

Wednesday, April 29, 1998



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 39

FOURTH SESSION, THIRTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

PRAYERS

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

The following petitions were presented:

Ms. MIHYCHUK - Minister of Health to put an end to the centralization and privatization of Winnipeg hospital food services (A. Granger, P. Landro and Wayne Hacking)

Mr. JENNISSEN - Minister of Energy and Mines to consider immediately restoring the six million dollars taken from the Mining Reserve Fund (B. Thompson, D.R. Habermann and M. L. Wall)

Mr. MARTINDALE - Minister of Health to consider immediately cancelling the hospital food proposal and concentrate on delivering quality health care instead of using health dollars to provide contracts for private firms (P. Rodzinski, C. Rodzinski, M. Orestes and others)

The following petitions were read and received:

Ms. MIHYCHUK - Minister of Health to put an end to the centralization and privatization of Winnipeg hospital food services (L. Creighton, J. Roy, S. Howgate and others)

Mr. HICKES - Minister of Health to put an end to the centralization and privatization of Winnipeg hospital food services (S. Wilson, S. Holland, M. Bernard and others)

Mr. MARTINDALE - Minister of Health to consider immediately cancelling the hospital food proposal and concentrate on delivering quality health care instead of using health dollars to provide contracts for private firms (L. Barabash, G. Lamoureux, E. Karlinski and others)

Mr. LAURENDEAU, Chairperson of the Committee of Supply, reported progress having been made on April 28, 1998. Report was received and the Committee of Supply obtained leave to sit again.

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Hon. Mr. STEFANSON, the Minister of Finance, made a statement regarding Builder Bonds Series 4,

Mr. DOER commented on the statement.

The following Bills were, by leave, severally introduced and read a First Time:

(No. 33) - The Municipal Assessment Amendment and Consequential Amendments Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'évaluation municipale et modifications corrélatives
(Recommended by His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor)
(Hon. Mr. McCRAE for Hon. Mr. DERKACH)

(No. 36) - The City of Winnipeg Amendment and Consequential Amendments Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Ville de Winnipeg et modifications corrélatives
(Recommended by His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor)
(Hon. Mr. REIMER)

(No. 39) - The Highway Traffic Amendment Act (2); Loi n° 2 modifiant le Code de la route
(Recommended by His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor)
(Hon. Mr. TOEWS)

(No. 40) - The Domestic Violence and Stalking Prevention, Protection and Compensation and Consequential Amendments Act; Loi sur la violence familiale et la protection, la prévention et l'indemnisation en matière de harcèlement criminel et modifications corrélatives
(Recommended by His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor)
(Hon. Mr. TOEWS)

(No. 41) - The Life Leases and Consequential Amendments Act; Loi sur les baux viagers et modifications corrélatives
(Hon. Mr. RADCLIFFE)

(No. 42) - The Norway House Cree Nation Northern Flood Master Implementation Agreement Act; Loi sur l'Accord cadre de mise en oeuvre de la nation crie de Norway House relatif à la convention sur la submersion de terres du Nord manitobain
(Recommended by His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor)
(Hon. Mr. NEWMAN)

Hon. Mr. McCRAE for Hon. Mr. DERKACH presented:

Message from His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor recommending the disposition of public revenue for Bill (No. 33).

(Sessional Paper No. 172)

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Hon. Mr. REIMER presented:

Message from His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor recommending the disposition of public revenue for Bill (No. 36).

(Sessional Paper No. 173)

Hon. Mr. TOEWS presented:

Message from His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor recommending the disposition of public revenue for Bill (No. 39).

(Sessional Paper No. 174)

Also:

Message from His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor recommending the disposition of public revenue for Bill (No. 40).

(Sessional Paper No. 175)

Hon. Mr. NEWMAN presented:

Message from His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor recommending the disposition of public revenue for Bill (No. 42).

(Sessional Paper No. 176)

Pursuant to Rule 20(1), Mrs. RENDER, Messrs. ASHTON and PENNER, Ms. McGIFFORD and Mr. EVANS (Brandon East) Made Members' Statements.

By leave, it was agreed that the House would adjourn at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 30, 1998 and on Thursday, May 7, 1998.

By leave, it was agreed that Private Members' Business would be waived on Monday, May 4, 1998 and Tuesday, May 5, 1998, with the House adjourning at 6:00 p.m.

Hon. Mr. PRAZNIK moved:

THAT Bill (No. 30) - The Pharmaceutical Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les pharmacies, be now read a Second Time and be referred to a Committee of this House.

And a debate arising,

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And Hon. Mr. PRAZNIK having spoken,

The debate was, on motion of Mr. MARTINDALE, adjourned.

The House resumed the Interrupted Debate on the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mrs. MITCHELSON:

THAT Bill (No. 4) - The Child and Family Services Amendment and Consequential Amendments Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les services à l'enfant et à la famille et modifications corrélatives, be now read a Second Time and be referred to a Committee of this House.

And the debate continuing,

And Ms. BARRETT concluding her remarks,

And Mr. HICKES having spoken,

The debate was allowed to remain in the names of Messrs. REID and SANTOS, by leave.

The House resumed the Adjourned Debate on the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. TOEWS:

THAT Bill (No. 19) - The Public Trustee Amendment and Consequential Amendments Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur le curateur public et modifications corrélatives, be now read a Second Time and be referred to a Committee of this House.

And the debate continuing,

And Messrs. MALOWAY and ASHTON having spoken,

The debate was allowed to remain in the name of Mr. DEWAR, by leave.

Mr. SANTOS moved:

Resolution No. 23 - Manitoba's Pharmacare System

WHEREAS the National Forum on Health stated, "Because pharmaceuticals are medically necessary and public financing is the only reasonable way to promote universal access and to control costs, we believe Canada should take the necessary steps to include drugs as part of its publicly funded health care system...We therefore call on the federal, provincial and territorial governments health services providers, private payers and consumers to chart a course leading to full public funding for medically necessary drugs."; and

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WHEREAS the current Provincial Government has made many changes to Manitoba's Pharmacare program, undermining the universal accessibility of our own provincial drug plan; and

WHEREAS while other provinces are spending more to provide drug benefits, the Provincial Government has cut Manitoba's Pharmacare program by more than 40%, and coverage has been eliminated for two thirds of Manitobans by basing the deductible levels on family income; and

WHEREAS other problems with the current drug plan in Manitoba include caps on certain drugs which make them ineligible even once the deductible has been paid, changes to the Formulary which mean that some prescriptions are suddenly no longer covered and results in pharmacists not having an inventory of newly covered medications while being stuck with an inventory of medications that are no longer eligible for coverage and ongoing problems with the \$5 million Drug Program Information Network; and

WHEREAS pharmaceutical products are continuing to rise in price as a result of patent protection legislation brought in by the Federal Conservative Government and continued under the Liberal Government; and

WHEREAS without an adequate drug plan in place, thousands of Manitobans, and perhaps millions of Canadians will be denied access to basic medication that could save their lives.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Minister of Health to go on record as supporting the development of a national drug care plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly condemn the Provincial Government for bringing in changes to the Pharmacare program which has eliminated coverage for so many Manitobans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Provincial Government to consider reinstating funding for the Pharmacare plan in Manitoba to ensure adequate coverage for all Manitobans.

And a debate arising,

And Messrs. SANTOS, TWEED, SALE and McALPINE having spoken,

And Mr. LAMOUREUX speaking at 6:00 p.m.,

The debate was allowed to remain in his name.

The House then adjourned at 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 a.m. tomorrow.

Hon. Louise Dacquay,
Speaker.