ACTIVITY REPORT
of the National Assembly of Québec

2001-2002

This publication was accomplished with the collaboration of the executive personnel and staff from all administrative branches of the National Assembly. Unless otherwise indicated, the data provided in this report concerns the activities of the National Assembly from 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2002.

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PREFACE

Daniel Lessard

I am pleased to release the *Activity Report of the National Assembly of Québec* for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2002. This document constitutes a retrospection of the main events that took place during the past year and of the work accomplished by the Members.

The reader will discover the remarkable task carried out by the Members in the House and in committees, be it with regard to the consideration and passage of bills, the surveillance of ministries and agencies, the examination of Government estimates or to the holding of consultations, during which some 523 groups or individuals came before the committees to express their opinions on various issues.

A number of actions, both great and small, aiming to promote a closer connection between the citizens and their parliamentary institutions were carried out during the past year in the form of educational activities, hospitality programmes and improvement of our parliamentary broadcast channel and of our Internet site, to give but a few examples.

The report also bespeaks the vitality demonstrated by the National Assembly on the international scene, through the hosting of major events and the maintaining of meaningful relations with its partners, given that one cannot ignore the effects of internationalization on the parliamentary debates and the concerns of the citizens.

This is but a brief overview of what the reader will learn in the following pages. He will be able to grasp all of the wealth and diversity of the accomplishments of the Assembly, which embodies the expression of the democratic principles to which Québec society is so deeply attached.

The President of the National Assembly,

Louise Harel

FOREWORD

Daniel Lessard

Three years ago, the National Assembly began producing an activity report in order to better acquaint the citizens of Québec with their parliamentary institutions as well as to report on the work of the Members and of the approximately six hundred employees of the administration who support and counsel them with devotion and professionalism.

Throughout the year, the expertise and experience of the Assembly personnel were greatly called upon in the research and development of proposals pertaining to the parliamentary reform, which was adopted in December 2001, and in the implementation by the Assembly of the *Public Administration Act*.

Several institutional activities have highlighted the past year and are worthy of being mentioned here, such as the extraordinary meeting of the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas, in April 2001, the 27th Plenary Session of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie, in July 2001, the adoption of the *Charter of the Young Francophone Citizen of the 21st Century* on the occasion of the meeting of the 1st Legislature of the Francophone Youth Parliament, which was held in July 2001 at the National Assembly, and the official opening ceremony of the Second Centenary of the Library of the National Assembly, in March 2002.

With regard to the administration, the improvement of our services was the object of constant efforts, particularly through the use of information technologies and various means of communications, the further development of the skills of our employees, the introduction of a strategic planning procedure and through a wide range of other measures.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of the persons who have contributed, in whatever capacity, to the publication of this edition of the *Activity Report*, which is the fruit of a collective effort made by the personnel from all of the administrative units of the Assembly.

Enjoy your reading!

The Secretary General,

François Côté

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The National Assembly is the paramount and legitimate authority as regards the expression and implementation of the democratic principles of government. It is composed of 125 Members who are elected in each of the electoral divisions of Québec by the constituents that they are called upon to represent. The National Assembly sits in the Parliament Building. The National Assembly, which passes legislation, and the Lieutenant-Governor, who gives royal assent thereto, constitute the judicial base of Parliament. The Premier and the Government Ministers form the Executive Council, which is also known as the Cabinet or, simply, the Executive.

Other than its important responsibility of passing legislation, the National Assembly exercises control and surveillance over the actions of the Government (or executive power) and of the public administration. Québec is currently in its 36th Legislature. The proceedings of the second session resumed on 12 March 2002.

THE THREE POWERS OF THE STATE

LEGISLATIVE POWER	EXECUTIVE POWER	JUDICIAL POWER
Examines, discusses, amends and passes laws.	Determines policies to guide the actions of the State.	Interprets the laws passed by the legislative power.
* * *	* * *	* * *
Exercises a control over the action of the executive power.	Administers and controls the State in accordance with the laws passed by the legislative power.	Decides whether a citizen or a group has acted in accordance with the law.
Parliament	**Government**	**Courts**

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Legislature
Period of time between two general elections, for a maximum duration of five years. A legislature may comprise one or several sessions.

Session
Period of time between the summoning of the National Assembly and its prorogation. Each session begins with the Lieutenant-Governor's address and opening speech delivered by the Premier and concludes with the prorogation of proceedings, without any time limit being set between these two events.

Sitting
Daily period set aside for the work of Members at the Assembly.

STAGES OF A BILL

Standing Order 229 provides for five stages in the consideration of a bill, which are as follows:

Introduction
Reading of the explanatory notes or a summary thereof, briefly explaining the purposes of the bill; takes place during the Routine Proceedings of a sitting of the Assembly.

Passage in Principle
Debate on the expediency, principles, and merits of the bill, and on alternative means of achieving its purpose; takes place during the Orders of the Day of a sitting of the Assembly.

Committee Stage
Debate on the content of the bill: each clause is given consideration and amendments may be proposed; one or several sittings in parliamentary committee or in Committee of the Whole may be held.

Report Stage
Debate on the report and, if applicable, on the amendments that Members may have proposed in the hours following its tabling; takes place during the Orders of the Day of a sitting of the Assembly.

Passage
Limited debate on the content of the bill during which time only the sponsor of the said bill may propose amendments; takes place during the Orders of the Day of a sitting of the Assembly.

In the hours or days following the passage of a bill at the Assembly, the Lieutenant-Governor or, in her absence, the Administrator of Québec, who is required to be a judge of the Québec Court of Appeal, gives royal assent to the bill; this is the final parliamentary stage, thus enabling a bill to become law and to come into force on the same day or at a future date fixed by the Government.

The Mission of the National Assembly

Legislating in the areas of its jurisdiction and exercising control over the executive power and the public administration remain the two fundamental roles of the National Assembly. Furthermore, the Assembly is called upon to examine current issues.

FROM APRIL 2001 TO MARCH 2002, DID YOU KNOW...

For further information, please refer to the detailed table on the Internet site of the Assembly, under the heading «Les travaux parlementaires» (Parliamentary Proceedings) http://www.assnat.qc.ca/fra/publications/index.html (available in French only) or under the heading «Nouvelles de l'Assemblée» http://www.assnat.qc.ca/fra/nouvelles/nouvelles.asp (available in French only)

- that, in the areas of its jurisdiction, the National Assembly passed and enacted into law:
  118 bills
  - 96 Government bills ... 68 % of which were passed unanimously
  - 7 Private Members' public bills ... 2 of which were passed unanimously
  - 15 private bills ... all of which were passed unanimously

- that 126 days is the average time span between the introduction and the passage of a Government bill;

- that 5982 pages were entered into the Annual Statutes Compilation covering the 2001 calendar year;

- that, among the bills unanimously passed, the following subjects were dealt with:
  - . Bill 9 to facilitate the payment of support;
  - . Bill 38 as regards alcohol-impaired driving;
  - . Bill 140 respecting the eligibility of parents to benefits granted on the birth or the adoption of a child.

- that the control of the actions of the Government and of its administration, which has traditionally been assumed by the Members of the Opposition, is carried out mainly during Oral Question Period, in parliamentary committees, as well as during the examination of the estimates, the hearings of deputy ministers, head officers of agencies, etc.;

- that 57:45 were set aside for Oral Questions and Answers at the Assembly;

- that 523 main questions were asked, namely:
  91 % by the Official Opposition
  6.1 % by the Independent Member
  3.2 % by Government Members

- that 753 supplementary questions were allowed by the President and distributed as follows:

Official Opposition:	699
Independent:	45
Government Members:	9

- that 46 written questions were placed on the Order Paper and Notices. The Standing Orders provide for this type of question in the following cases:
  1) the matters discussed do not justify an immediate answer;
  2) the answers requested require some research.

- that, by placing a motion on the Order Paper or by moving a motion without notice during the Routine Proceedings of a sitting, the Members enable the Assembly to discuss important public issues and express opinions thereon;

DID YOU KNOW …

- **that** during the 2001-2002 fiscal year:
  16 motions were placed on the Order Paper and discussed. Among the subjects debated:
  . the tax burden;
  . the quality of drinking water;
  . the elimination of poverty.

- **that 184 motions** without notice were carried, thus marking, among others, the following events:
  . Early Childhood Centres and Day Care Services Week;
  . the 40th anniversary of the École de bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l'information of the Université de Montréal;
  . World No-Tobacco Day;
  . International Day for the Elimination of Poverty;
  . Québec Citizenship Week;
  . the awards given by the Fédération des agricultrices du Québec;
  . the excellence demonstrated by the young Quebeckers during the activities of the Programme for International Student Assessment;
  . the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration by the Government of Québec on Ethnic and Race Relations;
  . the 125th anniversary of the discovery of asbestos in the Thetford Mines region;
  . the 40th anniversary of the election of Mrs. Marie-Claire Kirkland, the first woman to sit in the National Assembly of Québec;
  . the 200th anniversary of the Library of the National Assembly.

The Members

Distribution of seats according to political parties represented in the National Assembly as at 31 March 2002:

Parti Québécois	PQ	69
Québec Liberal Party	QLP	49
Action démocratique du Québec	Ind.	1

6 vacant seats

In the National Assembly, women hold 24.8 % of the seats:

PQ	18	QLP	13

Eight women are members of the Cabinet; they compose 30.8 % of the Executive.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Oral Questions and Answers
All questions relating to matters of urgent or topical public importance for which a Minister or the Government is officially responsible. All other questions must be placed on the Order Paper.

Main Question
Any question whose object is to prompt an exchange on a given subject between a Member and a Minister. The question must be concisely put and a brief preamble may be allowed in order to place a question in its context.

Supplementary Question
One or several supplementary questions may arise out of the main question. A supplementary question must be concise, be confined to the subject matter of the question, and neither offer any argument nor express any opinion. It must arise out of the main question and the Government's answers.

Written Question
Questions on matters that are not sufficiently urgent or important to justify an immediate answer, or that are of such a nature as to require research, are placed on the Order Paper and Notices.

Motion
Procedural act by which a Member moves that the Assembly decide on a question.

The appointment to the Cabinet of the President of the Assembly, Mr. Jean-Pierre Charbonneau, on 30 January 2002, led to the election, upon the resumption of parliamentary proceedings on 12 March 2002, of a new President of the Assembly, Mrs. Louise Harel, who is the first woman to hold this office in the parliamentary history of Québec.

Anniversaries of Members' political careers

25th anniversary:
Mr. Jacques Brassard
Mr. Guy Chevrette
Mr. François Gendron

20th anniversary:
Mrs. Louise Harel
Mr. Michel Bissonnet
Mr. André Bourbeau
Mr. William Cusano
Mr. Cosmo Maciocia
Mr. Robert Middlemiss
Mr. Christos Sirros
Mr. Yvon Vallières

The role of a Member in his constituency

At his riding office, the Member carries out a double role as representative of the people in the constituency where he was elected and as an intermediary between the public administration and the citizens.

It is also his duty to defend the needs of the citizens and citizens' groups in his constituency in all areas where the State is involved and to act as their spokesperson at the National Assembly.

This key role as spokesperson, intermediary and representative of the people constitutes the very essence of the work accomplished by a Member in his constituency.

Section 16 of the *Act respecting the National Assembly* stipulates that a Member may resign his seat verbally at a sitting of the Assembly. He may also resign in a writing countersigned by two other Members and sent to the President or the Secretary General of the Assembly. If a Member resigns in writing, the President must so inform the Assembly at its next sitting.

Seven Members resigned in writing during the last fiscal year:

Céline Signori *Blainville* (PQ)
12 September 1994 - 27 June 2001

Gabriel-Yvan Gagnon *Saguenay* (PQ)
12 September 1994 - 16 September 2001

Jean-Sébastien Lamoureux *Anjou* (QLP)
30 November 1998 - 25 September 2001

Cosmo Maciocia *Viger* (QLP)
13 April 1981 - 13 November 2001

Guy Chevrette *Joliette* (PQ)
15 November 1976 - 29 January 2002

Jacques Brassard *Lac-Saint-Jean* (PQ)
15 November 1976 - 29 January 2002

David Cliche *Vimont* (PQ)
12 September 1994- 30 January 2002

The resignation of Members during a term of office brings about the holding of by-elections within the following six months in order to fill vacancies in the electoral divisions. In 2001, constituents in five electoral divisions elected the following:

Nathalie Rochefort *Mercier* (QLP)
9 April 2001

Richard Legendre *Blainville* (PQ)1 October 2001

Françoise Gauthier *Jonquière*(QLP)
1 October 2001

Sylvain Pagé *Labelle* (PQ)
1 October 2001

Julie Boulet *Laviolette*(QLP)
1 October 2001

BERNARD LANDRY
Premier
Verchères

ANDRÉ BOISCLAIR
Government House Leader
Gouin

JEAN-FRANÇOIS SIMARD
Deputy Government House Leader
Montmorency

CÉCILE VERMETTE
Deputy Government House Leader
Marie -Victorin

MICHEL MORIN
Chief Government Whip
Nicolet-Yamaska

MICHEL CÔTÉ
Deputy Government Whip
La Peltrie

MANO
Depu

MAXIME ARSENEAU
Îles-de-la-Madeleine

DIANE BARBEAU
Vanier

GILLES BARIL
Berthier

JACQUES BARIL
Arthabaska

LOUISE BEAUDOIN
Chambly

YVES BEAUMIER
Champlain

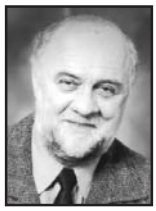
STÉPHANE BÉDARD
Chicoutimi

PA
Lo

ROSAIRE BERTRAND
Charlevoix

CLAUDE BOUCHER
Johnson

ANDRÉ BOULERICE
Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques



MARC BOULIANNE
Frontenac

JOCELYNE CARON
Terrebonne

DENISE CARRIER-PERREAULT
Chutes-de-la-Chaudière

JEAN-PIERRE CHARBONNEAU
Borduas

SOLA

RÉMY DÉSILETS
Maskinongé

SERGE DESLIÈRES
Salaberry-Soulanges

LÉANDRE DION
Saint-Hyacinthe

RITA DIONNE-MARSOLAIS
Rosemont

DANIELLE DOYER
Matapédia

NORMAND DUGUAY
Duplessis

JOSEPH FACAL
Fabre

FRANÇ
Al

THE MEMBERS

OF THE 36TH LEGISLATURE AS AT 31 MARCH 2002

ON BLANCHET
ty Government Whip
Crémazie

AUL BÉGIN
ouis-Hébert

JEAN-PAUL BERGERON
Iberville

ROGER BERTRAND
Portneuf

NGE CHAREST
Rimouski

JACQUES CÔTÉ
Dubuc

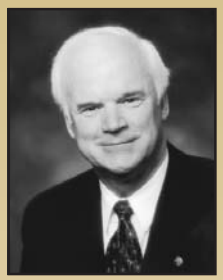
CLAUDE COUSINEAU
Bertrand

COIS GENDRON
bitibi-Ouest

SERGE GEOFFRION
La Prairie

LINDA GOUPIL
Lévis

LOUISE HAREL
President of the National Assembly
Hochelaga-Maisonneuve



RAYMOND BROUILLET
First Vice-President
Chauveau

PIERRE PARA
Opposition
House Lead
Brome-Missisq

LINE BEAUCHAMP
Sauvé

CLAUDE BÉCHARD
Kamouraska-Témiscouata

MADELEINE BÉL
Mégantic-Comp

BERNARD BRODEUR
Shefford

JACQUES CHAGNON
Westmount–Saint-Louis

ANDRÉ CHEN
Beauharnois-Hunt

JACQUES P. DUPUIS
Saint-Laurent

MONIQUE GAGNON-TREMBLAY
Saint-François

FRANÇOISE GAUT
Jonquière

The seating plan of the Assembly as at 31 March 2002

Definitions

● **Parliamentary group forming the Government**
The group of Members whose party won the majority of seats in a general election; their leader becomes the Premier, and he chooses, among the Members, those who shall become Ministers.

● **Parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition**
The group of Members whose party won the second largest number of seats in a general election; the leader of this parliamentary group becomes the Leader of the Official Opposition.

○ **Independent Member**
A Member of Parliament who is not a member of a recognized political party under the provisions of the Election Act or who, during a term of office, leaves a group without joining another one. An independent Member may join a parliamentary group at any time during a legislature.

Parliamentary duties

President
He is elected by the Members and his duties are threefold: to ensure that the Standing Orders are observed and that the rights and privileges of the National Assembly and of its Members are protected during each sitting; to oversee the services of the Assembly; to represent the Assembly in Québec and abroad in its relations with other Parliaments.

Vice-Presidents
There are three vice-presidents, the first two of which are elected among the Members of the Government party and the third, among the Members of the Official Opposition party. They assist the President in his duties and enjoy the same prerogatives and the same authority as the latter when they replace him in his parliamentary functions.

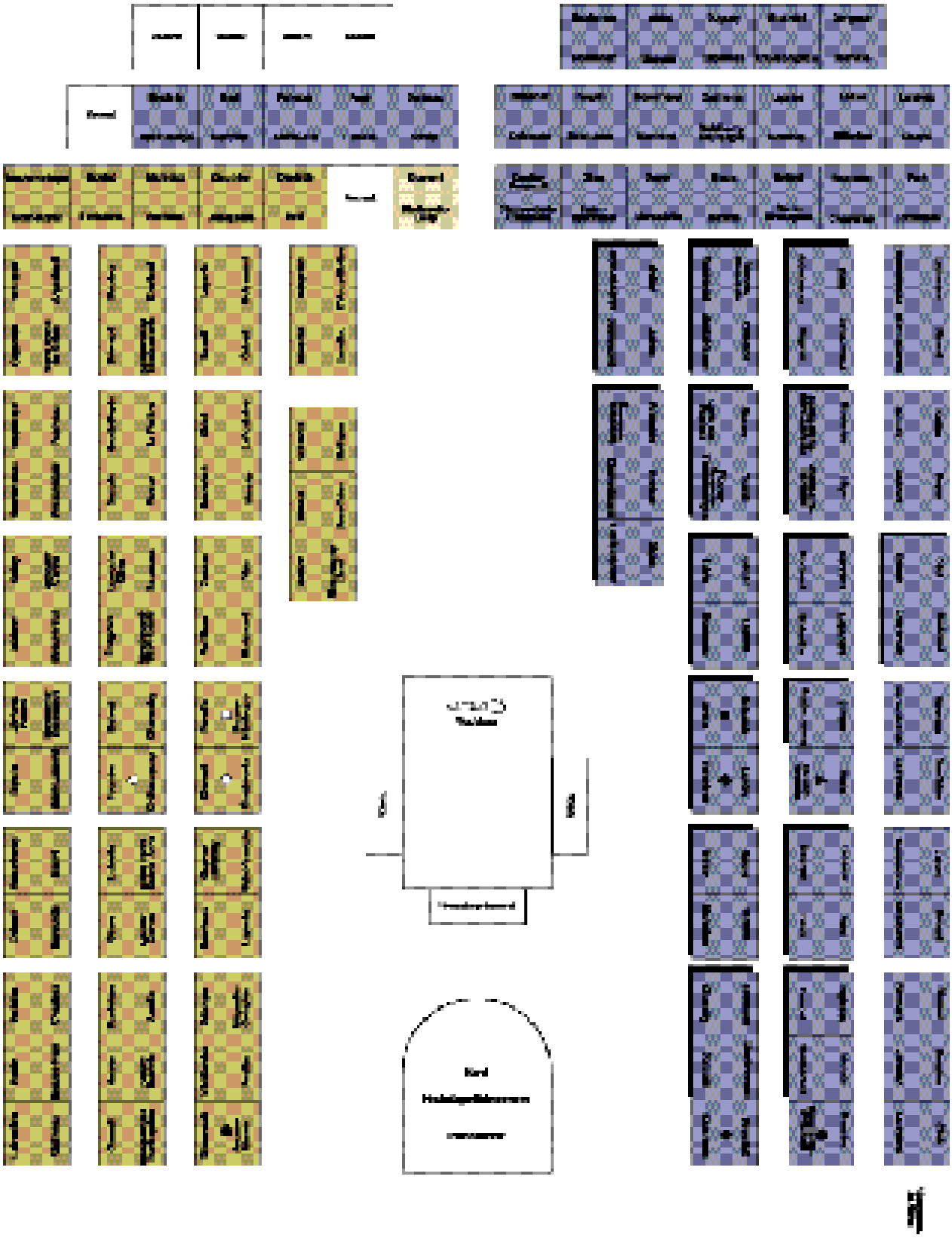
Leader
A Member who is responsible for the parliamentary activity of his party.

House Leader
A Member who is responsible for establishing the parliamentary strategies of his group.

Deputy House Leader
A Member who assists and replaces the House Leader in his duties.

Whip
A Member who is responsible for discipline within his group and who coordinates the activities of the Members in the Assembly, in committees and as part of delegations.

Deputy Whip
A Member who assists and replaces the whip in his duties.



Public Gallery

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND

PARLIAMENTARY WORK

Assessment of a year in the Assembly and in committees

Schedule of the sittings of the Assembly Extraordinary sittings

Schedule	Ordinary session	Intensive session 25 May to 23 June / 25 Nov. to 21 Dec.
Monday		
Tuesday	*	*
Wednesday Thursday Friday	10 a.m. to 12 p.m.2 p.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.

** The Assembly may sit on Monday on motion by the Government House Leader.*

Sittings of the Standing Committees

The standing committees may hold sittings at any time of the year. It should be noted that the committees may not sit while the Assembly is taking Routine Proceedings.

The following is the calendar established in the Standing Orders:

Schedule	Ordinary session	Intensive session 25 May to 23 June / 25 Nov. to 21 Dec.
Monday	2 p.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.2 p.m. to 6 p.m.	
Friday	9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	

This information is available on the Internet site and on the channel of the National Assembly.

When a sitting of the Assembly does not take place within the periods, days or hours provided for in the Standing Orders, this is known as an "extraordinary sitting". Only the Premier has the authority to request that the President of the Assembly convene such a sitting. In 2001-2002, no extraordinary sittings were convened.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Routine Proceedings
Part of the sitting set aside mainly for information to Members; the introduction of bills, the tabling of documents, oral questions and answers, and motions without notice are some of the items of business dealt with during this period.

Orders of the Day
Part of the sitting set aside for debates, particularly on the budget, on bills, on reports from committees and on motions placed on the Order Paper.

The Sergeant-at-Arms
The Sergeant-at-Arms is responsible for the security of the Members and is the guardian of the Mace, which is the symbol of the authority of the National Assembly and of the President. At the opening and closing of each sitting, he places the Mace on his shoulder and announces the arrival or departure of the President. It is his duty to make sure that the bell is rung to summon the Members to vote and that the white lights atop the Parliament Building tower are lit to indicate that the Assembly is sitting.

The Mace
Stemming from British parliamentary tradition, the Mace is the symbol of the authority of the President of the National Assembly. This authority and that of the Assembly are indivisible. In the absence of the Mace, the Assembly is not considered as being constituted and no deliberation may take place.

The Standing Orders of the National Assembly establish a calendar of sittings that is divided into two periods: the first one begins on the second Tuesday in March and lasts until 23 June at the latest, and the second period is from the third Tuesday in October until 21 December at the latest. The Standing Orders also provide for "intensive" periods of work, during which an extra sitting day is added to the weekly schedule and the sitting hours are extended.

The right of citizens to present a petition to the Assembly is a fundamental principle that has been codified in the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms (R.S.Q., C-12, s. 21). Thus, any person or group of persons may, through a Member, petition the Assembly for the redress of a situation deemed unfair.

To be in order, a petition must:
- come within the competence of the public authorities;
- contain a clear statement of facts (clear, concise, accurate and set forth in temperate and respectful terms) and the intervention requested must appear on every sheet that bears signatures;
- not concern a matter that is before the courts or a quasi-judicial body, or that is the subject of an inquiry, if its presentation may be prejudicial to the interests of some person or party;
- be an original copy, hand-written, typed or printed on sheets of paper of the usual size;
- contain the hand-written signatures of all the petitioners;
- be presented by a Member.

This information is available on the Internet site of the National Assembly at the following address: http://www.assnat.qc.ca/eng/publications/index.html

The following table provides concurrently the monthly data regarding sittings held and work hours completed in the Assembly and in committees in the course of 2001-2002:

	ASSEMBLY		COMMITTEES	
	Sittings	Hours	Sittings	Hours
April	9	44:35	32	104:10
May	16	75:12	95	268:59
June	12	99:36	70	194:26
July	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	11	41:36
September	0	0	27	81:06
October	8	48:29	44	115:03
November	14	86:25	47	119:30
December	10	73:22	35	71:00
January	0	0	7	34:49
February	0	0	29	98:06
March	9	47:59	41	104:24

In the Assembly **78 sittings** **475:38**

In committees **438 sittings** **1233:09**

All papers tabled during a sitting of the Assembly are recorded in the Votes and Proceedings, become public documents and are kept in the archives of the Assembly, where they may be consulted upon request. The following is an overview of the 975 papers that were tabled this year:

- Mission reports 15 2%
- Answers to questions placed on the Order Paper 27 3%
- Reports from the Law Clerk 9 1%
- Decisions from the Office of the Assembly 23 2%
- Petitions 74 8%
- Committee reports 150 15%
- Annual reports (ministries and agencies) 305 31%
- Answers to petitions 8 1%
- Other documents 364 37%

681 papers

were tabled in the standing committees in 2001-2002, including 422 briefs.

The parliamentary reform

On 6 December 2001, the National Assembly adopted temporary amendments to its Standing Orders and to its Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings. First and foremost, the rules concerning the presentation of petitions were relaxed so that no petition may be refused on the grounds that it is not addressed to the Assembly or that it does not request its intervention. Furthermore, the Government now has the obligation to table in the Assembly a written answer to each petition within sixty days following its presentation. If upon the expiry of this delay the Assembly is not in session, the answer must be tabled in the three days following the resumption of proceedings. If the Government fails to answer a petition within the prescribed time, it must give an oral answer no later than the following third sitting of the Assembly. Anotherimportant temporary amendment concerns the implementation of an exceptional procedure. This new procedure may only be used for a single motion or a single bill at a time. It guarantees a minimum time for the debate on each stage of the consideration of a bill, namely five hours for the passage in principle, five hours for the clause-by-clause consideration in committee, one hour for the report stage and one hour for the passage of the bill.

The standing committees

It is by means of the eleven standing committees, nine of which are sector-based, that Members may fully exercise their roles as legislators and controllers of governmental activity and the public administration. Six of the sector-based committees are chaired by Members from the group forming the Government and three by Opposition Members. The terms of reference of the committees and the members thereof, as at 31 March 2002, are listed hereafter, followed by a brief look at the work completed by each of these committees in 2001-2002:

Committee on the National Assembly

Drafts the Standing Orders of the National Assembly and the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings in the Assembly, coordinates the proceedings of the other committees

Membership:

- the President of the Assembly
- the Vice-Presidents
- the House leaders and whips of the parliamentary groups
- the chairmen of the standing committees

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Chairman
A Member of one of the parliamentary groups, elected by the members of the committee for a two-year term. He organizes, plans and chairs the proceedings of his committee. The chairman of the committee takes part in the debates and has the right to vote.

Vice-Chairman
A Member of a parliamentary group other than that of the chairman, also elected by the members of the committee for a two-year term. He assists the chairman in his duties and replaces him when necessary.

Temporary Chairman
Member appointed by the President of the Assembly to preside over the debates of a committee, at the request of a committee chairman or when the Assembly so directs in an order of reference. It is the Committee on the National Assembly that approves a list of Members who may act in such capacity. As at 31 March 2002, the list of temporary chairmen is the following:

Diane Barbeau (Vanier) PQ
Jean-Paul Bergeron (Iberville) PQ
Marc Boulianne (Frontenac) PQ
Margaret F. Delisle (Jean-Talon) QLP
Rémy Désilets (Maskinongé) PQ
Michel Després (Limoilou) QLP
Normand Duguay (Duplessis) PQ

Jean-Claude Gobé (LaFontaine) QLP
Fatima Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) QLP
Gilles Labbé (Masson) PQ
Nicole Loiselle (Saint-Henri-Sainte-Anne) QLP
Sylvain Pagé (Labelle) PQ
Normand Poulin (Beauce-Nord) QLP
Jean-Claude St-André (L'Assomption) PQ

Committee on Public Administration

Accountability and examination of financial commitments

Membership:

The chairman — Geoffrey Kelley (Jacques-Cartier) QLP
The vice-chairman — Hélène Robert (Deux-Montagnes) PQ

PQ
Diane Barbeau (Vanier)
Rémy Désilets (Maskinongé)
Claude Lachance (Bellechasse)
Sylvain Pagé (Labelle)
Jean-Guy Paré (Lotbinière)

QLP
Jacques Chagnon (Westmount–Saint-Louis)
Michel Després (Limoilou)
Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin)

Committee on Institutions

Executive Council, justice, public security, intergovernmental relations, and the Constitution

Membership:

The chairman — Claude Lachance (Bellechasse) PQ
The vice-chairman — Henri-François Gautrin (Verdun) QLP

PQ
Yves Beaumier (Champlain)
Marc Boulianne (Frontenac)
Denise Carrier-Perreault (Chutes-de-la-Chaudière)
Léandre Dion (Saint-Hyacinthe)
Lyse Leduc (Mille-Îles)
Roger Paquin (Saint-Jean)

QLP
Jacques Dupuis (Saint-Laurent)
Michèle Lamquin-Éthier (Bourassa)

IND.
Mario Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup)

Committee on Public Finance

Finance, the budget, the public accounts, the public administration, the public service, and supply and services

Membership:

The chairman — Jean-Guy Paré (Lotbinière) PQ
The vice-chairman — Russell Williams (Nelligan) QLP

PQ
Claude Cousineau (Bertrand)
Normand Duguay (Duplessis)
Serge Geoffrion (La Prairie)
Gilles Labbé (Masson)
André Pelletier (Abitibi-Est)

QLP
Fatima Houda-Pepin (La Pinière)
Monique Jérôme-Forget (Marg.-Bourgeoys)
Diane Leblanc (Beauce-Sud)

Committee on Social Affairs

The family, health, social and community services, the status of women, and income security

Membership:

The chairman — Monique Gagnon-Tremblay (Saint-François) QLP
The vice-chairman — Denise Carrier-Perreault (Chutes-de-la-Chaudière) PQ

PQ
Manon Blanchet (Crémazie)
Rémy Désilets (Maskinongé)
Gilles Labbé (Masson)
David Payne (Vachon)
Jean-Claude St-André (L'Assomption)

QLP
Julie Boulet (Laviolette)
Russell Copeman (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce)
Nathalie Rochefort (Mercier)

Committee on Labour and the Economy

Industry, trade, tourism, labour, science, technology, energy and resources, and manpower

Membership:

The chairman — Matthias Rioux (Matane) PQ
The vice-chairman — Christos Sirros (Laurier-Dorion) QLP

PQ
Diane Barbeau (Vanier)
Stéphane Bédard (Chicoutimi)
Robert Kieffer (Groulx)
Michel Côté (La Peltrie)
Guy Lelièvre (Gaspé)

QLP
Claude Béchard (Kamouraska-Témiscouata)
Normand Poulin (Beauce-Nord)
André Tranchemontagne (Mont-Royal)

Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Agriculture, fisheries and food

Membership:

The chairman — Léandre Dion (Saint-Hyacinthe) PQ
The vice-chairman — Réal Gauvin (Montmagny-L'Islet) QLP

PQ
Gilles Baril (Berthier)
Jean-Paul Bergeron (Iberville)
Benoît Laprise (Roberval)
Guy Lelièvre (Gaspé)
Hélène Robert (Deux-Montagnes)

QLP
André Chenail (Beauharnois-Huntingdon)
Pierre Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi)
David Whissell (Argenteuil)

Activities relating to parliamentary control constitute the most important part of the work carried out in the standing committees, as the following table indicates:

438 sittings

Parliamentary control
216 sittings 49 %

Government estimates
66 sittings 30 %

other matters: elections
statutory orders
deliberative meetings
69 sittings 32 %

accountability
20 sittings 9 %

surveillance of public agencies
14 sittings 7 %

Initiative
31 sittings 14 %

financial commitments
10 sittings 5 %

interpellations
6 sittings 3 %

clause-by-clause consideration of bills
152 sittings 35 %

public bills
69

private bills
12

consultations 70 sittings
16 %

523 groups and individuals came before the committees to express their point of view on various issues during consultations.

Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

Local communities, municipal planning, housing, and recreation

Membership:

The chairman — Yvon Vallières (Richmond) QLP
The vice-chairman — Danielle Doyer (Matapédia) PQ

PQ
Claude Boucher (Johnson)
Normand Duguay (Duplessis)
Benoît Laprise (Roberval)
Sylvain Pagé (Labelle)
Claude Pinard (Saint-Maurice)

QLP
Roch Cholette (Hull)
Réal Gauvin (Montmagny-L'Islet)
François Ouimet (Marquette)

Committee on Education

Education, vocational training, and consumer protection

Membership:

The chairman — Madeleine Bélanger (Mégantic-Compton) QLP
The vice-chairman — Roger Paquin (Saint-Jean) PQ

PQ
Jocelyne Caron (Terrebonne)
Solange Charest (Rimouski)
Claude Cousineau (Bertrand)
Serge Geoffrion (La Prairie)
Robert Kieffer (Groulx)

QLP
Lawrence S. Bergman (D'Arcy-McGee)
Margaret F. Delisle (Jean-Talon)
Yvon Marcoux (Vaudreuil)

Committee on Culture

Culture, communications, cultural communities, immigration, and relations with the citizenry

Membership:

The chairman — Yves Beaumier (Champlain) PQ
The vice-chairman — William Cusano (Viau) QLP

PQ
Jean-Paul Bergeron (Iberville)
Marc Boulianne (Frontenac)
Serge Deslières (Salaberry-Soulanges)
Lyse Leduc (Mille-Îles)
Jean-Claude St-André (L'Assomption)

QLP
Line Beauchamp (Sauvé)
Françoise Gauthier (Jonquière)
Pierre-Étienne Laporte (Outremont)

Committee on Transportation and the Environment

Transportation, public works, the environment, and wildlife

Membership:

The chairman — Claude Pinard (Saint-Maurice) PQ
The vice-chairman — Yvan Bordeleau (Acadie) QLP

PQ
Michel Côté (La Peltrie)
Serge Deslières (Salaberry-Soulanges)
Danielle Doyer (Matapédia)
David Payne (Vachon)
André Pelletier (Abitibi-Est)

QLP
Robert Benoit (Orford)
Jean-Claude Gobé (LaFontaine)
Réjean Lafrenière (Gatineau)

Other than the Committee on the National Assembly and the Committee on Public Administration, the sector-based standing committees may carry out three types of orders: orders at the request of the Assembly, orders of initiative and statutory orders stemming from legislative or regulatory provisions. The following is an overview of the work accomplished by the standing committees in 2001-2002, for each type of order. A comprehensive list of the orders completed by each of the committees may be consulted in appendix.

Orders of initiative

On their own initiative, the committees examine draft regulations and regulations, the orientation, activities, and management of public agencies and any other issue of public interest.

The Committee on the National Assembly met twice in October 2001 to continue the examination of various parliamentary reform proposals.

In November 2001, within the framework of an order of initiative of the Committee on Culture concerning the concentration, convergence and commercialization of information, and following the publication of a study paper entitled «La concentration de la presse à l'ère de la convergence» (media concentration in the convergence era), the members of the Committee reached the conclusion that the current media concentration level in Québec raises serious concerns and that measures must be taken in order to more adequately guarantee the public's right to diversified and quality information. Among the measures proposed are the following: the implementation of a surveillance entity charged with observing and documenting the external and internal diversity of local, regional and national information medias; the signing of an agreement between Québec and Ottawa on the reciprocal and promotional responsibilities with regard to quality and diversity of information; the implementation of internal transparency mechanisms; the reinforcement of the Press Council; and a considerably increased support to independent, community and regional medias.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

General consultation
Invitation made by a Committee to any persons or organizations interested in forwarding a brief setting forth their views on some matter being examined by the Committee. The invitation is published in the Gazette officielle, in selected newspapers and on the Internet. Public hearings are then held in order to discuss the said briefs.

Special consultation
Special invitation transmitted by a Committee to a limited number of persons or organizations who have expertise or experience specific to a field it is investigating. Public hearings enable exchanges between these witnesses and the members of the Committee.

All of the reports containing recommendations are available on the Internet site of the Assembly at the following address (in French only): http://www.assnat.qc.ca/archives-36leg1se/fra/Publications/index.html under «Rapports, document de réflexion et colloque»

Furthermore, after having heard the head officers of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ), the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles (SODEC) and the Minister of Culture and Communications, the Committee tabled, in November 2001, a report on the implementation of each of the 32 recommendations contained in the report that it had tabled in April 2000. The hearings focussed on the reflections and actions that were initiated by the ministries and agencies since the tabling of the Committee report (establishment of a single window approach for artists and cultural businesses, establishment of a compensation insurance mechanism for persons working in the cultural environment, creation of an Observatoire de la culture, etc.) For this mandate, the Committee on Culture chose to proceed in the following manner: the grouping of both agencies that assist artists (CALQ) and cultural businesses (SODEC) within the same order of surveillance; the holding of public hearings intended for the clients of these two institutions; the publication of a report containing 32 recommendations; and a follow-up mandate with respect to these recommendations.

In December 2001, this same Committee tabled another report containing seven recommendations concerning the future of the Place des Arts de Montréal and of the Grand Théâtre de Québec. During the deliberative meetings, the members examined major issues, such as democratization and cultural development, the support to newcomers in the field and the role of these key players in promoting Québec culture.

Finally, in February 2002, the Committee heard the Minister responsible for Seniors on the follow-up actions taken with regard to the recommendations contained in its report on the general consultation pertaining to the examination of the report on the implementation of the Act respecting the Conseil des aînés. These recommendations included the maintaining of a Conseil des aînés, several modifications in the membership of its board of directors, the conservation of the Tables régionales de concertation, the implementation of a watch centre with regard to the condition of seniors and the initiation of a reflective period resulting in a true policy on aging which would encompass all stages of life from a perspective of social equality.

On 6 April 2001, following an order of initiative relating to the Free Trade Area of the Americas, the Committee on Institutions examined behind closed doors, as provided for in the Act respecting the National Assembly, the study papers submitted to the heads of State at the Summit of the Americas. At the end of April, after the Summit, the papers were released and translated into English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. Moreover, the Committee members agreed, in December 2001, to carry out an extensive order of initiative for the purpose of evaluating the voting procedure currently in effect in Québec, establishing various reform options of the electoral representation system and measuring their impact on the institutions.

The Committee on Planning and the Public Domain tabled in the National Assembly, on 8 November 2001, its final report on the question of violence in minor hockey. It contained close to a dozen recommendations addressed to the local and regional associations, to Hockey Québec, to the provincial referees' committee as well as to the Government of Québec. In its report, the Committee specifically proposed the development of a programme to increase awareness of violence in sports, which constitutes a first step towards eliminating the problem. The Committee members plan, in the near future, to follow up on their recommendations by consulting a certain number of the organizations involved.

The Committee on Labour and the Economy carried out an order of initiative concerning the problem of the increase in the price of gasoline and its impact on Québec's economy. For this purpose, in October and December 2001, it held public hearings as part of a general consultation during which it heard 17 groups, the Minister of Natural Resources as well as the Régie de l'énergie.

All of the aforementioned reports are available on the Internet site of the Assembly, at the following address:http://www.assnat.qc.ca/fra/publications/index.html#rapports

(in French only)

Surveillance of agencies

Within the framework of an order of surveillance, the Committee on Culture heard the chief executive officer of Télé-Québec, on 14 March 2002. In addition to examining the orientation, activities and management of this agency, the members of the Committee discussed what follow-up action had been taken with regard to the recommendations contained in two reports produced by the Committee: the report on the 2000-2003 Télé-Québec triennial plan and the report on the order of initiative pertaining to media concentration, in which the Committee recommended to Télé-Québec management that any alliance or partnership proposal should undergo serious scrutiny and also that Télé-Québec should reassert its regional vocation.

Orders of the Assembly

At the request of the Assembly, the committees examine bills, estimates of expenditure and any other matter referred to them.

Clause-by-clause consideration of bills

The Committee on Institutions, after having held consultations, concluded the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 19, *An Act concerning the organization of police services*, assented to on 19 June 2001, and of Bill 173, *Civil Protection Act*, assented to on 20 December of the same year.

In January 2002, the Committee on Public Finance began the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 14, *An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu and other legislative provisions as regards the protection of confidential information*. The Committee agreed to again hold consultations, particularly to get the opinion of certain organizations and individuals with regard to the amendments proposed by the Minister of Revenue, and this, before undertaking the clause-by-clause consideration of the bill.

General consultations

In September 2001, the Committee on Transportation and the Environment

held a general consultation on the reference paper entitled «Québec's public automobile insurance plan». Several aspects of the automobile insurance plan were examined, and numerous discussions took place on the compensation of accident victims who have been found guilty of criminal acts.

On 7 December 2001, the Committee on Institutions was instructed to hold a general consultation and public hearings on the draft bill entitled »*An Act instituting same-sex civil unions and amending the Civil Code and other legislative provisions*», whose aim is to create an institution, the civil union, for same-sex couples who wish to make a public commitment to live together as a couple and to uphold the rights and obligations stemming from their commitment to each other. Moreover, this draft bill extends not only to partners in a civil union but also to same-sex or traditional de facto spouses the applicability of certain provisions that relate to situations encountered by persons who are living together. Such provisions pertain to such matters as consenting on behalf of another person to the care required by the person's state of health, conflict of interest situations or causes of disqualification and non-compellability rules.

On 2 February 2002, the Committee on Social Affairs undertook a general consultation on the draft bill entitled «*Québec Health Card Act*». This draft bill proposes that a chip card, to be called «health card» or «Québec health card», is to replace the health insurance card presently issued by the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (Health Board). The use of the card would make it possible to identify and authenticate the card holder, but would also provide a patient's medical summary.

The Committee received 49 briefs and heard 42 groups and individuals during this general consultation. Care providers, users, citizens' protection organizations (access to information board, Public Protector, etc.), computer specialists and health care facility administrators came before the Committee members to give their point of view. While the principle of an improved flow of clinical information between health providers seems to have reached a consensus, several reservations were expressed concerning the terms and conditions surrounding this new technological tool, especially with regard to the relevancy and security of information, the consequences on the privacy of users and the costs involved in the implementation of the system.

Special consultations

The Committee on Planning and the Public Domain held two special consultations in 2001-2002 on the housing issue. The first consultations, which took place in November 2001, concerned Bill 26, *An Act to amend the Act respecting the Régie du logement and the Civil Code*. The second consultations, which were held in December 2001, concerned Bill 49, *An Act to amend the Act respecting the Société d'habitation du Québec*.

In early fall 2001, the Committee on Education held hearings within the framework of special consultations on Bill 35, *An Act to amend the Education Act*, which entitles the members of a school's governing board who are students in

the second cycle at the secondary level to vote. Subsequently, the Committee gave clause-by-clause consideration to the bill, and the report was tabled in the Assembly on 6 November 2001.

Examination of the estimates of expenditure

In 2001-2002, the committees spent more than 200 hours on the examination of the estimates over a ten-day period. The sectors of education, health, child and family welfare, municipal affairs, transport and finance as well as the field of research, science and technology took up close to half of the time allotted, that is, approximately 95 hours.

Statutory orders

The orders in this category arise from one of the Acts included in the Revised Statutes of Québec, or the Statutes of Québec (annual acts), or a regulation consequential upon such Act.

The Committee on Culture examined the annual report of the Commission d'accès à l'information (access to information board) and for this purpose, in February 2002, heard the chairman of this agency. The annual report contains observations on Québec's access to information plan, data on various exchanges of information and the information technologies, and comments on the health card project.

In compliance with the provisions of the Act respecting educational institutions at the university level, the Committee on Education heard, in March 2002, the officials of the 19 university-level institutions in relation to their 1999-2000 annual reports. During these hearings, the Members examined more specifically the performance contracts and the first follow-up reports stemming therefrom as well as the progress of university research.

Pursuant to section 25 of the Election Act, on 3 October 2001, the Committee on the National Assembly studied the preliminary report of the Commission de la representation électorale, which proposed new electoral division boundaries for Québec, as well as a draft amendment to the report concerning the Montréal region. Regarding this matter, the Committee heard the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec and Chairman of the Commission de la représentation électorale. Several Members took the opportunity to speak in defense of the specific characteristics of their electoral division. The final report of the Commission de la representation électorale, indicating the new boundaries of the 125 electoral divisions, was tabled in the Assembly on 5 December 2001.

Financial commitments

Pursuant to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, the Committee

on Public Administration must examine all financial commitments of over $25,000 that were authorized by the Treasury Board, the Executive Council or the ministries.

In 2001-2002, the Committee on Public Administration examined the financial commitments of the ministries of the Environment, International Relations, Relations with the Citizens and Immigration, Employment and Social Solidarity, Culture and Communications, and those of the Auditor General. This exercise enabled the examination of some 10,000 financial commitments.

Accountability

The Committee on Public Administration is also required to hear the public administrators on their management. The Committee carries out this mandate by allowing deputy ministers and head officers of agencies to publicly voice their reaction following the Auditor General's observations stemming from his audit examination as regards the optimizing of resources, which observations are tabled in the National Assembly in December and June each year.

The Committee on Public Administration tabled in the Assembly, in December 2001, its eighth report on the accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies, in which 19 recommendations were made by the Members. This report followed up on a series of hearings that were held between September and November last, concerning the issue of ethics within the Government administration, a subject that the Committee will keep abreast of in the coming year. The Deputy Ministers of Revenue, Health and Social Services, Research, Science and Technology, and the Environment, as well as the director general of the independent unit of environmental expertise services were also heard on the quality of certain Government services and on the methods that would allow the Government to position itself favourably with regard to scientific research, whether based on health or the environment. The Committee also looked into the information technologies by questioning the Deputy Minister of Transport on the project involving costs and information security. Moreover, the Committee heard the Auditor General on the amendments to be made to his incorporating Act. In February 2002, the Committee again heard the Deputy Minister of Revenue with regard to personal income tax administration. The object of this hearing was to question the ministry particularly on the quality of services within the income tax administration system.

The professional services in support of parliamentary proceedings

The work of the Members of the National Assembly is carried out in compliance with specific rules of procedure, the purpose of which is to safeguard the rights of each Member within the framework of the parliamentary proceedings and to ensure the proper conduct of the Assembly. In order to fully exercise their parliamentary duties, the Members of the National As-

IN THIS REGARD, DID YOU KNOW …

- that when the Assembly is sitting, the Secretary General and his assistants provide counsel to the Chair of the Assembly on any matter relating to parliamentary procedure, keep a record of speaking time allocations, take recorded divisions and write the first draft of the Votes and Proceedings of the Assembly;
- that the Secretariat of the Assembly contributes to the operations of the institution by preparing several documents, including the «President's papers», the Order Paper and Notices and the Votes and Proceedings for each sitting of the Assembly for the benefit of Members and citizens alike;
- that the Parliamentary Procedure Research branch provides constant support to the Chair by preparing oral and written opinions with regard to parliamentary procedure;
- that the computerized catalogue of the Library collections increased its number of entries by 10,943 in 2001-2002, and that, of this number, 9152 are printed matter and 1791 titles are available via another form of support, 722 of which are electronic documents; that these additional entries bring the number of documents described in the catalogue and available for consultation on the Internet site of the Assembly to 214,234.

State of the Library collections in 2001-2002

Categories	Titles	Units
Printed matter	232,994	422,959
Microdocuments	224,682	549,283
Electronic documents	1201	1828
Sound recordings	114	159
Videocassettes	230	245

- that the reader service, also known as the «reference service», answered 10,923 requests for information and documentation and that the Members and employees of the Assembly borrowed 603 documents from other libraries;
- that the documentary research service provides professional services to Members who sit on the standing committees by preparing information on various subjects ranging from the study of the Auditor General's report to the examination of financial commitments and several mandates with regard to the surveillance of agen-

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

Standing Orders
Codification of the rules of procedure that the Assembly adopted in order to govern its proceedings and those of the standing committees. The Standing Orders establish the terms and conditions of the legislative process and of the budgetary process, the conduct of sittings, the rules for debates and time allocated for speeches; also, the various parliamentary means of control are listed therein. The Standing Orders of the National Assembly are available on the Internet site:
http://www.assnat.qc.ca/eng/assemblee/ranindex.html

Recueil de décisions concernant la procédure parlementaire (Collection of decisions on parliamentary procedure)
Publication in limited edition comprising two volumes, one containing decisions rendered in the Assembly and the other decisions rendered in the committees. It consists of a selection of the main decisions that hold an immediate or future interest with regard to the interpretation of the rules of procedure.

Order Paper and Notices
Parliamentary publication listing all of the business to which the Assembly may give consideration and containing various information; when consulting the Order Paper, readers will find, among other things, the stages at which bills are currently standing. This publication is available in paper form and also on the Internet, as early as 8.00 o'clock a.m. on the morning of a sitting.

Votes and Proceedings
Parliamentary publication which includes all orders and resolutions adopted by the Assembly, all motions moved and discussed, as well as all bills considered during a given sitting. There is also a summary of all the decisions rendered by the Chair. This publication is available on Internet within the hour following the end of a sitting, while the paper version is distributed the following morning.

Journal des débats (Hansard)
Parliamentary publication which contains the verbatim report of the debates held in the Assembly and in standing committees. An unrevised version of the Journal devoted to the proceedings of the Assembly is available on paper and on Internet some thirty minutes after a given address has been delivered.

The **Press Gallery**, a non-profit corporation under the authority of an administrative board, is designed to study, promote, protect and develop the economic, social and professional interests of its members. Accreditation as a member grants certain privileges, such as permission to take notes in the National Assembly Room, access to messenger services, documentation services and to the parliamentary buildings. The media represented and the number of journalists vary on the basis of the political situation. The Press Gallery is composed of media corporations, journalists, columnists and technicians. The work of a parliamentary press correspondent consists in gathering information, transforming it into an article or report and submitting it to a newspaper, radio station or television station. The gathering of information takes place mainly during the debates of the Assembly and of the committees, but also during interviews of Members at the Parliament Building.

cies;

- that this same branch continued the updating of data banks and essential reference tools on various aspects of politics and edited a portion of this information for Internet broadcast;

- that the printed version of the Journal des débats index of the First Session of the Thirty-sixth Legislature (1999-2001), which totals almost 900 pages, was published, that electronic indices of all of the Québec Parliament debates since 1867 were updated and will gradually be integrated into the Internet site of the Assembly, and that a virtual index of several reconstituted sessions was created and put into the Internet site of the Assembly;

- that the Press Gallery Services include messenger, documentation, visitor and reception services for some 80 journalists, members of the Press Gallery, and that this division handled the distribution of close to 600,000 documents during the year.

- that the pages of the Assembly, or messengers, numbering seven, provide the Members with logistical support for all sittings, meetings, protocolary activities and special events held in the House, in the committee rooms and in the other rooms of the Parliamentary Building;

- that the mail and messenger division contributes to the support of parliamentary proceedings by ensuring the distribution of a large volume of mail, as the following numbers indicate for 2001-2002:

Mail delivered	**244,028**
Distribution of messages	**169,512**
• buildings of the Assembly	126,362
• other buildings on Parliament Hill	35,327
• outside the premises	7823

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND

THE CITIZENS

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND

THE CITIZENS

Visiting the Assembly

The Parliament Building is a privileged place to witness the history of Québec. Members of bygone years have left their indelible mark, while those currently in office perpetuate the traditions of parliamentary government while establishing milestones for the Québec society of tomorrow. For the 136,034 persons who came to visit the Parliament this year, the principle attraction to the premises rested in one of the following elements:

Upon entering the building, each person must undergo a brief security verification, which is required procedure in order to ensure the safety of all. Briefcases and handbags are searched and passed through a metal detector, and, upon presentation of an identity paper, an identification tag is given to each person.

To attend a sitting

The parliamentary proceedings, whether they take place in the Assembly or in committees, are accessible to the public. There are some 140 seats available in the galleries of the National Assembly Room and there are seats reserved for the public in each of the standing committee rooms. In 2001-2002, the parliamentary proceedings attracted:

At the Assembly **9632** persons

In committees **7956** persons

To visit the building

To find out more about the Members and the organization of the National Assembly as well as the history and architecture of the Parliament Building, citizens may take a guided tour that is offered free of charge year round. While the majority of visitors come from Québec, it is always interesting to note that visitors from outside the province are also drawn to the Parliament Building.

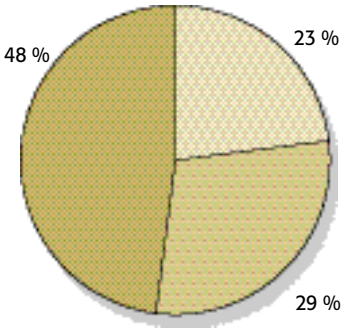
Open-house days took place on the weekends of 23 June and 1 September 2001. In total, 4200 visitors took the opportunity to visit the Parliament Building at their own pace. For this purpose, an explanatory folder was published in French, English and Spanish.

Guided tours		Visitors (by place of origin)	
In French	49,387	Québec	66 %
In English	16,935	Other provinces	11 %
In Spanish	689	United States	10 %
In Italian	354	Other countries	13 %
Total	**67,365**		

Since over a third of the visitors are students, the National Assembly has deemed it appropriate to provide them with a special programme including a visit not only of the Parliament Building but also of the Premiers' Promenade and of the Observatory of the Capital. For the past few years, in collaboration with the Commission de la capitale nationale (national capital commission), the following programmes have been offered:

Programme features / themes	Level	2001-2002
Québec, a history of the capital interactive visit, simulation of a vote	Elementary	2801 participants
Québec, Gibraltar of America right to vote, representation	Sec.1,2,3	5775 participants
Québec, a political capital parliamentary institutions, democracy	Sec. 4,5 College University	1232 participants 1232 participants 163 participants

Official ceremonies and events



- Private sector activities 23 %
- Ceremonies and events of the Assembly and of the Government 29 %
- Official visits, multilateral and bilateral meetings, conventions 48 %

To be invited to official ceremonies and special events

Over **213** protocolary activities and ceremonies, to which **12,243** persons were invited, took place at the National Assembly this year. Among these are the following:

- the welcoming reception hosted by the Premier of Québec within the framework of the Summit of the Americas
- the Municipal Merit ceremony
- the Duke of Edinburgh award ceremony
- the Prix du Québec awards ceremony
- the official tabling of the Charter of the Young Francophone Citizen of the 21st Century at the Assembly
- the ceremony honouring Mrs. Marie-Claire Kirkland
- the International Day of French-speaking communities and countries

To discover an exquisite dining room with exceptional cuisine: *Le Parlementaire* restaurant

Inaugurated in 1917 and initially known as the «Café du Parlement», the dining room of the Parliament Building was renamed «Le Parlementaire: Restaurant de l'Assemblée nationale» a few years ago. Built as a natural extension of the Parliament Building and designed by architect Eugène-Étienne Taché, this room, whose entrance is highlighted by a beautiful stained-glass window presenting an arch of light and colours, harmoniously brings together the elements of Greek architecture, columns and entablatures of the Ionic order, volutes, combined with a decoration inspired by the purest Renaissance style. Le Parlementaire restaurant is open to the public. For the past few years, Le Parlementaire has contributed to the organization and holding of activities aiming to promote products from the various regions of Québec. This year, some forty artisan producers of home-made wines and beverages were invited to come and present their products.

Marc Lajoie

Le Parlementaire restaurant

The Le Parlementaire restaurant is open to the public for breakfast and lunch, as well as for dinner when the House is sitting during extended hours of meeting. A total of 34,267 meals were served in 2001-2002.

The Le Mini-Débat cafeteria mainly serves breakfasts and lunches. It is open during the evening only when the House is sitting during extended hours of meeting and is closed during the summer. This year, 38,144 meals were served there.

The National Assembly, in partnership with various food service and professional cuisine training schools, contributes to ensuring the future of the industry and the appreciation of the know-how relating to food services, by allowing students in this field to closely take part in all aspects of the preparation of menus at the Le Parlementaire restaurant.

To purchase souvenirs at the Boutique gift shop

Whether you are looking for a publication, an article of clothing, a game, decorative or office materials, or simply a souvenir, the Boutique of the Assembly offers a wide variety of quality products. The Boutique is open from Monday to Friday, from 8.00 o'clock a.m. to 5.00 o'clock p.m., without any interruption of service. It is closed on holidays. Profits go to the Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation.

The Assembly in your home

The broadcasting of debates at the Assembly

The television audience has access to continuous and diversified information thanks to the broadcasting of the proceedings of the Assembly and of the numerous standing committee sittings, the presentation of press conferences and special events that take place at the Parliament Building, and the transmission of information on the Members of the National Assembly and on upcoming events.

Moreover, the on-going development of televisual services has led to the establishment of a new electronic hosting concept, whose purpose is to promote the parliamentary proceedings that are broadcast on the Assembly channel. More specifically, this concept allows the viewer to obtain additional information on the roles, functions and mandates of the Members. Members also use this medium to broadcast their season's greetings throughout the Christmas holidays.

In 2001-2002, the Television Broadcasting Service covered close to **1249** events, for a total of **1348** television broadcast hours. The following is a breakdown of the television coverage:

Broadcasting of events				**1348 hours**
Distribution of hours	live coverage	pre-recorded	rerun	total
National Assembly	501:22		86:05	587:27
Standing committees	203:04	254:07	79:41	536:52
Press conferences	49:00	37:49	01:15	88:04
Pedagogical activities	60:48	10:15	05:10	76:13
Special events	39:52	07:11	12:07	59:10
Total	**854:06**	**309:22**	**184:11**	**1347:46**
Electronic hosting **hours**(promotion of Members, schedule, programming, etc.)				**7412**
In total, 8760 hours of television broadcasting and electronic hosting.				

Visiting the regions

Again this year, the National Assembly took part in the two Salons Info-Services (information services exhibitions) presented by the Government of Québec in the Magdalen Islands and in Saint-Georges.

These exhibitions enabled the citizens to become better acquainted with the Assembly, to get information on the services offered by the institution and to obtain answers regarding the issues of concern to them, namely:

- What is the role of a Member?
- How many Members sit in the National Assembly?
- Is the public allowed to attend the debates of the National Assembly?
- Can we visit the National Assembly?

DID YOU KNOW ...

that the audio recording of all of the parliamentary proceedings and special events represents a total of 1947 hours; that 1141 hours were set aside for the recording of standing committee proceedings; and that the Journal des débats (Hansard) devoted 1861 hours to the transcription of these proceedings

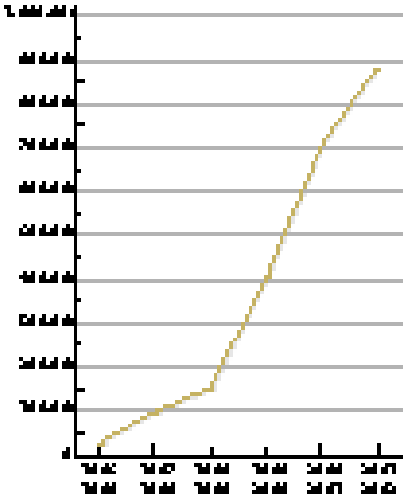
MAGDALEN ISLANDS

June 2001
5000 persons

SAINT-GEORGES

October 2001
3644 persons

Number of visits to the Internet site



This year, 882,052 visits were made to the Internet site of the Assembly, 7,630,000 pages were accessed and 925 e-mail messages from citizens requesting information were handled.

The statistical unit used to determine the number of visits to the site is the «user session». A session represents the activities as a whole (all access operations) performed consecutively by a user on the site for an uninterrupted period of time (30 minutes in our case).

DID YOU KNOW ...

that the text of a bill is available on the Internet site of the Assembly within the hour following its introduction in the Assembly and that all speeches made by Members in the Assembly are available within 30 minutes of their delivery.

The Assembly on Internet

Since this is viewed as an excellent way of democratizing information, the Internet enables citizens to access a large amount of information relating to the Assembly and to parliamentary proceedings.

Through a new service which complements the television programming of the Assembly channel, users may watch the debates of the National Assembly or of the standing committees live, via Internet, anywhere in the world. «Web-broadcasting» of parliamentary proceedings, press conferences and certain special events ensures the live broadcast and broadcast upon request of events that are simultaneously received and recorded by the Television Broadcasting Service.

The *Journal des débats* (Hansard)

To ensure quick access to the verbatim transcript of the parliamentary proceedings, for example, speeches delivered in the Assembly or statements made during a press conference, Internetters may refer to the Journal des débats on the Internet site of the Assembly.

The electronic broadcasting of past debates

Since the end of August 2000, the heading «Parliamentary Proceedings» on the Internet site of the Assembly contains the debates of the Legislative Assembly of the 2nd and 3rd sessions of the 13th Legislature (1913 to 1915), as well as those of the 4th session of the 12th Legislature (1912). Internetters will find the outstanding events and major themes of each of these sessions, an analysis of the newspapers and sources used to reconstitute the debates of a given era, a bibliography and an historical introduction. The electronic broadcasting of these two sessions completes the first phase of a project that will eventually enable the in extenso broadcast of the reconstitution of past debates.

Index of the *Journal des débats*

The virtual index, which was created in the course of 2000-2001, was extended to include the reconstituted sessions. This index enables quick access on Internet to excerpts from the Journal des débats and now covers the following parliamentary sessions:

Session	Legislature	year (s)
4th	12th	1912
2nd	13th	1913-1914
3rd	13th	1915
3rd	34th	1994
1st	35th	1994-1996
2nd	35th	1996-1998
1st	36th	1999-2001
2nd	36th	2001...

Access to the documents of the Assembly

Library loans

To meet the needs of a portion of its clientele, the Library of the National Assembly loaned **7213** documents in 2001-2002. Among these documents, 33.7 % were loaned within the State libraries network and to school, municipality and business libraries.

Parliamentary documents

For citizens who so desire, it is possible to obtain the paper version of various parliamentary documents, including the Journal des débats, the Order Paper and Notices and the Votes and Proceedings of the Assembly, to which citizens may subscribe. It is also possible to purchase certain briefs that were tabled during standing committee meetings or the certified true copies of Acts. An electronic version is available on Internet.

The institutional publications

The National Assembly publishes a series of documents that are at the disposal of the Members, the media, the school network, visitors at the Assembly, ministries, organizations and citizens who request them. These documents, which are published in French and in English, are listed in appendix.

The Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information

The person responsible for access to documents and the protection of personal information at the National Assembly, on the one hand, receives the requests made by citizens and answers them within the delays and according to the terms and conditions prescribed in the Act respecting Access, provides assistance to the person making the request and ensures the conservation of the documents requested. On the other hand, this person also ensures the protection of personal information, establishes which files constitute personal information, sees to the destruction of personal information in pursuance of the Archives Act and informs the personnel of the National Assembly regarding the implementation of the Act respecting Access.

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND

ITS EDUCATIONAL MISSION

ITS EDUCATIONAL MISSION

The parliamentary simulations

In 2001-2002, a great number of citizens demonstrated their interest in the practice of democracy during the holding of parliamentary simulations and a tournament on democracy, organized and supported by the National Assembly. The following table provides a brief description of the activities in which over 5000 young people took part.

To obtain more information on the various sectors of the educational mission of the Assembly, please visit our Internet site at the following address:

http://www.assnat.qc.ca/fra/fondationbonenfant/index.html

The Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation is also on the site.

Activities		Clientele	Number of participants in class	Number of participants at the Assembly
5th Legislature	Pupils' Parliament	6th grade	3300	125
10th Legislature	Student Forum	college	800	122
52nd Legislature	Youth Parliament	university	300	86
16th Legislature	Student Parliament	coll. + univ.	105	105
9th Edition	Young Democrats'Tournament	sec. 4-5 + coll.	800	380
		Total:	5305	818

The bills considered and passed by the young apprentice parliamentarians give some insight into their issues of concern:

The Pupils' Parliament 5th Legislature

- An Act obliging schools to establish a community programme to help seniors for 3rd cycle students, in order to increase their awareness of the needs of an aging population
- An Act establishing the creation of an Internet site for 6th grade elementary classes

10th anniversary of the Student Forum

On the occasion of its tenth anniversary, the Student Forum wished to mark the continuous participation, over the past 10 years, of Cégep Ahuntsic, Cégep de Jonquière, Cégep régional de Lanaudière in Joliette, Collège Laflèche, Cégep de Rimouski and Cégep Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu. Six teachers were honoured for their participation in more than five simulations, including Mrs. Marie-Odette Lachaîne, of Collège Laflèche, and Messrs. Jean Karam, of Cégep Ahuntsic, Michel Barrette, of Cégep Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Denis Trottier, of Cégep de Saint-Félicien, Marcel Boulais, of Cégep de Jonquière and Philippe Lang, of the Centre d'études collégiales de Montmagny.

5th anniversary of the Pupils' Parliament

This fifth anniversary was special in that, for the very first time, 125 pupil-Members were present in the Assembly.

Comments from participants

"This is a wonderful opportunity for students and teachers… it is an excellent initiation to the democratic process."

Teacher at Saint-Thomas school in Hudson

"I was like a real Member. To play that role is awesome."

Student at Saint-Norbert school in Laval

"I really enjoyed finding out the opinion of the other pupil-Members… I loved sitting at the National Assembly!"

Student at Saint-Jean-Bosco school in Hull

"To listen to the speeches given by pupil-Members is to be a witness to the surpassing of oneself."

Teacher at Joseph-Henrico school in Baie-d'Urfé

In 1997, the Youth Parliament of Québec contributed to the creation of the Parlement jeunesse francophone de la Wallonie, thus enabling four Quebeckers to go to Belgium each year to take part in this Parliament.

Since the first edition of the Young Democrats' Tournament, in April 1992, **422** educational institutions have taken part in the activity, **6550** persons have contributed through class preparation and **2927** have participated in the event.

Daniel Lessard

The Seniors' Parliament

As they become more familiar with the various stages of the legislative process on the one hand, seniors also wish to share their experience and their approach to power, in the same manner as all citizens who accept their social responsibilities in their community and who claim a democratic solution to the problems that concern them as well as society as a whole.

The Student Forum 10th Legislature
- Québec Charter on parliamentarism
- An Act respecting the protection of water

The Youth Parliament 52nd Legislature
- An Act respecting biotechnological patents
- An Act respecting the news media
- An Act respecting the compensation plan for victims of injury resulting from medical procedures

The Student Parliament 16th Legislature
- An Act to amend the Highway Safety Code and various legislative provisions concerning speeding at the wheel
- An Act to reform the management method as regards research activities carried out in hospital environments equipped with a research centre
- An Act to amend the concept of second-language learning in Québec
- An Act to amend the Act respecting consumer protection as regards contracts relating to debit cards
- An Act to establish the Unité antiterroriste du Québec
- An Act respecting the harmonized transfer of the Québec Sales Tax

The Young Democrats' Tournament 9th Edition
Some of the themes addressed:
- Origins and evolution of democracy
- Capital of Québec
- Main political parties of Québec
- Jean Lesage
- Québec's parliamentary system

The Seniors' Parliament 2nd Legislature
On the occasion of the holding of the 2nd Legislature of the Seniors' Parliament, three bills were passed:
- An Act respecting welfare homes
- An Act respecting the consolidation of certain transportation services
- An Act concerning the condition of senior citizens

Furthermore, the Members took part in several proceedings, including the tabling of petitions, the opening speech debate, oral questions and answers and statements by ministers.

Parlement francophone des jeunes (Francophone Youth Parliament) - 1st Legislature

In collaboration with the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie, the Québec National Assembly hosted, from 8 to 10 July 2001, the first Francophone Youth Parliament. Chosen on the proposal of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie, the 83 young parliamentarians, boys and girls of 16 and 17 years of age hailing from 35 countries that are members of the Francophonie, drafted and adopted a charter stating their concerns in view of the issues of the new millennium. Following a parliamentary-type procedure, the young Members adopted unanimously the *Charter of the Young Francophone Citizen of the 21st Century*, which comprises 61 sections. This charter includes a preamble, final provisions and five chapters devoted to education, health and social issues, culture, communications and new technologies, fundamental freedoms and democracy, the prevention of conflicts and the environment.

PARLEMENT FRANCOPHONE DES JEUNES

Excerpts from the *Charter of the Young Francophone Citizen of the 21st Century*

Preamble Insisting upon the fact that the French language, through which the francophone countries are united as a whole, allows for great collaboration; keeping in mind that it is the duty of the Francophonie to elaborate a common approach as regards youth in the francophone reality; whereas young francophones wish to guarantee their status of young citizens within the Francophonie; being convinced that it is essential to mark the importance of five themes that are universal, sacred and topical, namely: education, health and social issues, culture, communications and new technologies, fundamental freedoms and democracy, the prevention of conflicts and the environment; whereas it is justified to solemnly affirm the rights of young francophones in a Charter designed as a group of principles of conduct for young francophones; therefore, the Francophone Youth Parliament enacts the following:

Chapter I - Education, health and social issues

1. The States having French as a common language recognize the right of young people to be educated and commit themselves to taking all of the necessary measures to give effect to the present Charter.

Chapter II - Culture, communications and new technologies

20. The States must allow all young people, irrespective of the colour of their skin, their gender, their religion and their economic and social status, to have right of access to the modern communication methods (Internet, computer, telephone…). The States consider that access to the new technologies is an essential right in the 21st century.

Chapter III - Fundamental liberties and democracy

25. All young people have the right to the status of citizen and to a homeland. A citizen of a country is defined as one who resides on its territory and who takes part in community life. The States must take measures in order that the exercise of the rights and duties of citizens are not impeded.

Chapter IV - Prevention of conflicts

33. Young people rise up against armed conflicts, irrespective of their origin, their scope and their geographic area. All young people have the right to protection and assistance in the event of armed conflicts.

Chapter V - Environment

45. All young francophone citizens have the right to live in a healthy environment. For this purpose, francophone States must take measures to fight for the protection of the environment.

Chapter VI - Final provisions

58. The Francophone Youth Parliament establishes an Observatory whose aim is to ensure that the member States of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie apply the principles of the present Charter. Under the responsibility of young Members appointed by the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie, the Observatory presents a report on the respect of the present Charter in the francophone reality at each meeting of the Parlement francophone des jeunes and at each Sommet de la Francophonie.

On 29 November 2001, the President of the National Assembly officially tabled the Charter before the Members of the National Assembly, in the presence of the two Members of the Québec section of the Parlement francophone des jeunes. The Charter was distributed in over 3500 educational institutions at all levels of the Québec school network. Following the holding of this Parliament, five young Members, one of which represented the Québec section, travelled to South Africa to attend a world conference against racism.

The internships of the National Assembly

The parliamentary internships

Devoted to the education of young people on democracy, the Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation offers scholarships to Québec university students for parliamentary internships at the National Assembly. This year, the programme enabled four graduates from various fields of social sciences and the humanities to take part in a paid 10-month internship. This special training allows them to become better acquainted with the institution and to assist a Member, to which they are paired, in his parliamentary duties as legislator, controller of the executive and administrative power, and representative of the population.

Collection Assemblée na-

Established on 21 June 1978 by an Act of Parliament, the Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation sets forth to increase, improve and propagate knowledge of the political and parliamentary institutions of Québec. Through its bursaries and internships programme at the National Assembly, its support of educational activities for students of all levels and its participation in various pedagogical programmes, the Foundation contributes to the promotion of study and research in the field of political and parliamentary institutions, as well as to the pursuit of theoretical and practical knowledge with regard to the operations of the institution and the role and work of the Members.

The history internships

This year, the Library of the National Assembly welcomed four Québec university graduates within the framework of an 18-month paid internship, with a view to reconstructing the debates of the sessions prior to the establishment of the Journal des débats (Hansard) in 1964. These students must first learn about the historical context of the events they are reconstructing and then go through the newspapers of that time period and draft texts based on the official documents and reports from the major newspapers and other inventoried sources. At the end this internship, the fruit of this contribution to the reconstruction of past sessions will eventually be indexed, published and broadcast on the Internet site of the Assembly.

Trainees at the National Assembly

Each year, the National Assembly welcomes several young people who wish to experience the labour market in a sector related to their current studies or to the studies they have just completed. This year, 18 trainees thus benefitted from this programme and were able to work in various sectors, including the restaurants, the broadcasting of debates, the security branch, the Library, the computer branch, and the hospitality and information service.

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND

PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND

PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

The international network of the Assembly

At the forefront of the political scene in Québec, the Member also plays a main role on the international scene. The National Assembly, as an active member of the international organizations uniting Parliaments from the five continents and through the bilateral relations that it entertains, enables the Member to play this role thanks to a network of interparliamentary and international relations. These relations, which have developed for over half a century, have significantly increased in the course of the last decade, owing to the evolution of the international system at the close of the century. Indeed, it is now quite common, on the international scene, to hear mention of the existence of a genuine parliamentary diplomacy.

Four major objectives govern international relations at the National Assembly:

1. The upholding and reinforcement of the effectiveness of the parliamentary institution and of the elected officials in their duties, such as legislating, controlling the Government's actions, examining matters of public interest and representing their electorate;

2. The active participation of the National Assembly towards building a global community founded on democracy, peace, justice and prosperity;

3. The improvement of the international positioning of the Assembly, which contributes to broadening the outreach of Québec society;

4. The institutional outreach of the National Assembly within the interparliamentary networks.

Extraordinary meeting of the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA), on the occasion of the Summit of the Americas, in Quebec City

The National Assembly hosted the meeting of the COPA which was held on 18 and 19 April 2001, just prior to the Third Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Americas. Some one hundred parliamentarians from over twenty countries reaffirmed the need to increase the role and participation of Parliaments in the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations taking place across the continent. For this purpose, the parliamentarians drafted the Quebec City Parliamentary Declaration as well as a Plan of Action in which they agree, particularly, to hold public hearings on the FTAA in the Parliaments of the Americas and to develop a parliamentary code of ethics. This declaration was transmitted to the Heads of State and Government prior to the beginning of the Summit of the Americas.

PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

APF
Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (Parliamentary Assembly of French-speaking peoples); founded in 1967, composed of 67 Parliaments of unitary, federal and federated States from 54 countries. (National Assembly: full member since 1974)

CPA
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association; founded in 1911, composed of 171 Parliaments of unitary, federal and federated States from 54 countries. (National Assembly: full member since 1933)

CSG
Council of State Governments of the United States; created in 1933, composed of representatives of the legislative, executive and judicial powers from the 50 United States and territories. (National Assembly: international associated member since 1995)

COPA
Confédération parlementaire des Amériques (Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas); created in 1997 on the initiative of the National Assembly of Québec, composed of the parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal and federated States, the regional Parliaments and the interparliamentary organizations of the Americas.

NCSL
National Conference of State Legislatures; founded in 1975, composed of the legislative assemblies from the 50 United States and territories. (National Assembly: associated member since April 2000).

Excerpt from the Quebec City Parliamentary Declaration
1) "We, the parliamentarians of the Assemblies represented on the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA), reiterate our support for the objectives of the Summits of the Americas to build a community of the Americas founded on the respect of the dignity of persons, peace, democracy, social justice, solidarity between nations and gender equality. We reiterate that it is essential for parlia-mentarians to be involved in the regional integration processes, and particularly in those arising out of the Summits of the Americas."

Third General Assembly of the COPA

Members of the National Assembly participated, along with over 300 parliamentarians from 19 countries of the Americas, in the Third General Assembly of the COPA, which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 18 to 21 November 2001. Concerned about the consequences for the populations of the eventual implementation of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), the parliamentarians were invited to take position on themes such as the strengthening of democracy, the elimination of poverty, child labour, drug trafficking, human and environmental rights, as well as urban violence. Furthermore, they agreed to create thematic working committees to examine the major political and socio-economic issues of the hemisphere. Finally, a permanent seat on the Executive Committee of this organization was granted to the National Assembly, as it was on its proposal that the COPA held its first meeting in Québec in 1997.

The National Assembly, a Member of the Executive Committee of the CPA

The National Assembly is a member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), whose membership includes over 16,000 parlementarians from some 171 Parliaments from the 54 countries that form the Commonwealth. On the occasion of the 47th Parliamentary Conference held in Australia, in September 2001, the Québec National Assembly acceded to the position of regional delegate within the Executive Committee of the CPA, which it will occupy until 2004. The National Assembly also participates in the activities of the subcommittee on development and planning, while it continues to play a very important role within the Steering Committee of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians, who account for 15% of the membership of the CPA. Finally, it should be noted that at the 47th Parliamentary Conference, the Canadian Region of the CPA was chosen as host of the 50th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, to be held in September 2004. The National Assembly, together with the sections of the Federal Parliament and of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, will hence welcome to Quebec City the delegations of the member sections of the CPA. The programme will continue subsequently in Toronto.

First mission of the Scottish Parliament to Québec

In November 2001, the National Assembly welcomed a multiparty delegation of the Scottish Parliament. It was the first visit to Quebec City for the members of this Parliament which, it should be noted, is the first parliamentary institution to be established in Scotland in almost 300 years. The Scottish parliamentarians, in visiting our Parliament, aimed to broaden their knowledge of Parliaments such as that of Québec, whose tradition is rooted in over 200 years of history. This first meeting with the Scottish Parliament, as a member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, enabled the parliamentarians to establish professional relations and to take part in deliberative meetings pertaining to the operations of their respective parliamentary systems, interparliamentary and international relations, as well as the handling of social issues. Both parties agreed that this visit was the first step in a closer collaboration between the Québec and Scottish sections of the CPA.

Relations with American interparliamentary organizations

The National Assembly is an associated member of two major American interparliamentary organizations: the Council of State Governments (CSG) and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). It therefore benefits from a vast parliamentary network which permits frequent and diversified exchanges. In the course of the past year, American and Québec parliamentarians have discussed issues such as the energy situation in Québec and the United States,

the environment and trade. The economic slowdown provided an opportunity for the parliamentarians to exchange views on the impact of a recession on the States' budgets. A Canadian-American committee composed of parliamentarians from the Northeastern United States and the Canadian provincial Assemblies, of which the National Assembly holds the vice-chairmanship, examined border issues, the fight against terrorism and continental security. In October 2001, at the invitation of the State Department, a delegation of the National Assembly travelled to Washington, D.C., to discuss the energy situation in the United States. Futhermore, the National Assembly confirmed to the major American organizations that it will be hosting the meeting of the Steering Committee of the NCSL in May 2003. It will be the first time that this national American interparliamentary organization meets outside of the United States. By the same token, the Steering Committee of the Eastern Regional Conference has chosen the National Assembly to be the host of the Annual Assembly of the Eastern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments in August 2007. The 1995 annual Assembly had also been held in Quebec City.

Close relations with the French parliamentarians

The Commission interparlementaire franco-québécoise was established in 1979. Two important meetings took place this year. The first, which was held in Paris from 14 to 19 May 2001, reaffirmed the primary role of adjoining public services in the management of catastrophes and underlined the necessity of strengthening the principles of prevention and precaution. Furthermore, in order to cover the democratic deficit, the members of the Commission agreed that their Parliaments should fully exercise their duty of controlling the action of their governments within the international financial and commercial institutions, particularly by taking part in the reflection underway to reform these institutions. The second meeting, which was held in Québec from 3 to 9 February 2002, focussed on the role of Members in the 21st century, on the separation of the Legislative and the Executive powers, as well as on demography and family policy. In this regard, the members of the Commission agreed on the need for "an increase in the action methods of Parliaments: strengthening of administrative and financial methods, investigation empowerment, particularly as regards the control of public funds expenditure, better recognition of the Opposition's role, extended information to citizens with regard to the work accomplished by the Assemblies and parliamentarians."

The 27th Plenary Assembly of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (Parliamentary Assembly of French-speaking peoples)

The National Assembly of Québec, from 8 to 10 July 2001, hosted the 27th Ordinary Session of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF). Over **250** delegates from **49** sections, including **13** Presidents of National Assemblies, took part in the proceedings of the APF which were held in Quebec City.

The chair of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie

At the conclusion of its proceedings, on 10 July, the Plenary Assembly of the APF selected the National Assembly of Québec to chair the organization, and this, until July 2003. In the course of its mandate, the chair will make every effort in order to strengthen the APF as an instrument of parliamentary control of institutions of the Francophonie. It will also see to increasing the APF's role in the consolidation of representative democracy within the Francophonie, especially through the intensification of interparliamentary cooperation.

Daniel Lessard

The 27th Plenary Assembly of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (Parliamentary Assembly of French-speaking peoples)

The network of women parliamentarians of the Francophonie

The women parliamentarians adopted the charter of a future network of women parliamentarians of the Francophonie and established a temporary steering committee composed of seven members from each of the three APF regions. Its chairmanship was assigned to a Member of the Québec National Assembly. This project aims to increase the participation of women in politics and in social and cultural life, at the national level as well as within the French reality.

The first session of the Parlement francophone des jeunes (Francophone Youth Parliament)

The National Assembly of Québec organized and held, in conjunction with the APF, the first session of the Francophone Youth Parliament, at the same time as the session of the APF. This educational activity aimed to develop civic interest and solidarity among francophone youth. The young Members, hailing from some forty member sections of the APF, were asked to draft and adopt a Charter of the Young Francophone Citizen of the 21st Century, which states their concerns as regards the major issues of the new millennium. This Charter will be solemnly tabled before the heads of State and Government at the 9th Sommet de la Francophonie (Francophone summit), which will be held in Beirut, Lebanon, from 18 to 20 October 2002.

Daniel Lessard

The first session of the Francophone Youth Parliament

18th edition of the annual information days for career heads of consular posts

The meetings held with the diplomatic and consular corps constitute an ideal time to discuss the international relations of the National Assembly. Thus, on 5 December 2001, some thirty consuls general from the five continents were welcomed to the National Assembly, within the framework of the 18th edition of the annual information days for career heads of consular posts. On this occasion, the requisite complementarity between international parliamentary relations (parliamentary diplomacy) and international government relations was discussed. Furthermore, the exchanges placed emphasis on the importance, for parliamentarians working in this field, to actively take part in the promotion and consolidation of democracy worldwide, thus directly contributing to building an international community based on democracy, peace, justice and prosperity.

The official delegations

The international commitments of the National Assembly bring a great number of foreign dignitaries to Québec. In 2001-2002, the National Assembly thus received several parliamentarians within the framework of official visits,

including:

Andrew Rowe	Member of the Westminster Parliament
William Lara	Speaker of the National Assembly of Venezuela
Ursula Mannle	Member of the Bavarian Parliament
Tarcisio Navarrete	Federal Member and Secretary of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the United Mexican States Parliament

Furthermore, the Parliament Building, as a symbol of the Québec State, is a privileged place where most of the State visits and international meetings of the Québec Government are held. The following is a list of some of the visitors welcomed in 2001-2002:

Montes de Oca

Bernard Lord	Premier of New Brunswick
Gordon Campbell	Premier of British Columbia
Manuel Ãngel Nuñez	Governor of the State of Hidalgo, Mexico
Hervé Hasquin	Minister-President of the French Community of Wallonie-Bruxelles
Ghassan Salamé	Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lebanon and Minister responsible for the organization and holding of the Sommet de la francophonie in Beirut
Katrin Saks	Minister of Ethnic Affairs of the Republic of Estonia
Simon Constant Horace	Minister of Private Sector Development and of Privatization of the Republic of Madagascar
Michel Foret	Minister of Planning and the Public Domain, Urban Planning and the Environment and of the Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Rurality of the Walloon Parliament
Francoise Dupuis	Minister of Education and Scientific Research, accompanied by members of the Committee on Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Parliament of the French Community of Belgium
Victor A. Kasakov	Vice-governor of the Oblast of Samara of the Russian Federation
Nacer Hajji	Secretary of State to the Prime Minister, responsible for Mail Services, Information Technologies and Communications of the Kingdom of Morocco

The promotion of democracy

The National Assembly contributes to the promotion and the consolidation of democracy and the State of Law, within both the multilateral forums and the bilateral context of interparliamentary cooperation. The interparliamentary

DID YOU KNOW ...

why, on certain days, various foreign flags are hoisted atop the towers of the Parliament Building? This is a gesture of courtesy to mark the presence, in the capital and at the National Assembly, of foreign parliamentarians, Assembly Speakers, heads of State or Government, ministers and diplomats. However, despite the presence of dignitaries within our walls, no flag may be flown atop the towers when the Québec flag is at half-mast.

Visits

Overview of the international delegations that visited the Assembly in 2001-2002

- **14** official visits of ambassadors
- **15** visits of newly assigned consuls general
- **10** visits from foreign ministers
- **14** bilateral and multilateral meetings
- **12** visits (public servants, journalists, students, etc.)

cooperation missions allow for the organization of seminars or discussion workshops for the Members and the administrative staff of partner Assemblies.

Interparliamentary cooperation with the National Assembly of Niger

Cooperation with the National Assembly of Niger entered a concrete phase this year since the National Assembly held in Niamey, from 11 to 15 February 2002, a technical seminar for the administrative staff of the parliamentary committees. Also, a seminar intended for Nigerian parliamentarians took place from 4 to 8 March 2002, at the National Assembly of Niger, thus consolidating a promising partnership with the Nigerian parliamentarians.

Discussion seminar with African Secretaries General

A discussion seminar was held at the National Assembly of Québec, from 4 to 15 March 2002, for the secretaries general of the National Assemblies of Guinea, Niger and Togo. The purpose of this seminar was to provide as much information as possible on the operation of the Québec National Assembly. This visit enabled the secretaries general to become acquainted with the organization of the parliamentary proceedings and of the administrative operation of our institution. The project had been decided jointly by the authorities of the Assemblies involved, as this discussion seminar involving the secretaries general, who are senior public servants, was deemed to reach the overall personnel of the partner Assemblies.

Twinning of municipalities between Mali and Québec

Following the parliamentary seminar held in November 2000, in Bamako, at the National Assembly of Mali, a friendship agreement was reached between the regional municipality of Kati and the Québec Electoral Division of Matapédia. This first step towards a twinning of municipalities took shape during the visit to Québec of a Malian Member, in August 2001. During this visit, meetings were organized with head officers of agencies and businesses as well as with elected municipal representatives, particularly in Mont-Joli and in Amqui. Two committees were formed to determine the actions to be taken in order to meet the needs of certain villages in Mali, especially in the health sector.

Daniel Lessard

Discussion seminar with African Secretaries General

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND

TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT

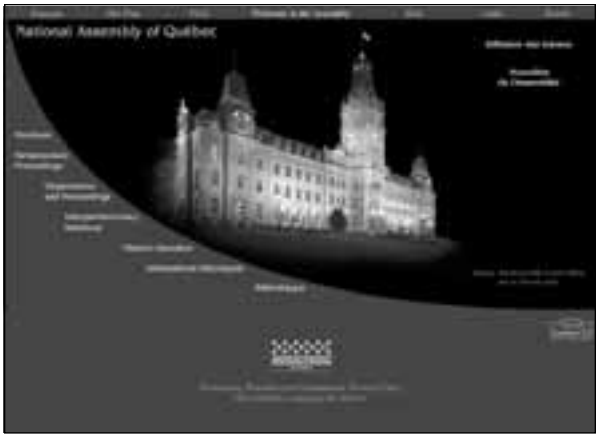
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND

TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT

The Internet site of the National Assembly

During the 2001-2002 financial year, the Internet team and several administrative units of the National Assembly worked together to accomplish a great number of projects designed to enrich the Internet site of the Assembly. These projects involved more specifically:

- the audio video broadcasting of debates, enabling citizens and Members on missions to watch the proceedings of the National Assembly and of committees, as well as press conferences as they take place live;
- the setting up of video data banks, enabling customers to view specific activities when they choose to do so, including oral question period, the debate on the budget and press conferences;
- the creation of a new home page, which facilitates the search for parliamentary information on the main activities of the Assembly, thanks to its new design and a more user-friendly navigation bar; the grouping on a single page, under the heading "Nouvelles de l'Assemblée"(Assembly news),of all of the latest information regarding parliamentary activities;
- the grouping of the information relating to the role and duties of the Speaker of the Assembly;
- the inclusion of the biographical notes on all of the Members of the Assembly since 1791 and of a parliamentary chronology, in order to answer the numeros requests for information regarding former parliamentarians;
- the highlighting of the documentary resources available at the Library of the National Assembly;
- the creation of a heading entitled "Welcome to the Assembly", whose purpose is to encourage citizens to visit the institution and to view it from various angles.



Home page of the Internet site

Band width

In the course of the last year, the National Assembly changed band width provider in order to substantially increase its capacity and to more adequately meet future needs. Our current provider stems from a partnership between the telecommunications directorate of the Treasury Board and the Réseau d'informations scientifiques du Québec (Québec science information network). The average level of usage of our band width, during the past year, was of approximately 3 megabytes. However, we did experience a few usage spikes of 6 to 8 megabytes and a record demand of 35 megabytes, which our band width handled very well. The electoral divisions of Members who do not hold a ministerial office are linked to the local network of the National Assembly via this secure Internet link.

Home page of the intranet Portal of the Assembly

Home page of the intranet Portal of the Assembly

Since December 2001, the Members of the National Assembly as well as the political and administrative staff have access to an intranet that is available on Parliament Hill in Quebec City as well as in the ridings. This intranet provides an integrated access to internal documents, databases and interactive work tools. The home page broadcasts internal messages along with parliamentary and administrative news in real time. These elements combined make it a practical and necessary work tool.

The on-line services approach of the National Assembly has resulted in the ever-increasing replacement of paper documents by electronic ones. The purpose of setting up an intranet Portal at the Assembly was to greatly improve the quality and quantity of updated and available organizational information to all by proposing a coherent set of tools, information and hyperlinks which are pertinent and complementary to the Internet site.

This new technological product was entirely designed by the personnel of the Assembly. Nine months passed between the moment the authorities took the decision to develop this product and its delivery. The persons responsible for this project did not hesitate to consult the members of the administrative staff during the development of the site content by visiting each branch to determine their expectations and needs. Furthermore, during the trial period, all of the directorates were convened not only for a personalized demonstration of this new product, but also for their comments and proposals. Since its launching, this tool has been continually enriched and this is definitely the tendency for the future.

The intranet Portal is not likely to change anything regarding Québec parliamentarism, but it is already making the work of those who support it much easier.

Computerized record of the transcription of debates

This management tool for the transcription of recordings was created with a view to simplifying the distribution of the workload, to ensuring the follow-up of transcription priorities to be carried out for the production of the Journal des débats (Hansard) and to assisting in the updating of statistics.

Computer population

The Assembly disposes of approximately:

- **920** Pentium II, III and IV microcomputers (on Parliament Hill and in the ridings);
- **600** printers;
- **100** communication components that enable the management of information on its local network;
- **40** servers dedicated mainly to the following: e-mail, intranet Portal, Internet site, Journal des débats, sound digitization for transcribing purposes, documentation bank, computer security, information files.

Computer security

Technology watch

Diablo, Code Red, Love Letter, Sircam, Melissa… Do these sound familiar? They are five of the main viruses that were intercepted in time during the last year. The protection of the computer network of the Institution being a constant concern, a technology watch was thus established. This watch allows the computer branch to keep abreast of the vulnerability numbers and to stop any behaviour leading to this vulnerability.

Clientele awareness-raising

Every individual who, at the Assembly, on Parliament Hill or in the ridings, has access to a computerized workstation automatically has an access key to the computer network. As regards network security, everyone is therefore part of the solution. Therein lies the importance of being well informed and of carrying out certain procedures on one's computer, during the year, at the request of the computer branch.

Upgrading procedures

Whether they involved virus detection or security-relevant software (individuals and servers), over 35 upgrading procedures took place during the year, some of them requiring brief system interruptions.

Server configuration standards

Concrete measures were taken with regard to the concerns surrounding computer security in the past year: for example, the establishment of a procedure, of upgraded standards and of quality control for all **40** servers. Therefore, all new servers purchased in 2001-2002 comply with the new standards. As for the others, which were installed prior to this period, the standardization should be completed in 2002-2003.

Integration of computer security measures

As proof that computer security is henceforth a well-integrated concern at the Assembly, all new technology projects that are developed as well as those already underway are scrutinized by the security authorities. For these authorities, it is thus possible to give direction to the projects and to closely follow their development to their completion. The establishment of the intranet Portal is one of the best examples in 2001-2002: all security measures (ex.: authentication requests) had to be functioning properly since certain documents are reserved for a limited clientele and users have outside access to the Portal.

New surveillance console

During the past year, the Assembly, ever mindful of taking a proactive role as regards computer security, purchased a device that enables it to monitor server usage. Any congestion or system failure is this quickly detected since the console is in plain view and several technicians have access there to during the day.

30 e-mail messages …

this is the daily average of messages received, intercepted and returned by the firewall. At the Assembly, we don't take any chances with computer security!

New location of the server rooms

The cession of Honoré-Mercier Building and the acquisition of André-Laurendeau Building by the National Assembly resulted in the moving and reorganization of two computer network server rooms. This extensive procedure required the lengthy and elaborate planning of all of the operations to ensure that all services were operational when the servers would be restarted in their new environment and to cause the least possible interruption of Assembly activities (ex.: Internet links, links to Government services, links to ridings, e-mail, the Assembly Internet site, the Journal des débats). It was also necessary to recable certain sections of the internal cable network of the Assembly.

The operation, which was a success, was performed in two parts. During the first stage, a server room was moved and verified for proper functioning once reinstalled. Then, during the second stage, the second server room was relocated.

Improvement of the computer network

Various activities were carried out to ensure the constant development of the network in its capacity to meet the increasing needs of the clientele. For example, the following should be noted:

- the introduction of a new technology to absorb the increase in the volume of data for which security copies must be made;
- the increase in flow of traffic speed between the sound digitization equipment components;
- the shift to the latest version of the Windows operating system on three servers, thus improving its stability;
- the installation of a new piece of equipment and of a new version of the software enabling to extend the firewall capacities.

Customer assistance

All employees who have access to computers, whether they work on Parliament Hill or in the electoral divisions, may ask for the help of the customer assistance service for any given problem, which will be handled expertly and expeditiously. Furthermore, a new emergency assistance service, which is available according to the schedule of parliamentary proceedings, is provided to the branches that are directly concerned with these proceedings. The following is an overview of the requests processed in 2001-2002:

Requests for assistance	10,776	
Immediate response	5848	54 %
Requests requiring analysis	4928	46 %

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND

ITS HERITAGE

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND

ITS HERITAGE

The documentary heritage

The Library of the National Assembly

During the past year, the Library took several measures in order to increase its efficiency. Thus, to ensure better support to its clientele, the Library added three new librarians to its reference staff. They are responsible for answering the requests for information and documents from the Members and the administrative personnel. Regarding the technical aspect, the information received or produced at the Library is henceforth channeled to the Portal and to the Assembly Internet web page, allowing for greater accessibility. Moreover, the document management programme was consolidated following its establishment within the directorates and services of the Assembly and the implementation of structures capable of ensuring efficient management of electronic documents that are produced or received by the administrative staff. Press documentation completes the support services to the Members and the administrative personnel of the Assembly by means of the daily scanning of newspapers from every region of Québec, enriching the files by some 100,000 articles on economic, political, social and cultural current events in Québec.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE
1802·2002
ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE

The year 2002 marks the two-hundreth anniversary of the establishment, in 1802, of the Library of the National Assembly. On this occasion, the Assembly organized a programme of activities to underline this important event. Thus, on 14 March 2002, the official opening ceremony of the Second Centenary was held in the entrance hall of the Pamphile-Le May Building. Several prominent people were present for the unveiling of the calligraphied text of the Founding Act of the Library, which was created by Mr. Daniel Potvin, a Quebec City artist, and for the inauguration of the exhibition entitled "The administrators of the Library". Several other activities will take place throughout the year, including seminars, the conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians in Canada, and a symposium on the history of parliamentary libraries, as well as the launching of several special publications.

Daniel Lessard

Official opening ceremony of the Second Centenary of the Library of the National Assembly

The archives of the National Assembly

As a depository of unique documentary treasures, the National Assembly once again committed itself to **the conservation and promotion of its heritage.** It has taken action more specifically in the following areas:

- the inventory of the archive groups of Members and of the administration;
- the acquisition of former Members' archive groups;
- the improvement of conservation conditions, the promotion and broadcasting of audiovisual and sound archives of the Assembly, including the debates of the Assembly and the committee proceedings since 1964;
- the participation in the founding of the Société sur le patrimoine politique (political heritage society).

The architectural heritage

Within the framework of the programme that has been in operation for the past few years and whose aim is to preserve the integrity of the buildings on Parliament Hill and to promote their architectural qualities, the National Assembly carried out major restoration work to ensure the conservation of this collective heritage.

Luc-Antoine Couturier

Work of sculptor Louis-Philippe Hébert, the bronze statue entitled" La halte dans la forêt", honouring the Amerindian family

Standards maintenance and restoration of buildings

Parliament Building

The National Assembly continued the maintenance work on its buildings by carrying out, from September to December 2001, the third phase of the programme to restore the masonry on the exterior walls of the Parliament Building. The same innovative techniques that were used in the previous phases were opted for again, particularly the plating and remodelling of the existing stonework, as well as sculptured plating.

Pamphile-Le May Building

The standards maintenance work done on Pamphile-Le May Building, in which the Library of the Assembly is situated, was designed and developed with a view to restoring and highlighting the original architecture and the heritage character of this building, which was built in 1915, to provide parliamentarians, their collaborators and other users with an optimal environment for research and reflection, and to better satisfy information requirements.

"Louis-Philippe Hébert, 1850-1917. National sculptor" exhibition

7 June to 3 September 2001, the National Assembly joined forces with the Musée du Québec to present an exclusive exhibition entitled "Louis-Philippe Hébert, 1850-1917. National sculptor". Thanks to this partnership, it was possible to heighten the population's awareness of the sculptures adorning the front of the Parliament Building, including the bronze statues of The Amerindian Family, Elgin, Lévis, Wolfe and of Montcalm. **Close to 89,000** visitors took part in this cultural event.

Energy conservation measures
In November 2001, the National Assembly collaborated with the Agence de l'efficacité énergétique du Québec to initiate an energy conservation programme for the purpose of analysing the various means to improve the energy performance of the National Assembly buildings. This programme was set forth in conjunction with an energy conservation awareness campaign, whose official launching took place on 14 November 2001, in order to develop new consumption habits among the Members and the administrative personnel of the Assembly.

The natural heritage

Within the framework of the programme to promote its historical site, the National Assembly, jointly with the Commission de la capitale nationale, pursued its reorganization project regarding the Parliament Building property. Work was carried out on the west portion of the north walkway, more specifically on the section between Des Parlementaires Street and the Carriage Entrance of the Parliament Building, and there was a reorganization of the lawns and traffic lanes located in front of the Parliament.

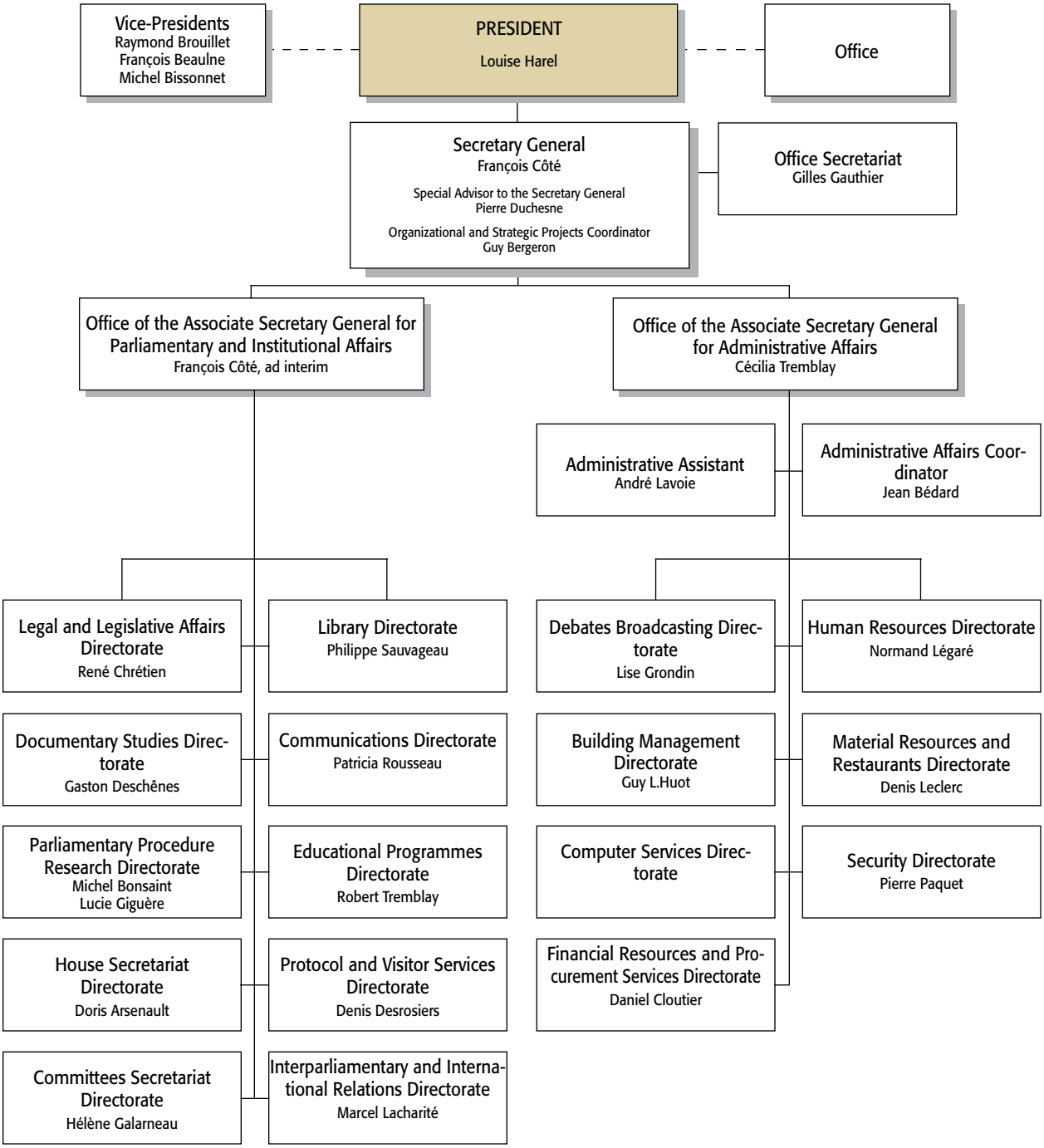
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND ITS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND ITS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

The administrative structure



The administrative independence of the National Assembly

The management of the National Assembly is carried out within the framework of statutes, regulations and rules that apply thereto. However, in order to preserve the administrative independence of the institution, the Act respecting the National Assembly established the Office of the National Assembly, which is, as it were, a board of directors. Other than the President of the National Assembly, who is its chairman, the Office of the Assembly is composed of 9 Members who are chosen by their peers.

Pursuant to the authority vested therein, the Office is required to more particularly:

- approve the budget estimates of the Assembly;
- adopt the administrative organization plan of the Assembly;
- regulate in sectors directly involving Members, such as their various allowances, and the work conditions and remuneration of the staff of Members and Ministers;
- adopt any regulation that it deems necessary for the management of the Assembly.

The administrative units of the National Assembly and their respective mandates

The following is an overview of the mandates that are carried out by the various administrative units of the National Assembly:

Secretary General
He is the highest-ranking public servant of the Assembly and is the chief advisor to the President and the deputation in the interpretation of parliamentary procedure. The Secretary General oversees and manages the personnel of the Assembly, sees to the administration of Routine Proceedings and carries out the other duties that are assigned to him by the Office of the National Assembly, of which he is the secretary.

Special advisor to the Secretary General
He advises the Secretary General mainly on matters relating to the proceedings of the Assembly and of the parliamentary committees, as well as on any other question concerning the duties of Secretary General.

Secretariat of the Office
It sees to the organization and follow-up of the proceedings of the Office and provides Members with all of the information concerning their working conditions and the services that are available to them.

Coordinating Unit for Organizational and Strategic Projects
It ensures secretarial services to the Management Committee and coordinates major organizational projects on behalf of the authorities.

Office of the Associate Secretary General for Parliamentary and Institutional Affairs

It coordinates, plans, and controls the activities of the parliamentary and institutional affairs directorates and assists the Secretary General in his role of advisor to the Chair of the Assembly.

Legal and Legislative Affairs Directorate

It advises the Assembly in legal matters and provides professional services as regards the translation, editing and printing of all bills and statutes, and the drafting of Members' bills.

Documentary Studies Directorate

It carries out studies and research required by Members and administrative units for the conduct of their mandates, more particularly for those relating to parliamentary committees and interparliamentary relations.

Parliamentary Procedure Research Directorate

It assists the Secretary General in his role of advisor to the Chair, the Assembly and the parliamentary committees in matters of parliamentary procedure.

House Secretariat Directorate

It ensures the preparation, proper conduct and follow-up of the sittings of the Assembly. It assists the Secretary General in the preparation and coordination of the opening and closing of sessions.

Committees Secretariat Directorate

It ensures the organization and operations of the parliamentary committees by providing the professional and administrative services required for their activities.

Library Directorate

It ensures the conservation of parliamentary documents and the management of archives and facilitates the retrieval thereof. It is responsible for maintaining a collection which corresponds to current and future needs.

Communications Directorate

It promotes the outreach of the Assembly by informing the population on its democratic role. It is responsible for the communications of the institution and provides services to the Press Gallery journalists.

Educational Programmes Directorate

It designs, elaborates and carries out educational activities for target clienteles and provides professional and technical support during parliamentary simulations.

Protocol and Visitor Services Directorate

It ensures the coordination of protocolar activities and ceremonies at the Assembly and is responsible for visitors and information services, as well as for guided tours.

Interparliamentary and International Relations Directorate

It advises the authorities on interparliamentary and international relations and coordinates the activities of the Assembly in this sector.

Office of the Associate Secretary General for Administrative Affairs

It plans, directs, coordinates and controls the activities of the administrative sector directorates. It coordinates the implementation of the information technologies at the Assembly.

Administrative Assistant

He assists the Associate Secretary General for Administrative Affairs in the management of administrative files, takes part in working committees, carries out studies and analyses and reviews the work procedures and methods of all of the units in the administrative sector.

Coordinating Unit for Administrative Affairs

It coordinates special projects in the technology sector, including Internet and the intranet Portal, sees to the application of the Assembly's computer security policy and is responsible for the development of GIRES (integrated resources management).

Debates Broadcasting Directorate

It is responsible for the broadcasting of the parliamentary proceedings, the press conferences and certain special events, and for the audio recording for the purpose of transcribing, revising, editing and publishing the Journal des débats (Hansard).

Building Management Directorate

It provides services and goods for the management and furnishing of buildings, and for telecommunications.

Computer Services Directorate

It plans, coordinates and monitors all activities relating to office automation and computer systems (software, applications, material, training) and ensures the management of the computer infrastructure and of the local and extended networks.

Financial Resources and Procurement Services Directorate

It counsels and provides services to the administrative units and the Members as regards financial management, budget planning and accounting operations. It also provides procurement services.

Human Resources Directorate

It coordinates the operations and the support and counselling services vested in the management of human resources for the administrative units and the Members.

Material Resources and Restaurants Directorate

It provides support to Members and to the administrative units, particularly as regards mail delivery and messenger services, printing, reproduction and distribution of parliamentary documents, and provides office equipment. It is also responsible for food services and restaurants management.

Security Directorate

It counsels the President on security measures and ensures the protection of persons and goods as well as the security of buildings and offices at the Assembly.

Strategic planning

During the year, the Assembly initiated a strategic planning process which involved several parliamentarians, all of the directors and a good part of the administrative personnel. This project enabled the Assembly to identify the main issues and major challenges that it will be facing in the next three years and to determine the orientation and objectives targeted, as well as the strategies and means of action necessary to achieve its goal.

The strategic planning process is in keeping with the measures adopted by the Assembly to implement a more stringent management framework, based on the achievement of specific and measurable objectives and which calls for the concerted effort of all of the Assembly personnel.

The strategic orientations include the improvement of support and services provided to parliamentarians, the development of closer and more fruitful relations with the citizens and certain target groups, the promotion of the heritage resources of the Assembly as well as the improvement of various aspects of management.

Collaboration with the administrations of other parliamentary assemblies

The Association des secrétaires généraux de Parlements de la Francophonie (association of secretaries general of Parliaments of the Francophonie), for which the National Assembly has provided the vice-chairmanship since October 1999, is an organization whose purpose is to inform its members on the organization and operational problems of their respective assemblies, to compare their experiences on issues lying within their jurisdiction, and to identify practical difficulties requiring examination and priority action. It also aims to maintain productive dialogue with the Secretary General of the Assemblée des Parlements francophones, in order to strengthen the efficiency of interparliamentary cooperation by seeking complementarity of multilateral and bilateral actions.

The Association of Clerks-at-the-Table of Canada includes the clerks of the House of Commons and of all of the legislative assemblies of the provinces and territories. Founded in 1969, the objectives of this Association are to ensure the professional development of its members, to foster the exchange of professional experience, the discussion of issues of common interest as well as consultation and collaboration between clerks of various legislative assemblies, and to encourage the communication to members of the contents of parliamentary reform experienced by an assembly.

The National Assembly of Québec has always been very active within the Association and thus contributed, through its participation in annual conferences, to the exchange of information and to the various working committees, to the creation of an extensive expertise network which is available to all Canadian parliamentary institutions.

Other associations, such as the Association of Parliamentary Counsel in Canada, include the titulars of specialized functions within the various legislative assemblies and also contribute to the professional development of their members. The newest addition to these associations is the Association of support services of legislative assemblies in Canada.

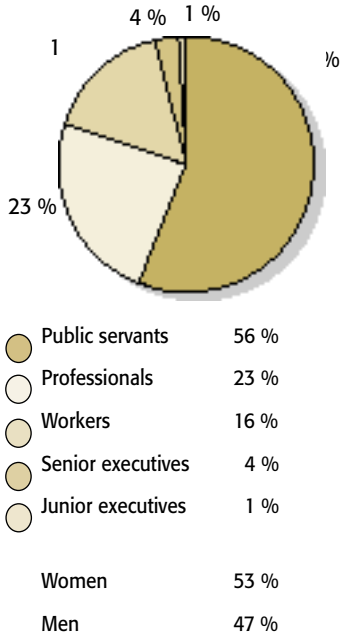
The cession of Honoré-Mercier Building and the acquisition of André-Laurendeau Building

Following the signing of a memorandum of agreement between the National Assembly and the Société immobilière du Québec, in which the cession to the Executive Council of Honoré-Mercier Building and the acquisition by the National Assembly of André-Laurendeau Building is stipulated, the National Assembly has occupied and managed André-Laurendeau Building since 1 August 2001.

From this date on, the building transfer has required the preparation, coordination and conduct, in record time, of a large-scale moving operation. Considerable efforts were made as regards the installation of the administrative personnel in this new building, the reorganization of two new server rooms in André-Laurendeau and Jean-Antoine Panet Buildings, as well as the reorganization of new control rooms for the broadcasting of debates. From November 2001 to February 2002, additional moving activities of over **400** microcomputers and of approximately **2500** components were carried out.

The personnel

Personnel - administrative sector



The political sector, which is comprised of executive assistants, political advisors, press secretaries, secretaries, and others, includes 484 persons, both on Parliament Hill and in the Members' riding offices.

The administrative sector of the Assembly, for its part, totals **627** persons who come under two categories: the permanent personnel (69 %) and the casual personnel (31 %). Preceded by the measures implemented in the public service to regularize the situation involving the casual staff members who work on a regular basis, the status of **28** casual employees of the National Assembly changed to that of permanent employee following the holding of a closed competition. These persons had accumulated over 12 months of service at the National Assembly since December 1998.

Pursuant to management measures implemented in the public service, five employees of the National Assembly retired in 2001-2002. In the course of the past five years, 115 employees thus went into retirement, which represents 27 % of the staff. Moreover, the Assembly has welcomed 35 new employees in 2001-2002.

Employee development

The National Assembly, as an employer, is required to implement the Act to foster the development of manpower training and thus set aside 1% of its wage bill for the purpose of providing training and advanced courses for its staff. During the 2001-2002 fiscal year, the Assembly surpassed the standard stipulated in the Act by allocating 2.1% of its wage bill to the annual human resources development plan.

Training

The training and information sessions for the administrative personnel of the Assembly continued this year. In May 2001, on the occasion of an "open house" visit to the Press Gallery, close to 300 people were able to learn about its history, its role and the activities carried out by its members, to visit its studios, its offices and its "Hot Room", and to meet the journalists.

In October 2001, the Security Directorate held an "open house" day. This activity allowed 328 persons to get information on the overall daily operations, as well as on the work of security guards, special officers and the members of the Québec Provincial Police.

In November 2001, the Computer Directorate held two remotely-provided training sessions, via Internet, on the use of office automation tools.

Assistance programme

The employee assistance programme enables the administrative personnel requiring help to benefit from professional services through individual counselling. In 2001-2002, some twenty persons had recourse to this programme, for a total of over 50 meetings.

DID YOU KNOW ...

that in 2001-2002 nine employees attained 25 years of service at the National Assembly:Francine Bérubé, André Blanchette, Gilberte Boilard, Madeleine Boutour, Danielle Chaput, Claudette Coudé, Marie Légaré, Diane Poirier and Ginette Vézina.

Daniel Lessard

Photograph marking the 25 years of service of National Assembly employees, taken in the presence of the President of the Assembly and of the Secretary General.

National Assembly Expenditure for 2001-2002

	Expenditure ($000)	Authorized staff	
		Permanent employees*	Casual employees*
Parliamentary Affairs			
Secretary General and Associate Secretary General for Parliamentary and Institutional Affairs	1,004.7	11	1
Legal and Legislative Affairs Directorate	893.6	17	4
Documentary Studies Directorate	606.3	12	0
Parliamentary Procedure Research Directorate	388.7	7	0
House Secretariat Directorate	638.9	8	6
Committees Secretariat Directorate	1,018.7	21	1
	4,550.9	**76**	**12**
Institutional Affairs			
Library Directorate	3,251.4	59	3
Communications Directorate	1,060.4	19	3
Pedagogical Programmes Directorate	506.5	7	0
Protocol and Visitor Services Directorate	2,253.6	22	10
Interparliamentary and International Relations	2,908.3	24	1
	9,980.2	**131**	**17**
Administrative and Technical Support			
Associate Secretary General for Administrative Affairs	752.6	10	1
Debates Broadcasting Directorate	3,867.0	49	29
Property Management Directorate	6,048.4	29	5
Computer Directorate	2,049.4	36	2
Financial Ressources and Procurement Services Directorate	1,029.5	26	0
	13,746.9	**150**	**37**
Resource Management Support			
Human Resources Directorate	6,761.3	18	0
Material Resources and Restaurants Directorate	4,037.8	48	20
Security Directorate	1,700.0	31	8
	12,499.1	**97**	**28**
Statutory support services to Members	**42,791.8**		
Fixed assets depreciation	**4,452.7**		
Total expenses	**88,021.6**	**454**	**94**

* The figures indicated here correspond to the authorized full-time equivalents.

* Les chiffres donnés ici correspondent aux ETC (équivalent à temps complet) autorisés.

APPENDICES

List of bills passed in 2001-2002

Public bills introduced by the Government

5 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Régie de l'énergie

6 Appropriation Act No. 2, 2001-2002

7 An Act to amend the Act respecting roads

8 An Act to amend the Act respecting Société Innovatech Québec et Chaudière-Appalaches

9 An Act to amend the Act to facilitate the payment of support

10 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu and other legislative provisions

11 An Act to establish a budgetary surplus reserve fund

12 An Act to again amend the Act respecting financial assistance for education expenses

13 An Act to amend the Act respecting off-highway vehicles

15 An Act to amend the Public Health Protection Act and the Animal Health Protection Act

18 An Act to amend the Act respecting immigration to Québec

19 An Act concerning the organization of police services

20 An Act to amend the Act respecting the legal publicity of sole proprietorships, partnerships and legal persons

21 An Act to amend the Highway Safety Code

22 An Act to amend the Election Act as regards the work of the Commission de la représentation

23 An Act to amend the Act respecting the conditions of employment and the pension plan of the Members of the National Assembly

24 An Act respecting public transit authorities

25 An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act

27 An Act respecting the Health and Social Services Ombudsman and amending various legislative provisions

28 An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services and other legislative provisions

29 An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs

30 An Act to amend the Act respecting income support, employment assistance and social solidarity and other legislative provisions

31 An Act to amend the Labour Code, to establish the Commission des relations du travail and to amend other legislative provisions

32 An Act to amend the Transport Act and the Act respecting owners and operators of heavy vehicles

33 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère de la Recherche, de la Science et de la Technologie

34 An Act to again amend the Taxation Act, the Act respecting the Québec sales tax and other legislative provisions

35 An Act to amend the Education Act

36 Public Health Act

38 An Act to amend the Highway Safety Code as regards alcohol-impaired driving

40 An Act to amend the James Bay Region Development Act and other legislative provisions

41 An Act to amend the Education Act concerning the Conseil scolaire de l'île de Montréal

43 An Act to amend the Act to promote the reform of the cadastre in Québec.

44 An Act to amend the Parks Act

45 An Act to amend the Tobacco Act

46 An Act to amend various legislative provisions respecting certain sectors of the clothing industry

47 An Act to amend the Civil Code as regards civil status documents

48 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Barreau du Québec and the Stenographers' Act

51 An Act to amend the Act respecting lotteries, publicity contests and amusement machines and the Act respecting the Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux

55 An Act to amend the Act respecting public transit authorities and other legislative provisions

56 An Act to amend the Act respecting the national capital commission

57 An Act to amend the Securities Act

58 An Act to amend the Water Resources Preservation Act

59 An Act to defer the date of the next general school election and to amend the Act respecting school elections

60 An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs

61 An Act respecting La Financière du Québec

63 An Act to amend the Labour Code and the Act to amend the Labour Code, to establish the Commission des relations du travail and to amend other legislative provisions

64 An Act to amend the Civil Code as regards requests for civil status documents

69 Appropriation Act No. 3, 2001-2002

71 An Act to amend the Act respecting the remuneration of elected municipal officers

73 An Act to amend the Election Act and the Referendum Act

75 An Act to amend the Act respecting the protection of personal information in the private sector

81 Appropriation Act No. 1, 2002-2003

136 An Act to amend the Forest Act and other legislative provisions

138 An Act to amend the Taxation Act and other legislative provisions (modified title)

140 An Act respecting parental insurance

149 An Act respecting nature reserves on private land

154 An Act to amend the Agricultural Merit Act, the Restauration Merit Act and the Fishermen's Merit Act

159 An Act respecting the Pension Plan of Management Personnel

160 An Act respecting the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec and amending various legislative provisions

161 An Act to establish a legal framework for information technology

162 An Act to amend the Act respecting financial assistance for education expenses

163 An Act respecting transportation services by taxi

165 An Act to amend the Act respecting the terms of the directors of certain public health and social service institutions

166 An Act to amend the Youth Protection Act

167 An Act to amend certain legislative provisions concerning the conclusion and signing of borrowing transactions and financial instruments

169 An Act to amend the Professional Code and other legislative provisions as regards the carrying on of professional activities within a partnership or company

173 Civil Protection Act

174 An Act to amend the Act respecting the Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux and other legislative provisions

175 An Act to amend the Taxation Act, the Act respecting the Québec sales tax and other legislative provisions

177 Geologists Act

180 An Act to amend various legislative provisions as regards the disclosure of confidential information to protect individuals

181 An Act to amend various legislative provisions relating to the building trade and the construction industry

184 An Act to amend the Act respecting the preservation of agricultural land and agricultural activities and other legislative provisions

Private Members' Public Bills

194 An Act constituting Capital régional et coopératif Desjardins

196 An Act respecting the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie

Private Bills

200 An Act respecting Associates Mortgage Corporation and Avco Financial Services Québec Limited

201 An Act respecting an immovable of the cadastre of the city of Montréal (Saint-Antoine ward)

202 An Act respecting certain immovables of the cadastre of the township of Métabetchouan

203 An Act respecting Ville de Sept-Îles

204 An Act respecting Municipalité de Saint-Isidore-de-Clifton

205 An Act respecting Ville de Coaticook

206 An Act respecting Ville de Mont-Tremblant

208 An Act respecting Ville de Fleurimont

209 An Act respecting Municipalité de Lac-Etchemin

219 An Act respecting Ville de Rivière-du-Loup

230 An Act respecting the Régie intermunicipale d'assainissement des eaux de Sainte-Thérèse et Blainville

241 An Act to amend the Act respecting the fabrique of the parish of Notre-Dame de Montréal

List of mandates completed by the standing committees in 2001-2002

Committee on Public Administration

Accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies with regard to:

- the Fonds des pensions alimentaires (support payment fund)
- ethics within the Québec Government administration
- the management of the Centre d'expertise en analyse environnementale
- the management of research activities conducted in hospitals equipped with research facilities
- the management of information technologies at the Ministère des Transports
- medical imaging services
- the administration of personal income tax

Other mandates:

- hearing of the Auditor General of Québec within the framework of the examination of his annual report and financial commitments and of the review of his legislative mandate

Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Clause-by-clause consideration: 2 public bills

Examination of the 2001-2002 estimates of expenditure

Other mandates:

- election of the vice-chairman of the Committee
- election of the chairman of the Committee

Committee on Social Affairs

Clause-by-clause consideration: 8 public bills

Examination of the 2001-2002 estimates of expenditure

Other mandates:

- general consultation on the draft bill entitled "Québec Health Card Act"
- election of the vice-chairman of the Committee

Order of initiative of the Committee:

- hearing of the Comité national sur la révision des services préhospitaliers d'urgence within the framework of the examination of its report entitled "Urgences préhospitalières: un système à mettre en place"

Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

Clause-by-clause consideration: 5 public bills and 8 private bills

Examination of the 2001-2002 estimates of expenditure

Interpellations:

- the urgency of implementing a rurality policy
- the housing crisis

Order of initiative of the Committee:

- the problem of violence in minor hockey

Committee on Culture

Clause-by-clause consideration: 2 public bills

Examination of the 2001-2002 estimates of expenditure

Interpellation:

- the cultural policy

Orders of surveillance of agencies:
- the Place des Arts de Montréal and the Société du Grand Théâtre de Québec
- Télé-Québec

Orders of initiative of the Committee:
- media concentration
- follow-up of the recommendations of the Committee regarding the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec and the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles
- follow-up of the recommendations of the Committee following the general consultation on the five-year report of the Conseil des aînés

Other mandates:
- hearing of the chairman of the Commission d'accès à l'information in relation to the 2000-2001 annual report
- election of the chairman of the Committee

Committee on Education

Clause-by-clause consideration: 4 public bills

Examination of the 2001-2002 estimates of expenditure

Orders of surveillance of agencies:
- hearing of the Commission d'évaluation de l'enseignement collégial
- hearing of the Office de la protection du consommateur

Other mandates:
- hearing of the officials of the university-level institutions in relation to their 1999-2000 annual reports
- election of the vice-chairman of the Committee

Committee on Labour and the Economy

Clause-by-clause consideration: 9 public bills and 3 private bills

Examination of the 2001-2002 estimates of expenditure

Interpellations:
- the effects of the taxes on petroleum products on the economic development of Québec and the regions as well as their consequences on the disposable income of Quebeckers
- the situation of the forest industry and its impact on the workers and the regions
- energy development and its impact on the economic development of Québec and its regions

Orders of initiative of the Committee:
- the price of gasoline and its effects on the economy of Québec
- the impact of production machinery being covered by the Construction Decree

Other mandates:
- examination of Hydro-Québec's 2002-2006 strategic plan

Committee on Public Finance

Clause-by-clause consideration: 12 public bills and 1 private bill

Examination of the 2001-2002 estimates of expenditure

Interpellation:
- the state of public finance

Orders of surveillance of agencies:
- Inspector General of Financial Institutions
- Commission des valeurs mobilières du Québec
- Société immobilière du Québec

Other mandates:
- Budget Speech debate
- debate on the Supplementary Statement on the Budget
- election of the chairman of the Committee (on three occasions)
- hearing of the Institut de la statistique du Québec relating to the examination of its financial statements and its 2000-2001 activity report

Committee on Institutions

Clause-by-clause consideration: 14 public bills

Examination of the 2001-2002 estimates of expenditure

Order of initiative of the Committee:
- continuation of the study on the impact of the Free Trade Area of the Americas project

Other mandates:
- continuation of the examination of the ministerial working paper on the reorganization of Québec police departments: "Vers une nouvelle carte policière" (Towards a new police organization)
- examination of a working paper on the consultation concerning the federal bill on the criminal justice system for adolescents
- examination of the draft bill entitled "An Act instituting same-sex civil unions and amending the Civil Code and other legislative provisions" and of the document entitled "Pour un traitement égalitaire: l'union civile" (For equal treatment: civil union)
- examination of the draft bill entitled "An Act respecting the Québec correctional system"
- examination of the draft regulation on the release of civil status documents
- hearing of the Public Protector
- election of the chairman of the Committee

Committee on Transportation and the Environment

Clause-by-clause consideration: 12 public bills

Examination of the 2001-2002 estimates of expenditure

Other mandates:
- Québec's public automobile insurance plan
- the discussion of possible solutions with regard to the compensation of injured persons who were found guilty of crimes
- election of the chairman of the Committee

List of Assembly publications in 2001-2002

What is the National Assembly?
In French and English

Questions and Answers About the National Assembly
In French and English

Welcome to the Parliament Building
In French and English

Getting to Know the National Assembly
In French and English

The Educational Mission of the National Assembly of Québec
In French, English, Spanish and Portuguese

Allowances and amounts granted to Members in 2001-2002

WAGE BILL OF MEMBERS:

Regular remuneration	
(includes base allowance and additional allowance)	$9,858,903

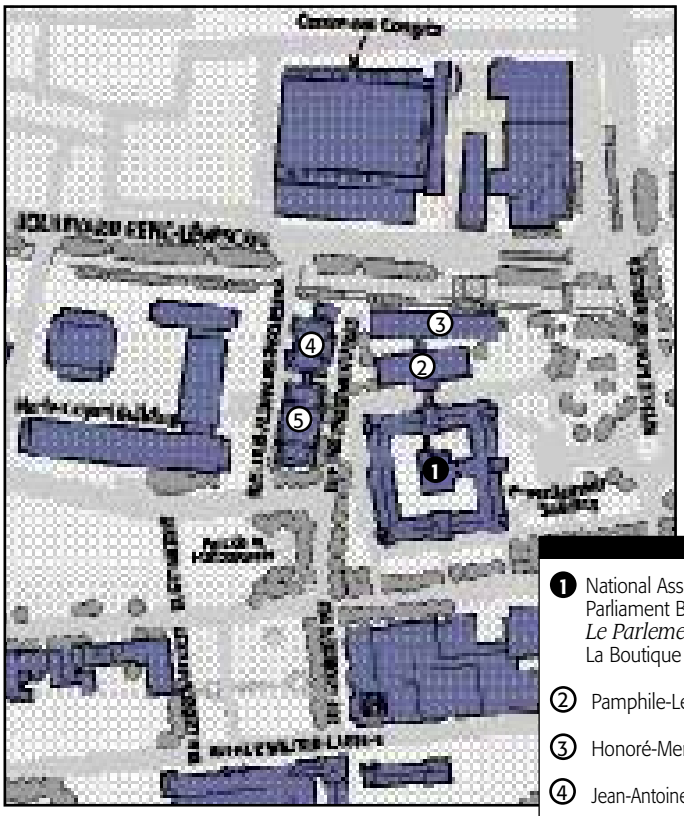
OTHER ALLOWANCES:

Allowances for expenses, attendance and political activities	$2,485,777
Transition allowances	
(includes allowances granted when Member leaves)	$603,107
Travel from electoral riding to the Parliament Building	$1,177,515
Lodging in or around Quebec City	$1,249,751
Additional allowance for the purchase of furniture or office equipment during the first term in office	$10,348
Electoral riding office operation expenses	$3,541,065

OTHER EXPENSES:

	Members' staff holding	Offices of parliamentary functions	Members	Total
Wage bill	$9,790,132	$5,246,624		**$15,036,756**
Travel expenses	$273,973	$ 674,904		**$948,877**
Research services of political parties				**$1,453,937**

Some practical information



Plan of downtown Quebec City
Parliament Hill - buildings and available parking areas

1. National Assembly
   Parliament Building
   Le Parlementaire restaurant
   La Boutique (Gift shop)
2. Pamphile-Le May Building
3. Honoré-Mercier Building
4. Jean-Antoine-Panet Building
5. André-Laurendeau Building

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
Parliament Building,
Quebec City (Québec) G1A 1A3

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Toll free number : 1 866 députés
(1- 418-337-8837)
Fax : (418) 641-2638
www.assnat.qc.ca

GUIDED TOURS
Schedule*
Monday to Friday : 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

June 23 to Labour Day : Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays : 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Reservations are required for groups of 10 or more.

Information
Telephone : (418) 643-7239
Fax : (418) 646-4271
E-mail : accueil@assnat.qc.ca

LE PARLEMENTAIRE **RESTAURANT**
Opening hours*
Tuesday to Friday : 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

June and December : Tuesday to Friday : 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

June 26 to Labour Day : Monday to Friday : 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Reservations
Telephone : (418) 643-6640
Fax : (418) 643-6378
E-mail : resto@assnat.qc.ca

LA BOUTIQUE (gift shop)
Opening hours*
Monday to Friday : 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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Telephone : (418) 643-8785
Fax : (418) 528-6022
E-mail : boutique@assnat.qc.ca

* May be changed without notice

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