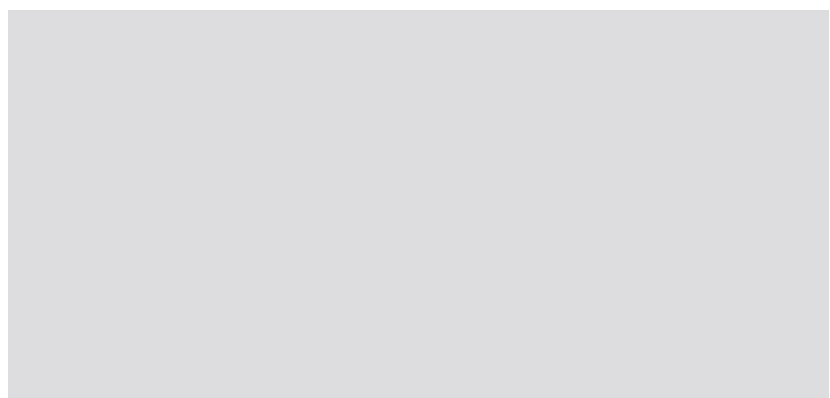
Practical information
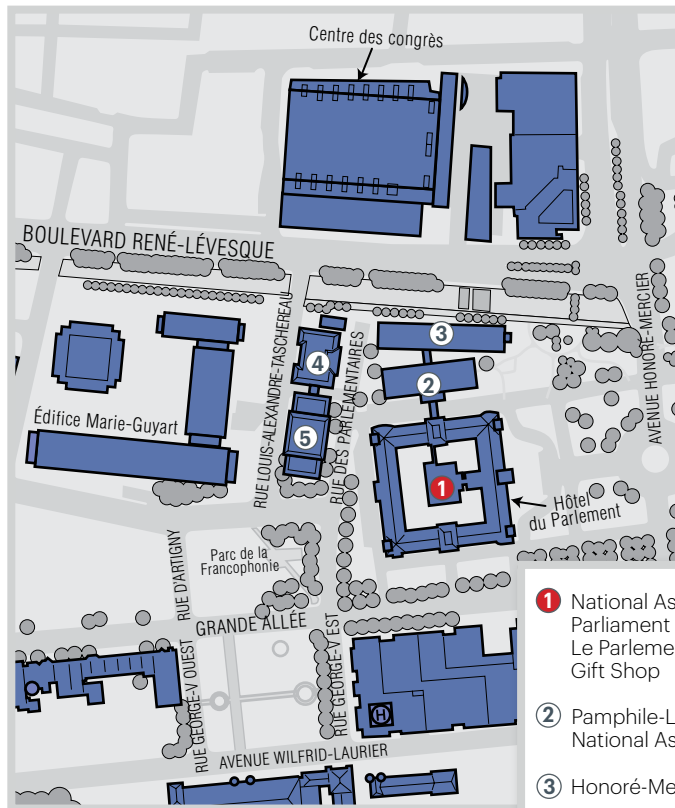
Parliament Hill – Buildings and parking

1. National Assembly
   Parliament Building
   Le Parlementaire Restaurant
   Gift Shop
2. Pamphile-Le May Building
   National Assembly Library
3. Honoré-Mercier Building
4. Jean-Antoine-Panet Building
5. André-Laurendeau Building

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Hôtel du Parlement
1045, rue des Parlementaires
Québec (Québec) G1A 1A3

General information
Phone: 418-643-7239
Toll-free number: 1-866-337-8837
Email: **renseignements@assnat.qc.ca**

Normal hours*
Labour Day to June 23:
Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Summer hours (June 24 to Labour Day)
Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Weekends and holidays
9:30 to 4:30

GUIDED TOURS

Normal hours*
Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Summer hours (June 24 to Labour Day)
Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Weekends, June 24, July 1 and
Labour Day, 9:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Guided tours of the grounds
are also available.

Groups of
10 or more must reserve.

Information
Phone: 418-643-7239
Email: **renseignements@assnat.qc.ca**

LIBRARY

Normal hours*
Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

LE PARLEMENTAIRE RESTAURANT

Normal hours*
Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Summer hours (June 24 to Labour Day)
Monday to Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Reservations
Phone: 418-643-6640
Email: **resto@assnat.qc.ca**

GIFT SHOP
Normal hours*
Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Summer hours (June 24 to Labour Day)
Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Weekends, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Information
Phone: 418-643-8785
Email: **boutique@assnat.qc.ca**

* Subject to change without notice

2016
2017

NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY
OF QUÉBEC