



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 26

SECOND SESSION, THIRTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

PRAYER

10:00 O'CLOCK A.M.

The following Bills were respectively read a First Time and had their purposes outlined:

(No. 23) – The International Labour Cooperation Agreements Implementation Act/Loi sur la mise en œuvre des accords internationaux de coopération dans le domaine du travail

(Hon. Ms. ALLAN)

(No. 24) – The Public Schools Amendment Act (Cyber-Bullying and Use of Electronic Devices)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les écoles publiques (cyberintimidation et utilisation de dispositifs électroniques)

(Hon. Mr. BJORNSON)

The following petitions were presented and read:

Mrs. TAILLIEU – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request the Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation to consider making the completion of the dividing of the Trans Canada Highway in Headingley in 2008 an urgent Provincial Government priority and to consider evaluating whether any other steps can be taken to improve motorist safety while the dividing of the Trans Canada Highway in Headingley is being completed. (G. Engel, J. P. Wiens, M. Nelson and others)

Mr. MAGUIRE – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request the Minister of Health to consider taking serious action to fill the nursing vacancies at personal care homes in the Town of Virden and to consider reopening the beds that have been closed as a result of this nursing shortage and to consider prioritizing the needs of those seniors that have been moved out of their community by committing to move those individuals back into Virden as soon as beds become available. (S. Joynt, W. Jago, J. Dunfield and others)

Mr. CULLEN – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Provincial Government to abandon the NDP Detour on the basis that it will result in massive environmental, social and economic, and damage to Manitoba and to consider proceeding with the route originally recommended by Manitoba Hydro, subject to necessary regulatory approvals. (M. Kummen, K. Groot, J. Huggard and others)

Mr. DYCK – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request the Minister of Health to strongly consider giving priority for funding to develop and staff a new 100 bed long-term-care facility so that clients are not exposed to unsafe conditions and so that Boundary Trails Health Centre beds remain available for acute care patients instead of waiting placement clients. (L. Unrau, S. Reimer, E. Hiebert and others)

Mr. LAMOUREUX – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Provincial Government to consider establishing a 90 day guarantee for processing an application for a minimum of 80% of applicants that have family living in Manitoba and to consider removing the use of the restrictive job list when dealing with the family sponsor stream. (J. Carmecer, S. Artuz, E. Alberto and others)

Mr. BRIESE – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request the Minister of Water Stewardship to consider placing a moratorium on the harvesting of any species of fish on Lake Dauphin and its tributaries for the period April 1st to May 15th annually and to consider doing regular studies of fish stocks on Lake Dauphin to help gauge the health of the fishery and to consider determining any steps needed to protect or to enhance those stocks. (E. Carriere, B. Khimciuk, R. Zastre and others)

During Oral Questions, Mr. Speaker interjected and requested that the words "Chainsaw Lemieux" spoken by the Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition be withdrawn.

WHEREUPON Mr. MCFADYEN withdrew his remarks.

Hon. Mr. CHOMIAK presented:

Sequence for consideration of the Estimates by the Committee of Supply, both in the Chamber and outside the Chamber.

(Sessional Paper No. 15)

Pursuant to Rule 26(1), Mr. CULLEN, Ms. BRAUN, Mrs. ROWAT, Messrs. CALDWELL and PEDERSEN made Members' Statements.

The House resumed the Interrupted Debate on the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. SELINGER:

THAT this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

And the proposed amendment moved by Mr. MCFADYEN as follows:

That the Motion be amended by deleting all the words after "House" and substituting:

therefore regrets that this budget fails to address the priorities of Manitobans by:

- (a) failing to move Manitoba forward towards achieving its true potential and becoming more competitive both within Canada and internationally; and
- (b) increasing Manitoba's reliance on the taxpayers of other provinces through equalization payments; increasing spending by over 6% without any emphasis on getting results for Manitobans; and
- (c) continuing to channel billions into taxpayer funded projects at the expense of private investment which is the true basis for a wealthy society; and
- (d) neglecting to reduce taxes which are increasing out of line with taxes charged in other places with \$9 of new spending for every dollar of tax relief; and
- (e) increasing Manitoba's staggering debt load rather than doing what all responsible families and governments across Canada are doing in good economic times, which is to reduce debt; and
- (f) ignoring the priorities of Manitobans by failing to provide adequate resources to combat crime and put an end to the revolving door justice system; and
- (g) raising Pharmacare deductibles yet again, forcing seniors and low-income Manitobans to bear the brunt of wasteful spending decisions; and
- (h) failing to end hallway medicine, as promised, while at the same time nearly doubling the health care budget; and
- (i) ignoring the City of Brandon, Manitoba's second largest urban centre; and
- (j) extending the tuition freeze for yet another year and weakening our universities and colleges; and
- (k) failing to plan for and meet the urgent infrastructure, education, and child care needs of growing communities throughout the province; and
- (l) neglecting to better protect Manitoba's most vulnerable children in the care of the child welfare system; and
- (m) abandoning rural Manitobans through punitive regulations and the lack of a long-term plan to grow the rural economy; and
- (n) failing to address the challenges facing the cattle and pork sectors as they deal with low commodity prices, the impact of the high Canadian dollar, rising input costs, pending Country of Origin Labeling, and the extension of the moratorium on the hog industry; and
- (o) failing to provide a strategy to deal with the more than four dozen boil water advisories in Manitoba; and

(p) postponing any significant progress on greenhouse gas emissions targets until beyond the scope of the current government's mandate; and

(q) neglecting to reverse the misguided political decision to run BiPole III down the West Side of Lake Winnipeg, thereby abandoning East Side communities, wasting \$1.5 billion, and mortgaging the future of Manitoba children.

As a consequence, the Government has thereby lost the confidence of this House and the people of Manitoba.

And the proposed sub-amendment moved by Hon. Mr. GERRARD as follows:

THAT the amendment be amended by adding thereto the following words:

And further regrets that this Budget fails to address the priorities of Manitobans by:

(r) continuing to ignore the need to set targets for cleaning up Lake Winnipeg and other Manitoba lakes suffering from toxic algal blooms; and

(s) failure to address climate change by running a carbon-neutral government or implementing a carbon-trading system in Manitoba; and

(t) neglecting the obvious need for rapid transit to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

(u) failure to put patients first by continuing to base RHA spending on global budgets rather than services delivered; and

(v) continuing to ignore the underprivileged in Manitoba by refusing to index the housing allowance portion of social assistance to inflation; and

(w) failure to implement a plan to reduce child poverty rates in Manitoba; and

(x) failing to create an adequate action plan and funding for early childhood education in Manitoba; and

(y) failure to support the agricultural sector by refusing to fund eco-friendly farming practices such as a province wide ALUS program and;

(z) failing to work with the hog industry to address environmental issues; and

(aa) refusing to acknowledge the damage the payroll tax has on economic growth; and;

(bb) failure to act on economic development for First Nations and rural Manitobans; and

(cc) refusing to consider the feasibility of an underwater hydro line under Lake Winnipeg.

Friday, April 18, 2008

And the debate continuing on the sub-amendment,

And Messrs. LAMOUREUX, JHA and CULLEN and Ms. BRICK having spoken.

And Mrs. STEFANSON speaking at 12:30 p.m. The debate was allowed to remain in her name.

The House then adjourned at 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. Monday, April 21, 2008.

Hon. George HICKES,
Speaker.