



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 3

FOURTH SESSION, FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

PRAYER

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

Immediately following the Prayer, Mr. LAMONT rose on a Matter of Privilege regarding a social media post from Alex Forrest (United Firefighters union president) where he related details about the kinds of cancer that are being added to WCB eligibility for firefighters, details which are to be included in Bill (No. 6) – The Workers Compensation Amendment Act which the Member indicated would be introduced tomorrow. Mr. LAMONT indicated that his privileges were breached by the disclosure of information to the public about the contents of Bill (No. 6) before Members were able to see the Bill and moved:

THAT as a result of this serious breach of privilege, this issue be immediately referred to an all-party committee of this House.

And Hon. Mr. GOERTZEN having spoken.

WHEREUPON Madam Speaker informed the House she would take the matter under advisement.

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

(No. 2) – The Public Services Sustainability Repeal Act/Loi abrogeant la Loi sur la viabilité des services publics

(Hon. Mr. HELWER)

(No. 3) – The Family Maintenance Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'obligation alimentaire

(Hon. Mr. FRIESEN)

(No. 4) – The Path to Reconciliation Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la réconciliation

(Hon. Mr. LAGIMODIERE)

(No. 202) – The Louis Riel Act/Loi sur Louis Riel

(Mr. KINEW)

(No. 200) – The Orange Shirt Day Statutory Holiday Act (Various Acts Amended)/Loi désignant la Journée du chandail orange à titre de jour férié (modification de diverses lois)

(Mr. BUSHIE)

(No. 201) – The Regional Health Authorities Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les offices régionaux de la santé

(Hon. Mr. GERRARD)

Hon. Mr. FRIESEN presented:

Copy of Regulations filed under *The Statutes and Regulations Act*, being Manitoba Regulations Nos. 92/2020 to 110/2021

(Sessional Paper No. 2)

Hon. Mrs. COX, the Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage, made a statement regarding Holodomor Remembrance.

Mr. WASYLIW and, by leave, Ms. LAMOUREUX commented on the statement.

Pursuant to Rule 27(1), Hon. Ms. GORDON, Ms. FONTAINE, Messrs. SMITH (Lagimodière) and ALTOMARE and Hon. Mr. GERRARD made Members' Statements.

The following petitions were presented and read to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba:

MLA ASAGWARA – To urge the Provincial Government to immediately provide comprehensive and free public healthcare coverage to all residents of Manitoba regardless of immigration status, including refugee claimants, migrant workers, international students, dependent children of temporary residents, and undocumented residents; to urge the Minister of Health and Seniors Care to undertake a multilingual communication campaign to provide information on expanded coverage to all affected residents; to inform all healthcare institutions and providers of expanded coverage for those without public health insurance and the details on how necessary policy and protocol changes will be implemented; and to create and enforce strict confidentiality policies and provide staff with training to protect the safety of residents with precarious immigration status and ensure they can access public health care without jeopardizing their ability to remain in Canada.

Mr. WIEBE – To urge the Minister of Infrastructure to leave residents access to the Perimeter Highway at least every two miles along its length, especially at intersections such as Sturgeon Road which are vital to local businesses; and to listen to the needs and the opinions of the local residents and business owners who took the time to complete the Perimeter Safety Survey, while working with engineers and the technicians to ensure their concerns are addressed.

Ms. FONTAINE – To urge the Provincial Government to immediately ensure effective and safe access to abortion services for individuals regardless of where they reside in Manitoba and to ensure that buffer zones are immediately legislated.

Hon. Mr. GERRARD – To urge the Provincial Government to provide financing for upgrades to the cochlear implant covered under Medicare, or provide funding assistance through the Cochlear Implant Speech Processor Replacement Program, to assist with the replacement costs associated with a device upgrade.

Mr. MALOWAY – To urge the new Premier to financially assist the City of Winnipeg on building this three-lane bridge in each direction to maintain this vital link between northeast Winnipeg, Transcona and the downtown; to urge the Provincial Government to recommend that the City of Winnipeg keep the old bridge fully open to traffic while the new bridge is under construction; and to consider the feasibility of keeping the old bridge open for active transportation in the future.

Mr. MOSES – To urge the Provincial Government to immediately provide comprehensive and free healthcare coverage to all residents of Manitoba regardless of immigration status, including refugee claimants, migrant workers, international students, dependent children of temporary residents, and undocumented residents; to urge the Minister of Health and Seniors Care to undertake a multilingual communication campaign to provide information on expanded coverage to all affected residents; to inform all healthcare institutions and providers of expanded coverage for those without health insurance and the details on how necessary policy and protocol changes will be implemented; and to create and enforce strict confidentiality policies and provide staff with training to protect the safety of residents with precarious immigration status and ensure they can access health care without jeopardizing their ability to remain in Canada.

In accordance with Rule 33(8), the Opposition House Leader announced that the Private Member's Resolution titled "Calling Upon the Provincial Government to Immediately Launch an Inquiry into Manitoba's Pandemic Response" will be considered on the next Thursday of Private Members' Business.

The House resumed the debate on the Proposed Motion of Mr. SMITH (Lagimodière):

THAT the following address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor:

We, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba thank your Honour for the gracious speech addressed to us at this Fourth Session of the Forty-Second Legislature of Manitoba.

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

THAT the motion be amended by adding at the end the following words:

But this House regrets that the Provincial Government has:

- a) failed to provide any plan to make life more affordable for Manitobans by not mentioning affordability and the rising cost of living due to higher hydro bills, grocery bills, and more as Manitobans head into the holiday season; and

- b) failed to call an independent public inquiry into Manitoba’s pandemic response to learn from its mistakes and bring forward changes to improve the lives of Manitoba families and strengthen the healthcare system; and
- c) failed to provide any immediate supports to address the healthcare crisis across the province, from the north to the south; and
- d) failed seniors and elders in part by forcing them to move across Manitoba to make room in hospitals because of its failure to build new personal care home beds and address the healthcare crisis in the province; and
- e) failed to commit to any real investments or changes to address the growing surgical and diagnostic backlog in the province; and
- f) tried to change the channel from former Premier Brian Pallister but failed by repeating 16 of his previous commitments; and
- g) continued to put the long-term success of Manitoba students at risk by pushing ahead with an out of date “review” of the education system commissioned by former Premier, Brian Pallister; and
- h) continued the interference initiated by former Premier Brian Pallister in post-secondary institutions, leading to an ongoing strike at the University of Manitoba which is impacting the ability of students to learn; and
- i) offered no commitment to implement a living wage, paid sick days or health and safety supports for working Manitobans to help them out of poverty and keep them safe and healthy at work; and
- j) failed to mention Manitoba Hydro and offer a plan to use the clean advantage of Hydro to address climate change, create jobs, advance reconciliation and keep rates low and keep life affordable; and
- k) continued to fight with the City of Winnipeg by pushing a failed attempt at privatization that will cost Manitobans jobs, delaying upgrades to the North End Waste Water Treatment plant which would help protect the lakes and rivers of the province; and
- l) failed to provide any substantial targets or initiatives to address climate change, to prevent devastating weather events that impact producers, the length and quality of winter roads, the environment, the economy, and all Manitobans; and

- m) neglected to provide any real commitments to advancing reconciliation or apologize for the failures and racially insensitive comments of former Premier Brian Pallister; and
- n) failed to present clear measures to support women and gender-diverse Manitobans by committing to support the provision of menstrual products for women, girls and gender diverse people in schools or committing to ensure reproductive health care falls under the purview of the Minister of Health and Seniors Care; and
- o) failed to commit to supports for other major communities such as Brandon and Dauphin, and ending the funding freeze to municipalities; and
- p) failed to produce a meaningful strategy to revive Manitoba's creative industries or present a real strategy for Manitoba jobs in different sectors; and
- q) refused to address the addictions and housing crisis by failing to provide long-term investments into harm reduction initiatives and affordable social housing.

As a consequence of these and many other failings, the Provincial Government has thereby lost the trust and confidence of the people of Manitoba and this House.

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

THAT the motion be amended by adding after clause (q) the following clauses:

- r) failed to provide any substantial change in course, or concrete actions, to address multiple crises currently facing Manitobans that desperately require bold action while the Provincial Government only produced a "plan to plan"; and
- s) failed to provide solutions for all Manitobans, instead offering boutique policies that cater to a few while leaving the majority out in the cold; and
- t) failed to refrain from continuing to engage in a pitched battle with talented Manitoba researchers and educators to the extent that many are pondering leaving the province; and
- u) failed to commit to fair and free bargaining with public sector workers or meddling with Crown Corporations and allowing for them to operate independently as they are intended; and
- v) failed to commit to reconsidering all of its disastrous health care reforms, and only reconsidering changes for rural Manitoba, and not for care centres in the City of Winnipeg which serve the entire province; and

Thursday, November 25, 2021

- w) failed to bring in the critically needed province-wide prevention approaches to conditions like diabetes, osteoporosis, heart, kidney, lung and brain diseases including learning disabilities, addictions, stroke and dementia; and
- x) failed to recognize the role of low wages in Manitoba's labour shortages, commit to increasing the minimum wage, or outline how the Province will utilize the Provincial Nominee Program to address gaps in Manitoba's workforce; and
- y) failed to articulate any meaningful plan for economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, choosing empty platitudes about "attracting investment" over concrete actions, and leaving Manitobans and Manitoba businesses on their own to continue to be innovative and be resilient in true Manitoba fashion; and
- z) failed to commit to return the \$338 Million of Federal Special Allowance for children in care that was taken and put into general revenue by previous PC and NDP Provincial Governments; and
- aa) failed to make commitments on making Manitoba more sustainable; and
- bb) failed to recognize anything related to the safety of Manitobans, when substance use overdose deaths are at all time highs and the mental health of Manitobans requires urgent attention.

And the debate continuing on the sub-amendment,

And Hon. Mrs. GUILLEMARD, Mrs. SMITH (Point Douglas), Mr. JOHNSTON, Hon. Mr. GERRARD, Messrs. GUENTER and WASYLIW and Hon. Mrs. COX having spoken,

And Mr. SALA speaking at 5:00 p.m. The debate was allowed to remain in their name.

The House then adjourned at 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 a.m. Friday, November 26, 2021.

Hon. Myrna DRIEDGER,
Speaker.