

## Written Questions on the Order Paper and Notices

Updated: 2026-06-12

### Questions awaiting a reply

(See [Questions answered](#) below.)

- (14) Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) – **12 May 2026**  
To the Minister of Higher Education

The review of the Québec Policy on University Funding, which introduces new measures that were integrated into the budgetary rules as of the 2024–2025 academic year, has yet to be completed. When the new policy was released, the department announced that the mechanism used to calculate weighted student enrolment would be updated. That mechanism, which is used to calculate the funds allocated to universities, is based on the average teaching costs of nine universities and therefore does not reflect the reality of small institutions in remote regions. To date, the mechanism has not been updated.

Previous budgetary rules recognized three factors that contribute to increased costs for institutions: size, remoteness and territorial coverage (rule 1.1.2, 2023–2024). This resulted in the allocation of specific compensatory envelopes. However, the 2024–2025 budgetary rules reduced those envelopes by 33%, before the mechanism had been updated as announced. For many regional universities, this shortfall amounts to several million dollars annually.

My questions are the following:

1. Does the department intend to complete the update of the mechanism for calculating weighted student enrolment before the next budgetary exercise?
2. In the meantime, what measures does the department intend to put in place to fully maintain the compensatory envelopes for small regional universities?

- (15) Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) – **26 May 2026**  
To the Minister of Health

Long COVID is a new condition that is still not well understood and for which there is no specific treatment.

Every COVID-19 reinfection puts people at risk for long COVID. The more times a person is infected, the greater the risk. For people who already have long COVID, each new reinfection increases the risk of worsening or recurring symptoms and this causes a lot of anxiety. Reducing infections is one of the best ways to protect long-term health.

Even though not all people with long COVID are immunocompromised, the risks of complications, worsening symptoms or even the onset of new symptoms are very real. Their system is significantly more fragile and impaired. It is inconceivable that people with this condition are not able to protect themselves adequately and free of charge to avoid health complications, deterioration and even disability. The impacts on those affected, and on the healthcare system and the labor market, are very real.

One of the objectives of vaccination is to reduce complications. Some chronic conditions are considered when determining vaccine eligibility, but long COVID is not one of them.

Since fall 2025, COVID-19 vaccination has been available free of charge for the following people:

- people who reside in CHSLDs or RPAs or live in other group settings with a high proportion of elderly and vulnerable people;
- people 65 years of age or over;
- people 6 months of age or over who are immunocompromised, on dialysis or living with certain chronic conditions;
- pregnant people;
- adults living in remote and isolated areas; and
- health care workers.

The number of doses and the intervals between doses depend on a person's age, vaccination history and health status. The COVID-19 vaccine is authorized for people six months of age or over who want to reduce their risk of complications.

The document "Introduction à la COVID longue - Document d'accompagnement à la vidéo d'information", produced by the Sous-ministériat à la santé physique et à la pharmaceutique, in collaboration with the Direction des communications of the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, describes long COVID as a complex condition that impacts many aspects of life and can affect health in many ways, including impairment of the immune system and chronic health issues. The symptoms of long COVID are numerous and varied. There are more than 200 symptoms and they can affect many body systems, including the immune system, the nervous system, the respiratory system and the cardiovascular system. The impacts on the ability to function in daily life can differ from person to person.

According to the Québec government and Health Canada, vaccination is generally recommended, even for those with long COVID. It protects against reinfection (which can worsen symptoms) and may help reduce or stabilize persistent symptoms, although outcomes vary. It is a key strategy for preventing new infections. Vaccination reduces the risk of COVID-19 reinfection, thereby preventing long COVID from worsening.

I am certain that vaccination is the best way to protect people with long COVID, but some of them have more risk factors than those who are eligible. Why put the health of people who are already affected at risk? The only way to protect them as much as possible is to prevent reinfection, and vaccination is the best way to achieve this.

My question to the Minister of Health: Why not include people with long COVID on the list of vulnerable and at-risk people eligible for free COVID-19 vaccination?

(16) Mr. Ciccone (Marquette) – 27 May 2026

To the Minister Responsible for Social Solidarity and Community Action

Within the framework of the 2022–2027 government action plan on community action, the Government announced a number of measures to improve and expand support for the overall mission of autonomous community organizations.

Of the 29 measures outlined in the 2022–2027 government action plan on community action, four of them (measures 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3 and 1.1.5) were specifically aimed at increasing funding for the overall mission through 12 government departments and bodies.

During the examination of the 2024–2025 estimates of expenditure, recurring sums for a total of \$233.9 million were announced for various departments and bodies, namely, the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, the Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation, the Ministère de l'Éducation, the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale, the Ministère de la Famille, the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, as well as several secretariats and government bodies.

However, detailed data on the amounts actually paid annually, the number of organizations that received support and the distribution by the different government departments and bodies was not made public.

In this context, my question to the Minister Responsible for Community Action is the following:

What amounts were paid annually, for each of the years 2022–2023 to 2026–2027, for each of the following government departments and bodies, and to how many organizations:

- a) Culture et Communications;
- b) Économie et Innovation;
- c) Éducation;
- d) Éducation-Loisir et Sport;
- e) Emploi et Solidarité sociale;
- f) Famille;
- g) Immigration, Francisation et Intégration;
- h) Santé et Services sociaux;
- i) Secrétariat à la condition féminine;
- j) Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise;
- k) Secrétariat aux relations avec les Premières Nations et les Inuit;
- l) Société d'habitation du Québec?

(17) Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) – 27 May 2026

To the Minister of Education

Académie De Roberval is a public high school located on Rue De Castelnau, in the Villeray neighbourhood of Montréal. Since 2018, students and staff members have been forced to relocate to an annex of École Georges-Vanier due to major mould problems in the original building. What should have been a temporary measure has been ongoing for eight years now.

Despite the urgency of the situation and the glaring need for school spaces in the north of the city of Montréal, there is no work underway on the site of Académie De Roberval. The building has been empty and vacant for many years now.

The school's parents' committee and the Centre de services scolaire de Montréal (CSSDM) have confirmed that the project is a priority for the CSSDM given the major increase in the need for high school services in the neighbourhood. However, considerable cuts in the budgets dedicated to asset maintenance have prevented the CSSDM from financially contributing to this project as was initially planned.

According to information from the CSSDM, the continuation of the project now solely rests on the Ministère de l'Éducation assuming complete financial responsibility. Once the authorizations are granted and the funding is confirmed, the plans and specifications could be updated and the call for tenders issued.

The renovation of Académie De Roberval would not only help relocate approximately 600 students in a completely renovated school, which could last for decades, but it would also free up hundreds of spaces at École Georges-Vanier, which currently shares its facilities with Académie De Roberval.

In a context of glaring needs for school spaces and a growing student population, many parents, students and community members are concerned by the extended delays and the lack of a clear timeline for the continuation of the project.

My questions to the Minister are the following:

1. What is the estimated amount required to complete the two remaining phases of the renovation of Académie De Roberval?
2. When does the Ministère de l'Éducation intend to authorize and release the funds necessary to allow the Centre de services scolaire de Montréal to proceed with Phases 2 and 3 of the project?
3. What is the Minister's timeline for the start of the renovation work of Académie De Roberval?
4. Lastly, the Minister told the media, on 25 May 2026, that the assessment of school infrastructure projects is not carried out according to ridings, but according to the needs of students, on the basis of objective criteria. What specific criteria are used for the selection of school infrastructure projects?

18) Ms. Poulet (Laporte) – **5 June 2026**

To the Minister of Education

For more than 30 years, the Government has relied on the Indice de milieu socio-économique (Socio-Economic Environment Index) (IMSE) to determine the allocation of various support measures and additional resources for the most vulnerable students.

The current methodology is based on geographic data from the federal census, which is conducted every five years, and on just two socioeconomic indices: the level of education of the mother and the employment status of the parents. These indices provide only a partial picture of the socioeconomic reality in Québec schools and assign a school the statistical profile of a geographic area rather than that of the students who actually attend it.

In recent weeks, several schools, including about 40 in Montreal, have seen their deprivation indices decrease. Since the IMSE is based on a relative ranking of neighbourhoods, some schools historically recognized as disadvantaged have seen their decile rank decrease, not as a result of a significant improvement in their students' circumstances, but because other neighbourhoods now have even higher deprivation indices.

This reality raises a significant concern: a school may lose resources even though its students' needs have not decreased. However, funding decisions based on the IMSE risk having grave consequences. For instance, increasing class sizes, reducing remedial and psychoeducational services, and eliminating classroom aides will have substantial repercussions on students and school staff, who are already stretched to the limit.

My questions to the Minister of Education are as follows:

1. Does the Minister acknowledge that some schools are experiencing an improvement in their IMSE ranking and, as a result, a reduction in the resources allocated to them, even though this does not necessarily reflect a decrease in the needs of their students?
2. Does the Minister commit to revising the IMSE methodology to better reflect students' socioeconomic circumstances, in particular by considering the inclusion of new variables, and does she agree to establish a mandatory periodic review mechanism for this methodology so that resources are allocated according to students' actual needs?
3. Does the Minister commit to maintaining the current funding levels for schools whose IMSE rating is downgraded during the census update, so that this revision does not result in a reduction of allocated resources for the 2026–2027 school year?

## Questions answered

(See [Questions awaiting a reply](#) above.)

- (1) Mr. Grandmont (Taschereau) – **5 May 2026**  
To the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility  
Answer tabled on **4 June 2026** (Sessional Paper No. 137-20260604)

The road safety fund (FSR) is made up of the revenues from photo radar devices. When the FSR was implemented, the Québec government committed to using those revenues to financially support projects promoting road safety and helping road accident victims.

On 1 April 2025, the Ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable changed the terms of the financial assistance program of the road safety fund (PAFFSR), which is funded with the surpluses of the FSR, for the “awareness, cooperation, education and training” component so that only road safety projects could be eligible to it, road accident victims no longer having access to it.

The PAFFSR was renewed for 2025–2028 for \$40 million, including a budget of \$14 million for 2025–2026 following the call for projects, which ended in July 2025. The end of that funding is a significant loss of revenue for organizations that represent people with craniocerebral trauma, which were unable to present projects last July due to the new terms.

My question to the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility is the following:

- 1) What were the sums allocated to the projects regarding road accident victims as part of the last call for projects of the PAFFSR, as well as for the 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 periods?
  - 2) Does the Ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable undertake to review the terms of the program to correct the exclusion in place since 2025, which prevents community organizations from presenting projects to support initiatives in favour of road accident victims and to foster the emergence of awareness, prevention, education, cooperation and training projects, as the Minister promised to the population and as it had been the case since the beginning of the project?
- (2) Mr. Fontecilla (Laurier-Dorion) – **5 May 2026**  
To the Minister of Internal Security  
Answer tabled on **12 June 2026** (Sessional Paper No. 180-20260612)

During the tabling of its budget, the Québec government stated that public security was one of the State’s primary missions. Social rehabilitation organizations play a key role in this regard by supporting persons with a criminal record and facilitating their reintegration, and thus directly bolstering public security in Québec.

However, for several months now, many financial issues have affected these organizations. A three-year freeze on all contracts between the Ministère de la Sécurité intérieure and community organizations is curbing the latter’s ability to maintain the same level of service in the face of increasing costs. In some cases, specialized per diem allowances have been withdrawn and spaces in halfway houses reduced, lowering reception capacity.

These issues are compounded by the administrative streamlining measures and cuts announced by the Ministère de la Sécurité intérieure, which hamper the work of these organizations. Examples include the end of government funding in the amount of \$1.5 million for specialized social rehabilitation programs in correctional facilities, and the new limit of one follow-up session per

month for high-risk individuals. In a context of financial uncertainty, these measures complicate service planning, weaken teams, result in the reduction of activities and even the loss of expertise or the closing of certain resources in some cases. The situation leads to the disruption of services for thousands of persons with a criminal record and puts further pressure on the correctional and judicial system.

Specialized organizations that work with sex offenders are an example that demonstrate the impact of those changes. Those organizations are an essential component of public security in Québec. By providing services to sex offenders, in particular specialized intervention programs, those organizations and professionals help reduce the risks of recidivism, promoting the safety of the entire population. However, those organizations are already working with few resources and remain heavily reliant on financial support from the State to provide adequate and efficient prevention services.

Those organizations are now more relevant than ever. In fact, the Ministère de la Sécurité intérieure has recently reported that the rate of sexual offences declared by Québec police forces increased by 109.9% over the last decade (2013–2022). Such an increase means more needs and, as a result, increased costs for prevention operations.

On 8 December 2025, the Minister agreed to meet members of the network to hear their concerns. Changes have yet to be seen, and now those organizations, which are crucial to public security, are facing great uncertainty over the sustainability of their activities.

My question to the Minister is the following:

What measures does the Minister intend to take to ensure that stable, predictable, adequate funding is implemented for the social rehabilitation network, in the name of public security?

(3) Mr. Grandmont (Taschereau) – **5 May 2026**

To the Minister Responsible for Housing

Answer tabled on **5 June 2026** (Sessional Paper No. 153-20260605)

The Rénovation Québec program was temporarily suspended on 1 April 2025. Since then, no new applications have been submitted under this program. The program supported municipalities seeking to implement initiatives to improve housing in residential areas in need of revitalization. Among other things, it enabled Ville de Québec to implement the Rénovation résidentielle – Volet remise en état des logements et stabilisation program, which provides financial assistance to owners of residential immovables with major defects in the city's more deteriorated sectors.

The maintenance of immovable assets and the renovation of older buildings to meet current standards can contribute efficiently to addressing the housing crisis. Without external support, it is difficult for property owners to renovate a building with significant defects, given the costs associated with carrying out major repairs.

My question to the Minister Responsible for Housing is the following:

When does the department intend to re-open the Rénovation Québec program to allow municipalities such as Ville de Québec to resume programs aimed at improving housing in residential areas in need of revitalization?

- (4) Mr. Cliche-Rivard (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne) – **5 May 2026**  
To the Minister Responsible for Social Services and the Fight Against Homelessness  
Answer tabled on **4 June 2026** (Sessional Paper No. 138-20260604)

One of the main purposes of the *Youth Protection Act* is to reintegrate the child (or children) into their family.

A considerable proportion of placements in youth centres are often temporary measures lasting only a few months. However, once the placement is ordered, and despite the children's gradual return home, the Canada child benefit (CCB) is withdrawn from the parents and given to the Director of Youth Protection (DYP) in the form of a children's special allowance (CSA). Yet, in many cases, children are placed in temporary care due to neglect or failure to have their needs met, which may suggest that the parents are in a precarious financial situation. Continued payment of the benefit to parents would prevent their economic conditions from deteriorating further (through loss of housing, for example), especially when financial instability poses an obstacle to the child's (or children's) return to their family. Despite a child spending just one day a month in a youth centre and the other 30 days with their family, none of the CCB is available to the parents to concretely help meet the child's needs at home.

We applaud the efforts made by the provincial government to reform the distribution method by proposing that the special child benefit be shared equally with parents, except in cases of permanent placement. The Minister has reported that discussions have taken place with the revenue agency on this matter, with the aim of having the Department of Finance amend federal legislation, which it has refused to do. Despite this, the Department of Finance Canada has nevertheless noted that provinces and territories have the flexibility to determine their preferred approach to using children's special allowances [...] provided that the support is used exclusively for the care, upkeep, education, training, or progress of the child for whom it is paid.

We understand that Québec does not have jurisdiction to establish specific eligibility criteria in this type of situation, given that the administration of the CSA is governed by federal law. However, should the Government not put in place the necessary measures to enable parents to address gaps in child care?

My questions to the Minister are the following:

To what extent would the Québec government consider:

- 1) That the CCB be paid in full to the parent who is in the process of gradually reintegrating the child into their family setting, in order to maximize the chances of a successful reintegration?
- 2) That, following a judgment placing the child under youth protection with the aim of gradually returning the child to a family setting, the CCB continue to be paid to the parent(s) for the first two years following the placement?

- (5) Mr. Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) – 5 May 2026  
To the Minister of Education  
Answer tabled on **12 June 2026** (Sessional Paper No. 169-20260612)

The Indice de milieu socio-économique (IMSE) is calculated annually based on student data. The annual update does not usually result in many changes because the population units, which are used as the territorial basis for calculating the index by school, do not change between censuses. However, the update for the next school year (2026–2027) is based on 2021 census data, and it is more than reasonable to believe that because of the major immigration-related demographic changes that occurred between 2021 and 2026, the proposed update is already obsolete.

This index must be carefully monitored because of its key role in allocating valuable resources to the most vulnerable students. However, for many years there have been various limitations that create distortions in the implementation of the index in the field:

1. Reliance on the federal census. Under Stephen Harper’s government, for example, there was a ten-year gap between two censuses, significantly undermining Quebec’s autonomy in administering its own tools. Why not have access to Revenu Québec data? The Auditor General of Québec had, however, accessed this data for the Ministère de la Famille when issuing the Auditor General’s October 2020 report on access to educational childcare services.
2. Variables that must be reassessed. In particular, the participation rate, which can mask increasingly common complex realities (precarious employment, part-time jobs, etc.).
3. A geographic grouping that masks internal disparities. The IMSE is assigned based on students’ residential areas, not on their actual family circumstances. Students living in very different conditions may therefore be assigned the same index if they reside in the same population unit.
4. A threshold effect with unpredictable consequences for communities. A community’s socioeconomic reality may remain exactly the same, but it will be assessed differently and lose significant resources simply because the situation is getting worse elsewhere.
5. A need for statistical autonomy. Make government operations independent, where possible, from Statistics Canada and the OECD, to ensure greater efficiency and flexibility.

Revenu Québec, however, holds de-identified annual tax data on all families with children attending schools in Québec. This data, which is more accurate and updated annually, would make it possible to calculate the IMSE based on each family’s actual economic situation instead of on estimates derived from territorial statistical models. This approach would also safeguard Québec’s statistical autonomy from the uncertainties of the federal census. For more than twenty years, the Ministère de la Famille itself has acknowledged the current model’s limitations.

I would therefore like to ask the Minister of Education to answer the following questions:

1. Has the Ministère de l’Éducation (MEQ) conducted any studies or analyses on the feasibility of using de-identified Revenu Québec tax data to calculate the IMSE? If so, what were the conclusions?
2. Have the MEQ and Revenu Québec held discussions regarding tax-data sharing for the purpose of calculating the IMSE? If so, on what dates and what was the outcome?
3. What legal, technical or administrative obstacles have been identified regarding the use of Revenu Québec data to calculate the IMSE?
4. Does the Government plan to amend the applicable legal framework to allow this data sharing

between Revenu Québec and the MEQ? If not, why not?

(6) Mr. Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) – **5 May 2026**

To the Minister of Health

Answer tabled on **12 May 2026** (Sessional Paper No. 62-20260512)

The 2023 documentary *Père 100 enfants* looks at the issue of informal sperm donation in Québec. The documentary reveals that the procedures are largely unregulated and that women can be victims of fraudulent practices. It shows that, in some cases, women are misled about the donor's health and the number of previous donations he has made. In particular, it reveals that a father and his son made multiple donations, resulting in 109 and 240 children respectively. The mothers who used the men's services had tried to find out how many donations they had previously made, but were repeatedly lied to. According to some mothers, the numbers could be even higher and as many as 162 and 400 children respectively. There is also speculation that both men are still donating.

From a public health perspective, it seems alarming to us that a father and his son could be the biological fathers of more than 350 children in Québec. According to experts, the risk of genetic disorders is significant when many children are related. We are also concerned about the honesty of donors in the informal donation process. The documentary reveals that one of the donors carries a defective gene. However, this information was hidden from the women concerned. Experts also say that psychological and physical health can be neglected in the informal donation process.

After watching the documentary *Père 100 enfants*, the former Minister of Health asked the national public health director, Dr. Luc Boileau, to provide him with recommendations regarding multiple informal sperm donations.

The MSSS also stated that it intends to implement the recommendations of the central clinical ethics committee on medically assisted procreation. This committee was mandated by the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux to make recommendations on actions to be implemented to promote access to gamete (sperm and egg) and embryo donations and to prevent detrimental situations. The committee's recommendations focus specifically on the maximum number of egg or sperm donations per person.

My questions to the Minister of Health are the following:

- 1- Can the Minister provide an update on the changes that have been made in response to the public health recommendations regarding multiple informal sperm donations?
- 2- Can the Minister provide an update on the changes that have been made in response to the central clinical ethics committee on medically assisted procreation's recommendations regarding actions to be implemented to promote access to gamete and embryo donations and to prevent detrimental situations, specifically with regard to the maximum number of egg or sperm donations per person?
- 3- Does the Minister intend to regulate informal sperm donation? If so, what solutions does the Minister plan to implement?

(7) Ms. Caron (La Pinière) – **5 May 2026**

To the Minister Responsible for Seniors and Informal Caregivers

Answer tabled on **12 May 2026** (Sessional Paper No. 63-20260512)

Measure 45 of the 2021–2026 government action plan for caregivers calls for the deployment and

consolidation of Maisons Gilles-Carle, with a view to offering caregivers respite, psychosocial support and adapted services that are complementary to those provided by the public network. This measure seeks to support the development of out-of-home respite services with overnight stays to improve caregivers' quality of life and prevent burnout.

Can the Minister tell us what the updated ministerial guidelines are for 2025–2026 with regard to measure 45, including the number of Maisons Gilles-Carle concerned, the budgetary envelopes allocated, the terms of deployment or consolidation, and the timeline for implementation?

- (8) Ms. Caron (La Pinière) – **5 May 2026**  
To the Minister Responsible for Seniors and Informal Caregivers  
Answer tabled on **12 May 2026** (Sessional Paper No. 64-20260512)

In the 2021–2026 government action plan for caregivers, measure 46 provides for the expansion of Baluchon Répît long terme's service offer for caregivers.

Can the Minister tell us how the number of respite days offered by Baluchon Répît long terme has evolved, from 2021 to 2026, as part of that measure?

- (9) Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles) – **5 May 2026**  
To the Minister Responsible for Housing  
Answer tabled on **5 June 2026** (Sessional Paper No. 154-20260605)

During clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 31, we held detailed discussions with the then minister regarding the framework for section 93. At that time, we pointed out the importance of balancing the granting of such exceptional power to municipalities with clear mechanisms for transparency and accountability to ensure rigorous monitoring of its implementation.

The power is subject to an explicit legal requirement: each municipality that exercises it must produce an annual report detailing, in particular, the number of resolutions adopted, the variances granted, the number of dwellings authorized, and the applications denied. This report must be published and sent to the Minister Responsible for Housing not later than 1 April of each year.

This is therefore not just an administrative practice but a legal requirement.

However, since the bill was assented to, the government has not released any consolidated accountability reports.

Can the Minister specify:

1. How many municipalities have submitted their reports as required by law?
2. How many dwellings have been authorized under this special variance scheme?
3. How many variances have been granted?
4. How many applications have been denied?
5. And why has the department not made this data public despite being legally required to do so?

(10) Ms. Cadet (Bourassa-Sauvé) – **5 May 2026**

To the Minister of Labour

Answer tabled on **12 May 2026** (Sessional Paper No. 65-20260512)

According to the Association des camps du Québec, the draft regulation respecting the conditions for lodging workers currently under study raises considerable concerns for vacation camps in Québec. The Association states that bringing infrastructure into conformity with the regulation may necessitate major investments on the part of the camps, in particular with regard to installing air conditioning in buildings and additional sanitary facilities, and connecting to drinking water systems. Such work could entail substantial costs for many camps, most of which are non-profit organizations with limited financial resources.

The Association des camps du Québec also points out that camp facilities are often located in natural settings, and rustic lodgings are often an integral part of the camp experience that young people, families and camp counsellors are looking for. According to the Association, applying the regulation in its entirety could not only lead to costs that many camps would find difficult to absorb, but also undermine the very experience that defines the unique character and educational value of vacation camps in Québec.

Does the Minister intend to amend the draft regulation respecting the conditions for lodging workers to explicitly exclude vacation camps from it, as requested by the Association des camps du Québec, in order to ensure the long-term viability of the camps and safeguard the unique experience they offer young Quebecers?

(11) Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles) – **5 May 2026**

To the Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks

Answer tabled on **4 June 2026** (Sessional Paper No. 139-20260604)

According to an article in *Le Devoir*, more than a year after announcing its intention to ban the installation of fossil-fuel-based natural gas heating systems in buildings, the Québec government has yet to fulfill that commitment by amending the regulation. The promise was made during the COP29 climate conference, where Québec stated that new and existing buildings would be required to use only renewable gas by 2040.

However, the regulation that was to ban the installation of natural gas furnaces in new, small residential buildings as of 2026 has still not been adopted. According to information reported, the departments responsible for the environment and for energy are unable to explain the delay or provide a timeline for the implementation of the measure.

Meanwhile, many real estate developers and construction industry experts say they want to build buildings heated with carbon-free energy but claim they are at a disadvantage until the rules are clarified and applied consistently.

Can the Minister tell us why the regulation banning the installation of fossil-fuel-based natural gas heating systems in new buildings has not yet been adopted, and when the Government plans to implement the regulation with a precise timeline?

(12) Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles) – **5 May 2026**

To the Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks  
Answer tabled on **4 June 2026** (Sessional Paper No. 140-20260604)

A recent report on the show *La semaine verte* revealed that since 2022 the federal government has been subsidizing the use of fertilizers coated with plastic polymers, a practice that contributes to the release of microplastics into the environment.

However, according to public information, scientists with the federal government initially concluded that the effectiveness of these products was uncertain and that because of the conflicting scientific evidence, such financial support could not be justified.

Furthermore, an increasing number of scientific studies show that the plastic coatings can break down into microplastics that remain in the soil and waterways. Despite these concerns, millions of dollars in federal funding have been allocated to Québec under the program, in particular for 2024 and 2025.

Meanwhile, the European Union intends to prohibit non-biodegradable polymer coatings for fertilizer in 2028 on the basis of the environmental risks associated with microplastics.

Can the Minister tell us whether the Québec government has assessed the environmental impacts of the use of plastic polymers and whether it intends to review the regulation or use of public funds with regard to such practices?

(13) Ms. Dufour (Mille-Îles) – **5 May 2026**

To the Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks  
Answer tabled on **4 June 2026** (Sessional Paper No. 141-20260604)

An article published last year in *La Terre de chez nous* revealed that the use of certain plastics contributes to the accumulation of microplastics in the soil, which may then end up in ecosystems and, ultimately, in the food chain.

These plastics, which are sometimes described as “biodegradable”, do not really decompose, but instead break down into fine, persistent particles. This situation raises concerns and calls for a reflection on how they are regulated.

During the clause-by-clause consideration of the Ministère de l’Environnement’s budget estimates last year, I raised this issue with the Minister and asked him whether these plastics would be prohibited. The Minister then indicated that he would consider the matter and get back with a response.

However, since that exchange, no response has been provided.

In this context, can the Minister tell us whether she intends to further regulate the use of so-called “biodegradable” plastics that break down into microplastics, and specify the actions his department plans to take to better protect the soil and environment?