


Monday, November 29, 1999

	<b>LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA</b>
	<b>ORDER PAPER</b> No. 4 and NOTICE PAPER
	<b>FIRST SESSION, THIRTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE</b>

**PRAYERS**

**SITTING AT 1:30 P.M.**

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**PRESENTING PETITIONS**

**READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS**

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS**

**NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**ORAL QUESTIONS**

**MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**Adjourned Debate (Second Day of Debate):**

On the Proposed Motion of Ms. ALLAN –

For an Address to His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor in answer to His Speech at the Opening of Session.

(Mr. FILMON)

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# NOTICE PAPER

## NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR WEDNESDAY NEXT:

### PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

Mrs. DACQUAY –

1. WHEREAS breast cancer is currently the leading cause of death among women between the ages of 35 and 55; and

WHEREAS since the inception of the Breast Screening Program in 1995 almost 50, 000 women between 50 and 69 years of age have been screened; and

WHEREAS to date, over 300 cases of cancers have been detected as a direct result of the screening program; and

WHEREAS self examination leads to the detection of 75% of all breast growths; and

WHEREAS detecting breast cancer at an early stage increases the treatment options for women; and

WHEREAS the combination of regular mammography screenings and breast exams has been shown to reduce mortality by as much as 30%; and

WHEREAS in 1998 the then Progressive Conservative government introduced two mobile mammography units and mammography technologists to rural Manitoba to take the screening program on the road; and

WHEREAS the then Progressive Conservative government planned, developed and opened the Breast Health Clinic located at 100-400 Tache Avenue, to provide a centralized on-site facility that includes comprehensive diagnostic assessment, risk assessment, counseling, genetic testing and emotional support.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider supporting the goals and efforts implemented by the previous administration through the Manitoba Breast Screening Program in order to help reduce the number of deaths from breast cancer and to provide a service that is sensitive and responsive to the needs of women.

Mr. FAURSCHOU –

2. WHEREAS graduated licensing is a system for phasing in on-road driving, allowing beginners to get their initial experience under conditions that involve lower risk and introducing them in stages to more complex driving situations; and

WHEREAS six of Canada's ten provinces currently have graduated licenses; and

WHEREAS road crashes remain the leading cause of death for young Manitobans; and

WHEREAS surveys released in Ontario and Nova Scotia showed traffic-related youth fatalities dropped by about one-third with the introduction of graduated driver's licences; and

WHEREAS a poll conducted by IMPACT, the injury prevention centre of the Children's Hospital found more than 80% of Manitobans would support graduated licenses; and

WHEREAS graduated driver's license would limit first-time drivers from driving unsupervised, limit the number of passengers in the vehicle, enforce a zero blood-alcohol level and limit hours of vehicle operation; and

WHEREAS after a specified period of time and the maintenance of a clean driving record, new drivers acquire full vehicle licensing privileges; and

WHEREAS graduating to a full driver's license is a privilege that must be earned and such a system of licensing would encourage novice drivers to take more responsibility for their driving actions resulting in fewer accidents, injuries and deaths.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider the merits of implementing a graduated drivers licensing program, which takes into consideration an applicant's formal driver's education and experience, for motor vehicles in the province of Manitoba.

Mr. FAURSCHOU –

3. WHEREAS investment in post secondary education results in higher skilled, higher paying, more rewarding careers; and

WHEREAS all Manitobans benefit from a vibrant economy provided by a highly productive workforce; and

WHEREAS post secondary education must be affordable and accessible to students from all regions of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the previous Progressive Conservative Government had developed initiatives with the establishment of the Council on Post Secondary Education that supported Manitoba students from all regions of the province; and

WHEREAS the current Government has pledged to cut post secondary costs and double enrollment at Manitoba's three community colleges; and

WHEREAS rural students face additional financial constraints as compared to their urban counterparts that Campus Manitoba and satellite college campuses are addressing; and

WHEREAS it is imperative to retain our highly skilled and trained students; and

WHEREAS the current administration's plans, as revealed to date, fail to address the issue of ensuring all students including those from rural Manitoba continue to have access to affordable post-secondary opportunities in Manitoba as well as the issue of retaining our post-secondary graduates.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Government of Manitoba to consider providing Manitobans with a detailed plan and timeframe outlining their commitment to ensure affordable and accessible post secondary education for all students as well as retaining our post-secondary students upon their graduation.

Mrs. MITCHELSON –

4. WHEREAS the previous Progressive Conservative administration worked aggressively to recruit, train, and retain health care staff; and

WHEREAS \$32.5 million was allocated in the April 1999 Budget to fund 650 new and existing nursing positions; and

WHEREAS a \$7 million fund was created in 1999 to recruit, train and retain nurses in Manitoba utilizing the exchange of information in the nursing community both locally, through a toll-free telephone number and as part of the Progressive Conservative Government's web site; and

WHEREAS Manitoba Health, in partnership with Manitoba Education and Training, has more than doubled enrolment in the Licenced Practical Nursing program for 1999/2000; and

WHEREAS a "fast-track" nursing degree program was implemented to provide nursing students with the option of graduating from the baccalaureate program one year earlier, a program that has already benefited approximately 100 students; and

WHEREAS the Faculty of Nursing has begun to offer a joint bachelor of nursing program with Red River College in Winnipeg and Keewatin Community College in The Pas and Thompson; and

WHEREAS there is on-site distance education at Brandon and Norway House Cree Nations, along with discussions for further efforts with other First Nations and Metis leaders to increase enrolment of nursing students; and

WHEREAS enrolment for the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) nursing program has increased, and the program expects to graduate 45 more ICU nurses in 1999-2000; and

WHEREAS Manitoba compares very well to the rest of Canada in terms of nursing supply, particularly in comparison to the other western provinces.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge Today's New Democratic Government to consider continuing with these proactive measures for the recruitment and retention of nurses for the benefit of the people and Province of Manitoba.

Mr. LOEWEN –

5. WHEREAS the well-being of economic life in rural Manitoba can be directly attributed to creative and healthy local business; and

WHEREAS the Progressive Conservative Government initiated programs like Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) and Grow Bonds in order to contribute to the strength and diversity of Manitoba's rural economy and help rural communities and entrepreneurs seize opportunities for continued economic growth; and

WHEREAS REDI has helped to fund more than 300 rural communities and entrepreneurs generate a total leveraged investment of approximately \$106 million while creating or maintaining 2,700 full-time jobs; and

WHEREAS Manitoba Grow Bonds have leveraged more than \$28 million in capital investment in rural Manitoba, enabling the start-up or expansion of rural business, creating employment opportunities for approximately 700 people.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Government of Manitoba to consider continuing the programs initiated by the previous government that ensure the continued economic growth and diversification of rural Manitoba.

Mr. DYCK –

6. WHEREAS the New Democratic Party has removed Youth News Network from Manitoba's classrooms arguing they were against the commercialization of our schools; and

WHEREAS with this decision the NDP have removed a degree of autonomy and decision making from Manitoba's elected school boards; and

WHEREAS in the Member for Flin Flon's constituency, children from MacIsaac School are encouraged to collect Universal Product Code symbols off boxes of Kellogg products in an attempt to raise \$10,000 for technological resources; and

WHEREAS also in the Member for Flin Flon's constituency, MacIsaac School and Subway have set up a monthly classroom reward; and

WHEREAS Wal-Mart Canada has initiated the "Adopt a School Program" in which almost every Wal-Mart in the nationwide chain has chosen a local school in their community to support.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to clarify its position on the autonomy of school boards as well as the ability of schools to enter into contracts with private sector companies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider allowing local school boards to make the decisions they were elected to make without political interference from the Provincial Government.

Mr. GILLESHAMMER –

7. WHEREAS Manitoba has a strong record of foreign trade with numerous countries in all parts of the world; and

WHEREAS 1998 was the fifth consecutive year in which Manitoba's foreign export growth exceeded Canada's; and

WHEREAS the increase in Manitoba's exports over those five years totals 72%, compared to national growth of 40%; and

WHEREAS foreign exports of goods and services are equal to approximately one-third of Manitoba's \$30 billion economy; and

WHEREAS the United States is Manitoba's most important trading partner, in terms of volume of sales; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's exports to the United States totaled over \$6 billion, a growth of 13.1%, in 1998; and

WHEREAS Manitoba expanded trade with the United States to include more U.S. states as well as diversifying the types of goods and services exported; and

WHEREAS the Member for Fort Rouge, while in Opposition, was extremely critical of what he termed Manitoba's "trade dependency" with the United States; and

WHEREAS the New Democratic Party, upon forming government, now appears to favour trade with the United States and values Manitoba's southern neighbours as trading partners on the global stage.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Government of Manitoba to sustain their new found enthusiasm for trade with the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to build upon the efforts of the previous Progressive Conservative administration by considering supporting and expanding our free trade agreements with other countries to ensure that Manitoba's economy continues to grow and prosper.

Mr. PITURA –

8. WHEREAS the Port of Churchill is a vital transportation link for Manitoba, an economic generator for the community it serves and a gateway to international markets; and

WHEREAS the Port of Churchill is closer to 25 per cent of Canada's western grain production than any other port; and

WHEREAS the Port of Churchill is a vital link in the shipment of petroleum products and other goods to communities in the Hudson Bay Region; and

WHEREAS the Port of Churchill is well situated for shipping products to and from Europe, Russia, Africa and Latin America; and

WHEREAS utilization of the Port of Churchill eliminates time-consuming navigation, additional handling and high-cost transportation through the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway; and

WHEREAS the Port of Churchill provides unique opportunities for the export of manufactured, mining and forest products, as well as the import of ores, minerals, steels, building materials, fertilizer and petroleum products for distribution in Central and Western Canada; and

WHEREAS the types of products being shipped through the Port of Churchill are continually diversifying, as evidenced by the first ever shipment of feed peas and alfalfa pellets through the facility and by the shipment of diverse products ranging from wheat to copper concentrate; and

WHEREAS private investors such as OmniTRAX Canada have expressed their confidence in the viability of the Port of Churchill and have made investments towards ensuring the continued use of the port; and

WHEREAS the utilization of the Churchill rail line and the Port of Churchill as an important north-south transportation link must continue, as it plays an important link in not only the province's agricultural industry but the overall economy; and

WHEREAS the Churchill rail line and the Port of Churchill are expected to continue to demonstrate their value and potential for the movement of goods into and out of the Province of Manitoba.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba consider continuing to offer its support to the Port of Churchill as it continues to diversify the commodity base of freight handled through the port, thus ensuring the long-term viability of its operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba consider encouraging private investment in the operations of the Port of Churchill, so as to ensure its longevity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider lobbying the Federal Government to ensure its continued support for the Port of Churchill.

Mr. ENNS –

9. WHEREAS diversification and value-added activities are ensuring Manitoba's agricultural economy remains competitive in the new environment that has been created by the federal government's elimination of the Crow Rate; and

WHEREAS these activities place heavy demand on the province's water supply and necessitate sustainable drainage practices; and

WHEREAS the conservation of the province's water supply is vital to Manitoba's economy and is therefore in every Manitobans interest; and

WHEREAS some Manitoba communities lie in flood prone areas that are periodically threatened by excessive water levels; and

WHEREAS in order to ensure future availability, high quality, and proper drainage of water the provincial government must come forward with a long-term strategy that addresses these important issues.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider entering into discussions with all involved parties to establish a strategy that ensures an adequate water supply to the communities of Manitoba; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider ensuring long term flood protection to flood prone areas by proper upstream storage of excess water; water that would then be available for drought proofing in years of need.

Mrs. DACQUAY –

10. WHEREAS the tourism industry is important to the overall health of the provincial economy; and

WHEREAS tourism is one of Manitoba's most successful industries, providing employment for more than 52, 000 people and generating more than \$1.12 billion in annual revenues; and

WHEREAS the provincial tourism industry showed healthy growth during 1998, where the number of American tourists visiting the province increased 5.5% and total foreign tourists visiting the province increased 13.9%; and

WHEREAS this province's many festivals and events are an important factor for the continued attraction of visitors to Manitoba; and

WHEREAS Manitoba needs to heighten awareness of our province's ecotourism opportunities, particularly wilderness adventure opportunities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to consider continuing the aggressive promotion of Manitoba as a vacation destination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider maintaining marketing efforts like the tax rebate, visitor values and a strong multi-media campaign including the Government web site, initiated under the previous Progressive Conservative administration in order to increase both domestic and foreign vacationer traffic.



Mr. NEVAKSHONOFF –

11. WHEREAS the largest growing population in Manitoba is among Aboriginal people; and

WHEREAS the legislation governing electoral boundaries permits ridings north of the 53<sup>rd</sup> parallel to have a variance of up to 25% below the standard of 20,000 people per riding to allow for more effective representation of northern Manitobans; and

WHEREAS Northern Manitoba has a large number of isolated communities with no all-weather road or rail access making representation much more difficult than in southern areas; and

WHEREAS studies have indicated that the 1996 Census used to calculate the number of people in each constituency significantly undercounts the population of Aboriginal, Metis, non-status Indians, and Inuit people by 15.3% nation wide; and

WHEREAS Census undercounts in some northern communities totalled as much as 30% for some constituencies, which results in the population of northern constituencies exceeding the provincial average and the disenfranchisement of northern and First Nation Manitobans; and

WHEREAS the 1996 Census also significantly undercounts the population of inner city constituencies.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that for the purposes of drawing electoral boundaries, the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge Elections Manitoba to develop and recommend a method that accurately calculates the population of each constituency, which will better represent the growing First Nation population in the North and those living in the inner city.

Mr. STRUTHERS –

12. WHEREAS foreign subsidies and adverse weather conditions continue to threaten the future of the family farm within Manitoba; and

WHEREAS agriculture exists as a uniquely precarious industry in that its immediate and long term success depends upon favourable weather conditions; and

WHEREAS farmers are facing the lowest world commodity prices in recent history; and

WHEREAS regardless of weather conditions, Manitoba farmers are severely disadvantaged for being the least subsidized farmers in the world, given that wheat producers in the United States of America receive 38 percent support, and producers in the European Union receive 56 percent support, while producers in Canada are expected to be competitive with only 9 percent support; and

WHEREAS the current round of negotiations in the World Trade Organization will be discussing the issue of agricultural subsidies.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba encourage the Federal Government to continue to lobby foreign governments to lower their agricultural subsidies or to raise Canadian subsidies to a rate that allows Canadian producers to compete on the world market.

Mr. DEWAR –

13. WHEREAS Aboriginal soldiers have served in the Canadian Forces since the Battle of the Plains of Abraham, often without recognition for their years of service; and

WHEREAS this service resulted in the loss of Aboriginal rights and alienation from the Aboriginal community; and

WHEREAS Thomas George Prince was one such individual who voluntarily went beyond the required duties of soldiers to receive both the Military Medal and U.S. Silver Star for his efforts in the Second World War and Korean War; and

WHEREAS Mr. Prince went on to fulfill roles as an educator, lobbyist, leader, and entrepreneur in his life.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba honour and recognize Thomas Prince for his contribution and sacrifice to both the Province of Manitoba and Country of Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba direct the Clerk of the Assembly to forward a copy of this resolution to the Prime Minister of Canada.

Mr. MAGUIRE –

14. WHEREAS Canadian farmers are good stewards of the land; and

WHEREAS environmentalists, landowners and industry have worked hard in recent years to form a consensus for endangered species legislation that everyone could support; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada is proposing legislation to protect the country's endangered species; and

WHEREAS the proposed federal legislation poses a number of problems for Canadian agricultural producers in that if an endangered species resides on a parcel of land, it would be illegal to disrupt that habitat through farming; and

WHEREAS under the proposed legislation farmers whose operations are disrupted by the presence of an endangered species would not be compensated for the loss of the value or production; and

WHEREAS any property owner would face similar disruptions regarding the potential use of their property; and

WHEREAS Sarah Dover, campaign director for the Canadian Endangered Species Campaign, told a Parliament Hill news conference in September 1999 that when it comes to endangered species legislation, "We need a program that includes incentives, compensation and which facilitates landowners buying into this. Nobody objects to having producers compensated if they are hurt."; and

WHEREAS the proposed federal endangered species legislation may contain substantial fines and criminal sanctions to ensure compliance with the legislation, thereby alienating those landowners whose cooperation the federal government needs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to carefully re-examine its proposed endangered species legislation so that it will allow habitat protection on private land to be implemented on a voluntary basis, with compensation offered if landowners suffer financial loss; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba encourage that federal endangered species legislation respect fundamental democratic principles and that decisions on habitat protection be made with an awareness of its economic and social impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba encourage any federal endangered species legislation to not include criminal sanctions, which may in fact act as a deterrent to cooperation with this legislation.

Mr. REID –

15. WHEREAS the Employment Insurance program is charged with providing unemployed workers with protection during times of no work and no wage; and

WHEREAS the Employment Insurance program is funded by the premiums paid by workers and employers; and

WHEREAS the revenues from these premiums have been at a consistent level for the last six years while payments to recipients have been cut to approximately two thirds of what they were in 1993; and

WHEREAS the changes in the Employment Insurance system since 1994 have left two thirds of Canada's unemployed without wage-loss insurance protection; and

WHEREAS women, young people, workers in seasonal industries and older workers all encounter barriers to qualifying for Employment Insurance; and

WHEREAS the penalties and disqualifications, initially intended to serve as a deterrent to casual or frivolous use of Employment Insurance, are now so severe and unjust that they unfairly penalize the laid-off worker and those who are without employment through no fault of their own; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government has harshly curtailed the stabilizing role of employment insurance on lives of workers, the interests of employers, the health of communities, and the economic resilience of regions and entire sectors of the workforce during industrial downturns; and

WHEREAS the Employment Insurance fund no longer carries a rightful responsibility for the costs of worker training with the shifting of responsibility for those costs to the individual worker through a system of vouchers and loans; and

WHEREAS unemployment insurance and the unemployed are primarily federal responsibilities as set out in the Constitutional Amendment of 1940.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to restore those aspects of the Employment Insurance program which provided earnings insurance during periods of unemployment, pregnancy and parental leave, temporary illness and employment training; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba encourage the Federal Government to use any Employment Insurance surplus for programs which directly benefit workers including those workers who currently fall into the above named categories who benefit least from Employment Insurance as it is now delivered.

Mr. HELWER –

16. WHEREAS due to the fiscal policies of the former Progressive Conservative Government, Manitoba enters the new millenium with a strong and vibrant economy; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's strong overall economic performance in recent years has increased employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for Manitoba's youth; and

WHEREAS under the previous Progressive Conservative administration, Manitoba's youth unemployment rate has been among the lowest in Canada, demonstrating that opportunities are available in Manitoba for young people; and

WHEREAS the Progressive Conservative administration created an economic environment in the province where all the people of Manitoba could flourish, especially young entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS lower taxes would attract many new young professionals and entrepreneurs to Manitoba while providing our own young people with a strong incentive to stay and contribute to Manitoba's economy; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's young employers and employees must be prepared with new skills to tackle the challenges that the new economy presents.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing to provide Manitoba's youth with the opportunity to secure skills and training relevant to the demands of the new economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urges the Government of Manitoba to maintain the province's strong economic environment in order to attract and retain young professionals and entrepreneurs to Manitoba.

Mr. FILMON –

17. WHEREAS balanced budgets provide economic stability and funding for vital programming such as education and health care rather than increased debt servicing costs; and

WHEREAS the recent upgrading of Manitoba's credit rating by both Moody's and Standard and Poor's is single-handedly attributable to the fiscal responsibility of the previous Progressive Conservative administration who introduced the toughest balanced budget legislation in Canada; and

WHEREAS the New Democratic Party vehemently opposed and voted against the balanced budget legislation in 1995; and

WHEREAS the NDP Members stood in the House, and one by one condemned the proposed balanced budget legislation; and

WHEREAS the Member for Concordia, then Leader of the Opposition, said of the balanced budget legislation that it was "a cynical pre-election ploy" and that "you have a silly balanced budget legislation"; and

WHEREAS the current Member for Fort Rouge said of the balanced budget legislation that "balancing a budget every year cannot be defended on any economic grounds" and that the Bill is "destined to make Manitoba the laughing stock of the financial management world"; and

WHEREAS the Member for Wolsely said of the balanced budget legislation that "it is one of the more unthinking pieces of legislation" that "its real purpose, of course, is an abdication of responsibility" and "it is a sheer sham"; and

WHEREAS the current Member for Inkster said of the balanced budget legislation that "this legislation does not correspond with any economic theory known to personkind, either historical theory or current economic theory"; and

WHEREAS the current Member for Minto said of the balanced budget legislation that it was "an election gimmick to bind themselves into an irresponsible fiscal straitjacket" that "this government is looking at a short-term balance sheet, not the long-term, good investment for Manitobans" and that the legislation was "a very mean-spirited and regressive measure"; and

WHEREAS the Member for St. Johns referred to the balanced budget legislation as "this silly Bill and this silly public relations stunt"; and

WHEREAS the current Member for Lord Roberts said of the balanced budget legislation that "with this kind of legislation, any real recovery, any real job creation strategies or job creation programs would be next to impossible"; and

WHEREAS the Member for Radisson said of the balanced budget legislation that "I think it is really a political gimmick" and that "I have come to view it as one of the most dangerous pieces of legislation we have had to deal with"; and

WHEREAS the Member for Swan River said of the balanced budget legislation that "the myth that if we do not balance our budget every year, we will leave our children with a crushing debt is also an untruth" and that the legislation "will endanger the economy...will not maintain Manitoba as a wealthy place where our young people can continue to live and prosper" and that "no government needs balanced budget legislation"; and

WHEREAS the Member for Burrows said of the balanced budget legislation that "one of the most odious parts of this Bill is that it hamstring future governments" and "this government only takes a short-term view of the future of this province"; and

WHEREAS the Member for Wellington said of the balanced budget legislation that "the principle of balanced budgets, the principle of debt repayment and the principle of taxpayers' protection, they are like three enticing bottles of perfume, which give Manitobans pleasures to behold and to smell but if they swallow it, it will be deadly for them"; and

WHEREAS the NDP opposed and voted against the first balanced budget in 1995; and

WHEREAS the NDP opposed and voted against the second balanced budget in 1996; and

WHEREAS the NDP opposed and voted against the third balanced budget in 1997; and

WHEREAS the NDP opposed and voted against the fourth balanced budget in 1998; and

WHEREAS the NDP decided in 1999, in an election year no less, to vote unanimously in favour of the fifth balanced budget tabled by the Progressive Conservative Government; and

WHEREAS the NDP announced that they had suddenly come to the conclusion that they believed in balanced budgets.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to reconfirm its commitment to the existing balanced budget legislation that provides the people and Province of Manitoba with the long-term economic stability that our province has worked so hard to achieve; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to maintain the balanced budget passed for 1999-2000 by prudent utilization of the Fiscal Stabilization Fund so as to not damage Manitoba's well-earned reputation for fiscal prudence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to table a balanced budget in their first year of government, as the previous government did for the last five budgets.

Mr. PENNER (Emerson) –

18. WHEREAS the elimination of the Crow Rate by the Federal Government has been responded to by diversification of the rural economy and the growth of value-added activities; and

WHEREAS diversification of the rural economy leads to increased job creation, increased investment and export opportunities; and

WHEREAS the previous Provincial Government recognized the need and potential for rural diversification through its Rural Economic Strategy, a program which included accomplishments such as the creation of 97 community roundtables, the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI), youth entrepreneurship programs, the Working for Value Task Force, and a rejuvenation of community development corporations; and

WHEREAS rural diversification has been an important factor in both Manitoba's continuing economic growth rate and in maintaining one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country; and

WHEREAS it is in the interest of all Manitobans for these trends to continue; and

WHEREAS the current Provincial Government has already taken a step backward on this important issue by eliminating the Department of Rural Development.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing the previous government's efforts to support ongoing diversification of the rural economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing the Rural Economic Strategy, and thereby ensure the continued growth and prosperity of the rural economy.

Mrs. DRIEDGER –

19. WHEREAS children have the right to be protected from all forms of sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS the use of children in pornographic material is in itself harmful to children; and

WHEREAS the possession of child pornography is deemed illegal under the Criminal Code of Canada; and

WHEREAS the British Columbia Appeal Court struck down the prohibition against the possession of child pornography; and

WHEREAS the previous Progressive Conservative Government committed to acquiring intervener status in the Supreme Court of Canada case considering the BC Appeal Court's decision allowing an individual to possess child pornography; and

WHEREAS laws protecting children from sexual exploitation must be paramount over an individual's desire to possess child pornography; and

WHEREAS implementation of the Constitution Act, 1982, Section 33, the notwithstanding clause, for the standard five-year period would provide protection to a generation of children, where ever they reside in Canada, while providing the Federal Government with time to fully pursue the appeal in the Supreme Court of Canada and if necessary to make improvements to the Criminal Code ensuring that the possession of child pornography remains illegal.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to consider invoking Section 33 of the Constitution Act, 1982, the *notwithstanding clause*, if necessary, to ensure that the possession of child pornography remains illegal under the Criminal Code of Canada.

Ms. ALLAN –

20. WHEREAS Nunavut, the land of the people of the Eastern Arctic, became Canada's newest Territory on April 1, 1999; and

WHEREAS the Territory of Nunavut is the result of the largest single land claim settlement in the history of Canada; and

WHEREAS the government of the Territory of Nunavut is unique in that it is a true and just effort to restore control of their governing bodies and their destiny to the hands of the Inuit of Nunavut; and

WHEREAS the devotion and dedication of the Inuit to their land, their culture and their future has been demonstrated by decades of tireless negotiating, holding of plebiscites, organizational consultations and elections; and

WHEREAS the people of Nunavut have provided protections for traditional land use in the south end of their Territory by the Manitoban Denesuline of the Fort Churchill Indian Band and the Northlands Indian Band; and

WHEREAS the peoples of Manitoba and Nunavut share a common border; and

WHEREAS the Inuit of the Eastern Arctic have long visited Manitoba and many were born in our hospitals and health centres.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba offer our recognition of and our respect for the people of Nunavut in consideration of their historic efforts and achievements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba invite the people of Nunavut and their representatives to work cooperatively with us in addressing shared goals, resolving common problems and wisely managing the wealth and resources of our borderlands.

Mr. CUMMINGS –

21. WHEREAS the National Highway Study reports show that the national highway system has not improved since 1988; and



WHEREAS the Federal Government collects approximately \$150 million annually in fuel tax and GST revenue from within the Province of Manitoba, but does not return any of this revenue generated in Manitoba for the upkeep of highways in the province; and

WHEREAS policy decisions made by the Federal Government, such as loss of the Western Grain Transportation Adjustment Fund subsidy, have resulted in more grain and other goods moving by truck, rather than via the railway system, thereby increasing costly wear and tear on the provincial highway system; and

WHEREAS a national poll conducted by Compas Inc. during the period October 7 to 12, 1999 found that 81 per cent of Canadians think the Federal Government should be spending more on Canada's highways; and

WHEREAS the same Compas poll found that 90 per cent of those surveyed said the state of Canada's roads is a safety concern; and

WHEREAS the same Compas poll found that 88 per cent of those surveyed believe that inadequate highways are a drain on the economy; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government spends millions of dollars each year on the construction and repair of the province's primary and secondary road system; and

WHEREAS the well being and growth of Manitoba's agribusiness and transportation industry is dependent on a strong transportation infrastructure.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to consider contributing its fair share to the development of the highway infrastructure in Manitoba and to consider the creation of a dedicated fuel tax to pay for national highway improvements.

Mr. FILMON –

22. WHEREAS *The Employment and Income Assistance Amendment Act* is an important piece of legislation that will assist Manitobans to reach their full potential and to become active participants in Manitoba's labour force; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's social assistance system must be reformed to help people make the transition from welfare to work at a time when Manitoba is experiencing a skilled labour shortage; and

WHEREAS social assistance was never intended as a permanent income replacement program for able-bodied individuals; and

WHEREAS social assistance is intended to be a temporary arrangement for people who are faced with exceptional circumstances and require assistance; and

WHEREAS the current Member for Fort Rouge has stated he "has yet to meet an able bodied or a capable social-assistance recipient who doesn't want to work"; and

WHEREAS under the Pawley NDP government welfare caseloads went up by 170%; and

WHEREAS since 1996, under the Progressive Conservative administration, the number of people receiving social assistance was reduced by 21,000; and

WHEREAS encouraging able-bodied people to spend their lives on social assistance denies them the opportunity to fulfill their full potential.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider enacting *The Employment and Income Assistance Amendment Act* which was passed during the fifth sitting of the 36<sup>th</sup> Legislature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to build upon the work of the previous Progressive Conservative administration and consider continuing to offer recipients of social assistance opportunities to enter Manitoba's workforce.

Mrs. SMITH (Fort Garry) –

23. WHEREAS Manitoban parents recognize the importance of strong literacy skills for our children; and

WHEREAS the previous Progressive Conservative administration took numerous steps to strengthen and enhance our public education system; and

WHEREAS one component of this strengthening was the introduction of standards testing that allowed for the early identification of students' strengths and weaknesses relative to outcomes and standards; and

WHEREAS standards testing allows teachers and parents to provide remedial support to students with a learning difficulty before they leave school; and

WHEREAS any delay for remedial support at this point may negatively impact the student's performance in the middle school years as well as later learning; and

WHEREAS during the 1999 Provincial General Election the New Democratic Party guaranteed that all students will be reading and writing fluently in their Grade 3 year and as well, all students would "demonstrate a high level of computer literacy" by Grade 8.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider maintaining standards testing in Grades 3, 6, Senior 1 and Senior 4.

Ms. ALLAN –

24. WHEREAS the Provincial Government appealed to the Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission to establish a national fund supported by telecommunications providers to allow phone companies to make affordable remote service possible; and

WHEREAS in an October 19<sup>th</sup> decision the CRTC ignored these recommendations and instructed providers to bring basic services to remote areas using measures which could include rate increases; and

WHEREAS this decision will have a significant impact on remote communities where affordable phone service is essential for the conduction of business, success of education, and communication in times of need; and

WHEREAS northern residents are already disadvantaged by higher food prices, third world housing conditions, and devastating social problems and should not see telephone service become a luxury; and

WHEREAS the decision by the CRTC will only create further inequalities by allowing companies to create a two-tier system favoring urban customers and effectively curtail communications between urban and rural communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the CRTC to reconsider creating a national fund supported by telecommunications providers to maintain affordable services to northern, rural, and remote communities.

Mr. PRAZNIK –

25. WHEREAS community residents can provide valuable information to law enforcement officials investigating local crimes; and

WHEREAS grassroots community policing efforts have proven successful at reducing the level of crime in Manitoba communities; and

WHEREAS the presence of Citizens on Patrol Programs have contributed to the reduction of criminal activity by as much as 70 per cent in some rural and urban communities in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the previous Progressive Conservative Government committed to provide support for communities interested in establishing Citizens on Patrol Programs; and

WHEREAS Auxiliary Police volunteers supplement community policing initiatives, provide continuity and act as liaisons for law enforcement officials; and

WHEREAS the previous Progressive Conservative Government committed funding to the municipal police services to equip and train auxiliary police officers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to enhance community policing efforts by considering the expansion of the Citizens on Patrol Program and the Auxiliary Policing Program as established by the previous Progressive Conservative Government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider maintaining and enhancing the presence of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Manitoba communities.

Mr. ROCAN –

26. WHEREAS from 1981 to 1987 the NDP government's poor record as economic managers was underscored by poor management and a lack of accountability; and

WHEREAS they understated annual deficits, avoided reporting crown corporation losses by changing their Reporting Period and managed a crown corporations' debt of \$317 million in losses during the period April 1, 1986 to March 31, 1988, all under the Member for Concordia's stewardship as Minister Responsible for Public Investments; and

WHEREAS during the above noted time period Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation lost \$125 million, including \$79 million in Autopac; and

WHEREAS during the above noted time period Manitoba Hydro lost \$60 million; and

WHEREAS during the above noted time period Manitoba Telephone System lost \$48 million, including \$27 million in the sands of Saudi Arabia over the MTX fiasco; and

WHEREAS during the above noted time period Manitoba Development Corporation lost \$42 million; and

WHEREAS during the above noted time period Manfor lost \$42 million; and

WHEREAS the legacy of the Progressive Conservative Government is one of strong fiscal management which has resulted in such actions as MPIC's recent announcement of an almost uniform reduction in rates for Manitoban drivers, stable Workers' Compensation rates and Manitoba Hydro's acquisition of Centra Gas.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Provincial Government to make a commitment to Manitobans that during their current mandate they will ensure our Crown Corporations remain accountable, in a strong financial position and are run without political interference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Provincial Government to consider implementing a Rate Payer Protection Act that would ensure that any dividends currently held by Crown Corporations are prohibited from being transferred to general government revenues and must be returned to those ratepayers who created the surplus.

Mr. STEFANSON –

27. WHEREAS, in August of 1999, the previous administration released the first quarterly Health Progress Report; and

WHEREAS the goal of these updates was to provide Manitobans with a sense of how the previous administration's plan for health care was unfolding, and where the province was heading in the future; and

WHEREAS the updates focused on five objectives of the previous administration's health care plan; namely, reducing waiting lists, relieving hospital overcrowding, recruiting and training health care staff, long-term and community care, and keeping Manitobans healthy; and

WHEREAS a primary goal of these updates was to ensure patients all across the province are equally empowered with information relevant to their health care; and

WHEREAS these updates were widely accessible to the public both in printed format and on the government's web site; and

WHEREAS the previous Opposition Party supported the idea of a quarterly Health Progress Report.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the new Provincial Government to consider continuing these updates for the benefit of the people of the Province of Manitoba; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider making these reports widely accessible to the public in a quarterly fashion, both in printed form, as well as on the Government web site.

Mr. REIMER –

28. WHEREAS in 1994 the Government of Canada and the Government of Manitoba first entered into the Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Works Agreement designed to encourage infrastructure enhancement and development and job creation for Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Works Agreement provided major assistance in meeting infrastructure needs and priorities of local governments, thereby strengthening Manitoba's ability to attract new industry; and

WHEREAS since 1994 the Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Works Program has invested more than \$245 million in the province, entailed more than 600 projects and created more than 4,400 jobs, including direct and off-site employment; and

WHEREAS the Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Works Program has been responsible for a wide variety of urban, rural and northern development projects including: road, street and airport improvements; natural gas expansion projects in rural Manitoba; a new Manitoba Children's Museum; the redevelopment of Festival Park at The Forks; improvements to the Manitoba Museum; the construction of a new water treatment plant in Virden; the expansion of Rossbrook House; a distance education initiative; and, improvements to recreational centres, among other projects; and

WHEREAS projects initiated under the Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Works Program will pay long-term dividends for communities and individuals around Manitoba.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba encourage the Federal Government to consider implementing a second phase of the Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Works Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider clearly identifying how such a program would be implemented so that it benefits all Manitobans, be they residents of rural, northern or urban communities.

Mr. MALOWAY –

29. WHEREAS twenty-five years ago, Nobel Prize-winning economist James Tobin proposed a modest tax on speculative financial transactions; and

WHEREAS such a tax would be small enough in order not to have a significant effect on long-term investment while deterring short-term speculation by cutting into the yields of speculators; and

WHEREAS such a tax would provide exporters, importers and long-term investors with a more stable exchange rate; and

WHEREAS a global tax such as the Tobin Tax could help restore some of the taxation power governments have lost in the globalization process and fund global public goods; and

WHEREAS in March 1999, the House of Commons passed a private member's motion (M-239) calling on the federal government to enact a tax on international financial transactions in concert with the international community; and

WHEREAS in Canada, motion M-239 has the support of a broad coalition of community-based organizations, church groups and non-governmental organizations representing three million Canadians; and

WHEREAS Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin endorsed the principle of a Tobin Tax because the tax has the potential to generate sufficient funding for global development.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to strongly encourage the Federal Government to continue to promote the implementation of a Tobin Tax in concert with the international community.

Mr. MAGUIRE –

30. WHEREAS 1999 saw severe and ongoing flood-related problems in several areas of the province, including southeastern and southwestern Manitoba, that resulted in up to 10 per cent of total provincial farm land remaining unseeded; and

WHEREAS the impact of the flooding continues to create serious financial hardship for the province's agricultural producers and the communities that rely on the health of the agricultural economy for their own viability; and

WHEREAS most members of the Manitoba Legislature, Keystone Agricultural Producers, the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association and local economic development boards have continuously expressed concern to the Provincial and Federal Governments about the very serious long-term consequences arising from 1999's devastating flooding; and

WHEREAS the former Progressive Conservative administration enhanced the Producer Recovery Program, offered a Custom Seeding Program, implemented a rural business task force and extended the crop insurance spring seeding deadline for full coverage, all in an effort to mitigate the disaster created by 1999's flooding; and

WHEREAS the previous Progressive Conservative administration pressed the Federal Government to join the province to enact a \$50 per acre unseeded acreage coverage package for effected producers; and

WHEREAS the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Saskatchewan have repeatedly called on the Federal Government to provide the support required for costs incurred to replace lost inputs, maintain property and restore productive assets as provided in other disaster situations; and

WHEREAS the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Saskatchewan recognize that although the Federal Government has made changes to the Agricultural Income Disaster Assistance program, these changes still do not provide assurance of assistance for all flood-effected producers; and

WHEREAS the Government of Manitoba recognizes that many young producers may not have been able to develop a Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA) and thereby will not benefit from federal changes to the NISA program; and

WHEREAS the difficulties experienced by the province's agricultural producers will have a ripple effect throughout the entire Manitoba economy, affecting not only farmers, but also the businesses and services that rely on the health of the agricultural economy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba continue to urge the Federal Government to take immediate action that will effectively address the problems that arose from the 1999 Manitoba flooding and to consider the creation of programs and services that will help ensure that the long term economic impact of this devastating flooding is kept to a minimum; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba request that the Federal Government pay its fair share of disaster financial assistance funding related to the 1999 flooding.

Ms. CERILLI –

31. WHEREAS the Federal Government is attempting to re-introduce the rules and norms of the proposed Multi-Lateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) at the next round of talks on the World Trade Organization; and

WHEREAS the MAI is a charter of rights and freedoms for international investors that confers rights which are akin to the rights of nation states; and

WHEREAS the MAI would prevent nations from imposing any performance criteria on companies in regard to labour, social, environmental or human rights practices; and

WHEREAS the Canadian public, numerous non-governmental organizations and various Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) governments rejected the MAI as a threat to democratic, sustainable and social development thereby leading to the collapse of negotiations in the fall of 1998; and

WHEREAS there are ongoing attempts to re-start the negotiations on the MAI at the World Trade Organization (WTO) despite its previous rejection; and

WHEREAS the World Trade Organization itself does not deal with social, environmental, labour and human rights issues in any enforceable way.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to indicate to the Federal Government, in the strongest possible terms, that Manitoba opposes the re-introduction of the Multi-Lateral Agreement on Investment through the World Trade Organization and that if any initiatives are made they must protect Canada's health and education systems, and deal with social, environmental, labour and human rights issues.

Mr. LAURENDEAU –

32. WHEREAS under the initiatives undertaken by the previous Progressive Conservative Government, the film and video industry is making important contributions to the Manitoba economy; and

WHEREAS the film industry creates employment opportunities for Manitobans and creates economic spin-offs for local businesses who supply film companies with needed goods and services; and

WHEREAS the investment programs administered by the Manitoba Film and Sound Recording Development Corporation have helped to support approximately \$17 million dollars of filming activity in Manitoba in 1997, \$48 million dollars in 1998, and it is expected that this activity will exceed \$100 million dollars for 1999 - 2000; and

WHEREAS the Progressive Conservative government demonstrated a commitment to the film industry in this province with the introduction of the Film Manitoba Special Loan Program and the Manitoba Film and Video Production Tax Credit; and

WHEREAS the Progressive Conservative government worked within the provisions of the Winnipeg Development Agreement and the Manitoba Motion Picture Industry Association to train much needed technicians.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba encourage the Government of Manitoba to follow the example set by the previous Progressive Conservative administration and consider continuing its efforts to promote and develop Manitoba's growing film industry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba encourage the Government of Manitoba to consider committing to an extension of the Manitoba Film and Video Production Tax Credit when it expires in March, 2002 to ensure that the blossoming film industry in Manitoba continues to prosper and grow.



Hon. Mr. GERRARD –

33. WHEREAS there is a major farm crisis in Manitoba at the present time, partially resulting from the wet weather and flood of the spring of 1999; and

WHEREAS a series of resolutions were brought forth at a major farm rally in June 1999, at Melita, Manitoba; by the Westman Coalition consisting of the following organizations:

The Association of Manitoba Municipalities,  
Keystone Agricultural Producers,  
Manitoba Cattle Producers Association,  
Brandon Chamber of Commerce,  
Manitoba Chamber of Commerce,  
Canada West Equipment Dealers Association,  
Canadian Association of Agri-Retailers and the  
Brandon Economic Development Corporation; and

WHEREAS compensation has not been provided to farmers who applied fertilizer and chemicals in the fall of 1998, and lost those investments to the washouts of spring 1999; and

WHEREAS compensation was provided for similar losses incurred as a result of the flood of 1997 in the Red River Valley; and

WHEREAS there was a resolution passed at the Melita rally recommending that "all Provincial and Federal Disaster Assistance programs which were implemented for the Red River flood be put in place to assist the farming community to compensate for economic losses."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial and Federal Governments to consider implementing a full complement of disaster assistance programs for the flood of 1999, similar to those implemented for the Red River flood of 1997 in order to assist the farming community to compensate for economic losses.

Ms. ASPER –

34. WHEREAS there is a continuing need for innovation in the development and delivery of educational goods and services; and

WHEREAS today's educational institutions face a new environment in which information technology is rapidly becoming the preferred mode of learning; and

WHEREAS the changing definition of learning and the changing demographics of learners has resulted in a shift from a teacher-centered model of education to a learner-centered environment; and

WHEREAS educators and policy leaders are envisioning new approaches to instruction based on communications and computer technology, using learning-on-demand and learner-centered instruction; and

WHEREAS computer-assisted, self-directed, electronically mediated learning will work for some institutions but not for others, and for many students in many fields but not for all students in all fields.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba request the Provincial Government to consider studying the effectiveness of computer assisted learning and training in Manitoba.

Mr. SMITH (Brandon West) –

35. WHEREAS the Bayline and the Northern Seaport of Churchill are valuable assets to the Province of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the Port of Churchill is the lowest cost alternative for Western grain producers; and

WHEREAS Denver-based OmniTRAX has completed a deal to ship nearly 60,000 tonnes of peas and alfalfa pellets to European buyers; and

WHEREAS, in October of 1999, nine ships left the Port destined for various international locations; and

WHEREAS with the recent shipment of peas and alfalfa, Churchill is demonstrating to Western Canadian farmers that it can service commodities other than wheat; and

WHEREAS if Churchill was to receive the one million tonnes of Wheat Board grain the board suggested, a \$25 million saving would be realized for Saskatchewan and Manitoba farmers; and

WHEREAS it is vital to the interests of this province that the Port continue to operate.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba go on record as encouraging the continued operation of the Port of Churchill; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba encourage the Wheat Board to make greater use of the Port as well as suggest that the Federal Government promote the Port.

Mr. HELWER –

36. WHEREAS under the Employment Insurance Act the Government of Canada collects premiums from employers and employees in order to insure workers for periods of unemployment; and

WHEREAS the cumulative surplus in the Employment Insurance account in 1999 was \$21 billion, a figure that clearly exceeds the funds necessary to ensure the stability of the Employment Insurance Program; and

WHEREAS the federal Auditor General has called upon the Federal Government to make clear what it plans to do with this massive surplus in the Employment Insurance fund; and

WHEREAS this massive surplus fund is channeled away from workers to cover the costs of other federal government programs, some of which may be designed to ensure the re-election of the current federal administration; and

WHEREAS Employment Insurance premiums act as a tax on new job creation; and

WHEREAS significantly lowering Employment Insurance premiums to a level necessary to sustain the program would encourage job creation in Canada.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to lower Employment Insurance premiums to the level needed to sustain the program, without building up a massive and unnecessary surplus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to ensure the Employment Insurance program is used to assist those workers it was designed to help in the first place and that the surplus funds be returned directly in the form of a premium reduction to those employers and employees who overpaid into the Employment Insurance fund.

Hon. Mr. GERRARD –

37. WHEREAS there was wet weather and severe flooding in Manitoba in the spring of 1999; and

WHEREAS the wet weather and flooding have severely affected businesses in parts of rural Manitoba; and

WHEREAS participants at a major farm rally in Melita, Manitoba in June 1999, urged that "senior levels of government assist businesses in the area by providing or adjusting programs to help businesses survive and this assistance be made available as soon as possible."; and

WHEREAS the town council of Melita passed a resolution in June of 1999 worded as, "Resolved that the Town of Melita, due to the loss of, and future loss of, revenue to business as a result of excessive rainfall in Southwestern Manitoba, requests the provincial and/or the federal governments to assist 'commercial assessed businesses' in the Town of Melita with government guaranteed interest free loans of 10% of 1998 gross sales repayable monthly over a 5 year period."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider acting swiftly to provide adequate help to businesses in rural communities in areas of Manitoba seriously affected by the flood and wet weather of the spring of 1999.

Ms. KORZENIOWSKI –

38. WHEREAS the number of individuals over the age of 65 in Manitoba is steadily increasing to the point where nearly one in five individuals will be a senior by 2030; and

WHEREAS seniors in this province have much to offer in terms of skills, knowledge, and experience; and

WHEREAS seniors play an increasingly vital role in the province through their volunteer and charitable activities; and

WHEREAS the United Nations designated 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons in recognition of their importance.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba continue to recognize and support the efforts of seniors for the remainder of the International Year of Older Persons and continue to do so in the years to come.

Mrs. SMITH (Fort Garry)–

39. WHEREAS school trustees are democratically elected by their local constituents through free and open elections and are accountable for the decisions and priorities set; and

WHEREAS locally elected school trustees are in the best position to represent and reflect the values of their constituents; and

WHEREAS the new global economy and demands of emerging industries has emphasized the need for increased partnership and co-operation between the private and public sector in a mutually beneficial manner; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government is limiting the autonomy of school divisions through its unwillingness to allow for such partnerships; and

WHEREAS YNN provides three forms of local control over programming presented to students.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider recognizing the elected autonomy of local school boards and allow those representatives to decide if YNN is or is not suitable for their students.

Mr. SCHULER –

40. WHEREAS Manitoba's ability to retain and attract small business is an important factor in the province's economic future; and

WHEREAS lowering taxes in Manitoba would make the province a more attractive place for business; and

WHEREAS Ontario and Alberta are aiding in the creation of new business by reducing their provincial tax rates; and

WHEREAS a Canadian Federation of Independent Business survey has suggested that 40 percent of small businesses are considering leaving Manitoba because of the tax rates in the province; and

WHEREAS a mass exodus of small business out of Manitoba due to high tax rates would result in the loss of thousands of jobs and have an incredibly negative impact on Manitoba's economy; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba Federation of Labor has ignored these warnings by recommending to the Lower Tax Commission that Manitoba does not need lower taxes and the MFL's president has stated that "We don't see a huge need to change the tax system as it is now"; and

WHEREAS this recommendation represents a marked departure from the Manitoba Federation of Labor's previous stance on taxation in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS this recommendation does not protect the best interests of workers in Manitoba because the Manitoba Federation of Labor has ignored the fact that many jobs in Manitoba could be lost if taxes are not lowered in the province; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba Federation of Labor shares similar ideals with the New Democratic Party of Manitoba and is a longtime affiliate and supporter of the NDP.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Government of Manitoba to disregard the taxation advice it receives from the Manitoba Federation of Labor.

Mr. SCHULER –

41. WHEREAS during the 1999 General Provincial Election, the member for Fort Rouge released campaign material which promised: "Today's NDP will cut taxes today, that's a commitment"; and

WHEREAS the NDP were sworn into office on October 5, 1999 and have failed to date to institute their commitment of cutting property taxes "today".

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to take responsibility for this failed commitment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider outlining the new timeframe, total savings to Manitobans and where these funds will be realized in the budget if the Government reduces property taxes.

Mr. DERKACH –

42. WHEREAS when the New Democratic Party was last in power they were criticized by the Winnipeg Free Press who wrote, "...universities in Manitoba have been given relatively low priority..."; and

WHEREAS at the University of Winnipeg the Member for Radisson, while in Opposition, called for a freeze of post-secondary tuition and said, "Some years there should be tuition freezes under an NDP government. I would say we would freeze tuition."; and

WHEREAS during the 1999 General Provincial Election the NDP made public a commitment of "...cutting community college and university tuition fees by 10%."; and

WHEREAS during the recent election, the member for Wolseley indicated that the "cut" was in fact a "rebate" and their commitment had been misunderstood, even going so far as to say, "We're not stopping universities from increasing tuition."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to live up to their 10% cut in college and university tuition commitment without reducing funding to post-secondary institutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Provincial Government to consider clarifying its tuition cut in terms of implementation so as to provide Manitoban students and post secondary institutions with the necessary information to plan their future educational requirements.

Ms. KORZENIOWSKI –

43. WHEREAS the Canadian airlines industry is undergoing a fundamental restructuring with important consequences for employment, airline service and competition; and

WHEREAS the framework for restructuring largely assumes that the outcome of the process will result in a dominant airline carrier or a semi-regulated system; and

WHEREAS Canada's two major airlines are both major employers in Manitoba directly employing approximately 2,200 workers, excluding employees of affiliated carriers and other third party contractors; and

WHEREAS the restructuring of the Canadian airlines industry may infer a restructuring and reduction of employment in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the restructuring of the Canadian airlines industry may possibly increase the cost and reduce the frequency of flights to and from Manitoba; and

WHEREAS any proposed restructuring option that serves to substantially reduce or effectively eliminate competition would be injurious to consumer interest in both Manitoba and Canada.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba encourage the Provincial Government to indicate that Manitoba's concerns regarding employee welfare, service to Manitoba communities, and the requirement for healthy, effective competition also be regarded as a concern of the Government of Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to clearly indicate to the Federal Government that jobs, services and consumer prices in Manitoba must be protected within the context of any proposed restructuring process in the Canadian airline industry.

Mr. PRAZNIK –

44. WHEREAS under the previous Progressive Conservative Government Manitoba was foremost among the provinces lobbying the federal government to make changes to the *Young Offenders Act*; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada is in the process of reviewing the youth justice system and replacing the *Young Offenders Act* with the new *Youth Criminal Justice Act*; and

WHEREAS the out-going *Young Offenders Act* has serious omissions and limitations which severely restrict provincial efforts to fight and prevent youth crime; and

WHEREAS in the spring of 1999 the previous Government initiated a panel, chaired by the MLA for Emerson, to carry out the Manitoba Consultations on the *Young Offenders Act*; and

WHEREAS many Manitobans believe that young offenders must take full responsibility for their actions and the youth justice system must provide significant consequences for youths who break the law; and

WHEREAS the proposed *Youth Criminal Justice Act* still has many of the same shortcomings as the *Young Offenders Act*, as noted in the Report on Manitoba Consultations on the *Young Offenders Act* presented to the federal justice minister last spring.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Government of Canada to consider making changes to the proposed *Youth Criminal Justice Act* to ensure that young people are held accountable for their actions by providing more significant consequences for youth who break the law.

Mr. PENNER (Steinbach) –

45. WHEREAS although Manitoba has enjoyed sustained economic growth during the past three years, immigrant intake has declined by more than 1,000 people due to changes in federal immigration policy; and

WHEREAS Manitoba is experiencing a shortage of skilled workers in a number of expanding industries as a result of the strong economic growth fostered by initiatives of the previous Progressive Conservative Government; and

WHEREAS Manitoba should receive the same proportion of immigrants to the province as its portion of the Canadian population, 3.8% or approximately 7,500 – 8,000 newcomers annually; and

WHEREAS in 1998 Manitoba only received 2,985 immigrants or 1.72% of the Canadian immigrant levels; and

WHEREAS the majority of current immigrants to Canada are received by four provinces: Ontario, British Columbia, Quebec and Alberta; and

WHEREAS over the last decade, Manitoba has been at the forefront in initiating means to increase immigration to meet provincial growth sectors and emerging labour market needs; and

WHEREAS the previous Progressive Conservative administration signed the Provincial Nominee Program with the Federal Government in 1998 and initiated the Skilled Independent Immigrant Promotion and Recruitment Campaign in 1994; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government is responsible for establishing the selection criteria and the number of immigrants that can move to Manitoba each year; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government is in the process of reviewing Canada's immigration policies and laws.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to continue the efforts of the previous Progressive Conservative administration and lobby the Federal Government to enhance the federal immigration policy to increase the annual quota of employable immigrants that can settle in Manitoba.

Mr. STEFANSON –

46. WHEREAS the current Provincial Government, during the Provincial General Election of 1999 made a great deal of promises; and

WHEREAS many of the promises made were related to the delivery of health care in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the current Provincial Government promised on September 16, 1999 that they would "establish within 30 days of forming government a short-term 'Critical Shortages Fund' consisting of \$2 million" whose purpose was "to help those whose health is jeopardized by long waiting lists;" and



WHEREAS the current Provincial Government was sworn in on October 5, 1999; and

WHEREAS by November 4, 1999 the 30 days had come and gone with no establishment of a \$2 million Critical Shortages Fund for "those whose health is jeopardized by long waiting lists;" and

WHEREAS the promise made on September 16 that the NDP would "immediately set up a \$2 million short-term hardship fund" is the first broken promise of the new Government.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba remind the new Provincial Government that promises with regard to the delivery of health care in the Province of Manitoba—and all promises—are not to be taken lightly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, in light of this first broken promise, engage the Provincial Government tenaciously on the importance of maintaining integrity with regard to all the promises that were made during the general provincial election of 1999.

Mr. TWEED –

47. WHEREAS during the New Democratic Party Annual General Meeting Resolution 97-L10J-14 overwhelmingly supported legislation requiring a 32-hour work week with no loss in pay and the minimum annual vacation to be extended to three weeks from the present two; and

WHEREAS there seems to be no recognition on the part of the NDP that this would instantly increase labour costs by approximately 25 percent for every business in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS this proposal has been suggested by the NDP membership as a means of reducing unemployment despite Manitoba boasting an unemployment rate of 5.6%, the second lowest rate in the country, and facing an increasing shortage of skilled labour; and

WHEREAS this policy has been deemed "utterly unrealistic" by the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce and the NDP have failed to provide any idea of the number of new jobs the four-day work week would create, much less an estimate of how many jobs would be lost by such a measure; and

WHEREAS the Thompson Citizen said in reference to the proposal, "the 32-hour work week would sink most Manitoba business firms right out of business..."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider providing factual information on the merits of the 32-hour work week proposal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Provincial Government to abandon this policy that appears bent on decreasing the competitiveness of Manitoba's strong business sector and ensure their relocation to neighbouring jurisdictions.

Mr. PITURA –

48. WHEREAS Manitoba's economy has shown one of the best growth rates in Canada in recent years, with a low rate of unemployment and increased levels of diversification; and

WHEREAS the principle of sustainable development is that development meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's current economic growth can be maintained if the province continues to employ the practices of sustainable development; and

WHEREAS the previous Provincial Government undertook the Manitoba Round Table on Environment and Economy and subsequently established the Sustainable Development Coordination Unit to ensure the proper application of sustainable development practices in the Province of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the Sustainable Development Coordination Unit has worked toward the implementation of progressive programs such as sustainable development roundtables, capital region initiatives, and excellence awards; and

WHEREAS following extensive public consultations, the Sustainable Development Coordination Unit spearheaded the work of the Manitoba Round Table on Sustainable Development's report, "Toward a Strategy for Aboriginal People Living in Winnipeg"; and

WHEREAS this kind of action is ensuring the continued success of Manitoba's economy and helping to manage the province's resources for the next generation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the current Provincial Government to consider maintaining and building upon the sustainable development initiatives of the previous government, mindful that attention must be paid to the long term effects of the environmental and economic decisions it makes.

Mr. JENNISEN –

49. WHEREAS from time immemorial the Sayisi Dene lived on the land west of Hudson Bay; and

WHEREAS in 1910 the Sayisi Dene, then called the Fort Churchill Chipewyan Band, signed an adhesion to Treaty Five; and

WHEREAS despite the treaty signing, no reserve was created and the Sayisi Dene continued to live for the most part as they always had with little contact with the outside world; and

WHEREAS in 1956, without consultation or agreement, Federal Government officials, concerned about a decline in caribou herds, blamed the Sayisi Dene for over-hunting and had them relocated to Churchill by Indian Affairs; and

WHEREAS at Churchill, the Sayisi Dene were unable to hunt and maintain their traditional livelihood, their language or their culture, and were forced into lives of extreme poverty and desperation; and

WHEREAS more than a third of them died during this period; and

WHEREAS the Sayisi Dene, on their own, moved to Tadoule Lake in 1973 to rebuild their community and deal with the horrendous problems caused by the forced relocation; and

WHEREAS the Mayor of Churchill, on behalf of the community, recently offered an apology for the plight of the Sayisi Dene people.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to offer its own apology for the forced relocation of the Sayisi Dene in 1956; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly request the Federal Government to negotiate with the Sayisi Dene for the damages caused by this forced relocation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly direct the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to send each Manitoba Member of Parliament a copy of this resolution.

Mrs. MITCHELSON –

50. WHEREAS on August 19, 1999, Today's New Democratic Party (NDP) promised to add 100 new hospital beds in addition to the 120 beds being opened through the Progressive Conservative administration's efforts; and

WHEREAS on August 19, 1999, Today's NDP promised to "end hallway medicine within six months".

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge Today's NDP Government to consider holding a public review no later than April 5, 2000 to determine if 100 fully-staffed new beds have been added to the system beyond the 120 new beds added as a result of the Progressive Conservative's previous directives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge Today's NDP Government to consider holding a series of public reviews beginning no later than April 5, 2000 to confirm that not a single patient is found in any hallway of any Manitoba health facility on any day of any week.

Mr. REIMER –

51. WHEREAS the use of the telephone sales for a wide range of services or products can be an effective, legitimate marketing tool for Canadian businesses, but criminals use the same techniques, hiding behind the anonymity of the telephone and attempting to defraud thousands of Canadians annually; and

WHEREAS all citizens, regardless of age, sex, educational level, economic status or profession could easily be taken advantage of by a disreputable telemarketing firm; and

WHEREAS Phonebusters, a national organization that targets telemarketing fraud, estimates that in 1998 some 64 per cent of telemarketing fraud victims were 60 years of age or older; and

WHEREAS the methods of fraudulently enticing people are endless and include schemes such as offering loans for medical bills, money to purchase homes, investment schemes, charity and fund-raising schemes and prize pitches; and

WHEREAS as of March 1999 the Federal Government's Competition Bureau conservatively estimated the losses from telemarketing scams to be in the order of \$4 billion including dollar losses attributable to victims of all telemarketing scams and consequential dollar losses to legitimate businesses who lose out on sales, and who are affected by the bad reputation of deceptive telemarketing; and

WHEREAS organized crime such as telemarketing fraud does not respect provincial or national borders, so a proactive approach is necessary to keep one step ahead of the criminals.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to consider continuing to toughen its legislation dealing with telemarketing fraud; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider working in conjunction with the Federal Government, other provinces and other countries to develop co-ordinated strategies to combat telemarketing fraud.

Mrs. DRIEDGER –

52. WHEREAS in Canada there are over 2,000 people waiting for a kidney transplant at any one time and approximately 300 more waiting for other vital organ transplants; and

WHEREAS each province has a different approach to maintaining organ donor registries and organ donor awareness programs; and

WHEREAS Manitobans need to be more informed about the Manitoba Transplant Program; and

WHEREAS the issue of organ and tissue donation is a very personal decision that all Canadians must make for themselves and share with their families and loved ones; and

WHEREAS federal and provincial governments have a role to play in the development of a comprehensive system that enables Canadians to make their wishes known and ensures that those in need can benefit from organ or tissue donations that are made; and

WHEREAS on September 16, 1999 the federal, provincial and territorial health ministers agreed to establish a National Council on Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation with the goal of developing a co-ordinated, comprehensive and integrated donation and transplantation strategy across Canada; and

WHEREAS an important next step will be the establishment of a national transplant council and further work with the provinces and territories to develop a truly integrated and sustainable Canadian strategy for organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba strongly urge the federal government to create a comprehensive organ transplantation registry so that more Canadian lives will be saved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Minister of Health to provide Manitobans with more information about the Manitoba Transplant Program so they can make informed personal choices about organ donation and help save more lives in Manitoba.

Mr. LAURENDEAU –

53. WHEREAS Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is a preventable condition; and

WHEREAS there is no safe level of alcohol consumption during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS every year in Manitoba, babies are born with disabling conditions resulting from the effects of alcohol consumed by the mother during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS the effects of FAS range from severe brain damage and physical complications to behavioural problems; and

WHEREAS the previous Progressive Conservative administration introduced the STOP FAS program that assists substance abusing women who are at risk of having a child affected by FAS in the future or who may have already given birth to an FAS child.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider supporting the STOP FAS program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider building upon the previous Progressive Conservative administration's efforts to prevent fetal alcohol syndrome by educating expectant mothers about the dangers of alcohol consumption during pregnancy.

Mr. DERKACH –

54. WHEREAS under the previous administrative initiatives were undertaken to make training more responsive to the changing needs of Manitobans, including the development of a skilled training strategy with labour market partners, training or retraining under Workforce 2000, tripling the funding of adult literacy since 1989 and placement services that helped to locate jobs for nearly 15, 000 youth last year alone; and

WHEREAS under the previous administration a new \$4 million initiative, the Colleges Growth Plan was designed to expand enrolment: in programs with significant waiting lists; programs that respond to Aboriginal students; programs offered in Regional Centres; programs that use educational technologies, and finally to develop new programs consistent with the demands of the growing provincial economy; and

WHEREAS under the previous administration the Manitoba Learning Tax Credit was introduced that continues to contribute \$15 million in support for Manitoba students; and

WHEREAS under the previous administration community colleges received the right to govern their own boards, providing more flexibility and partnerships with industry to meet their training needs; and

WHEREAS the previous administration developed clear initiatives that supported Manitoba's students and Manitoba's community colleges; and

WHEREAS during the 1999 Provincial General Election the New Democratic Party promised to cut post secondary education by 10%; and

WHEREAS the current New Democratic Government also promised during the 1999 Provincial General Election to, "...add \$20 million to college operating grants and \$4 million to a special college fund over the next four years."; and

WHEREAS the current Premier of Manitoba during the 1999 Provincial General Election pledged to double enrolment at Manitoba's three community colleges over the next four years as quoted also by the Winnipeg Free Press; and

WHEREAS the current administration also committed themselves to creating more space at community colleges through, "...high schools and technical vocational schools where students would get college credits prior to entering community colleges."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Provincial Government to consider providing Manitobans with a detailed plan and timeframe outlining how their promise to double community college enrolment will be achieved.

Mr. RONDEAU –

55. WHEREAS good nutrition enhances a child's ability to learn; and

WHEREAS all children deserve to go to school well nourished; and

WHEREAS the safety, health, and future of children are the responsibility of all members of society; and

WHEREAS early childhood is a period of rapid growth and development during which children have increased nutritional requirements, and are vulnerable to the effects of nutritional deprivation; and

WHEREAS inadequate food intake carries high social and health care costs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to encourage interested students, student councils, parents, parent councils, businesses, business organizations, and educational authorities to consider a co-operative and inclusive initiative to explore the possibility and potential of developing breakfast in school programs in schools where they do not exist.

Mr. CUMMINGS –

56. WHEREAS Manitoba's schools should be a safe environment in which children can learn and develop in peace and security; and

WHEREAS the level of violence and illicit drugs present in schools throughout Canada is rising; and

WHEREAS violence and illicit drugs have no place in Manitoba schools; and

WHEREAS parent councils in Manitoba have requested that additional measures be taken to ensure our schools are made safer; and

WHEREAS some Manitoba schools have taken the lead by stipulating that a student can obtain a locker only if the student agrees, through a written contract, that his or her locker may be searched to ensure that no weapons or illicit drugs are present on school property; and

WHEREAS principals and teachers must have the right to search lockers, school property, and students' belongings to ensure that no illicit drugs or weapons are present on school grounds; and

WHEREAS principals and teachers must have the ability to call upon law enforcement officials to search for weapons or illicit drugs on school property when they have probable cause to believe that weapons or illicit drugs are indeed present on school property.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to ensure teachers and principals have the right to call law enforcement officials to conduct locker searches if there is probable cause; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Provincial Government to instruct all school boards to ensure that students can only obtain lockers under the stipulation that, because the lockers are on public property, they may be searched to ensure that weapons or illicit drugs are not present on school property.

Mr. MARTINDALE –

57. WHEREAS thousands of homes in Manitoba, particularly in the inner city of Winnipeg and in the North, need renovations; and

WHEREAS many individuals, particularly of Aboriginal background, are currently living in unfavourable conditions; and

WHEREAS good housing is a contributing factor to good health in that it eliminates overcrowding and unsanitary conditions which can cause the spread of disease; and

WHEREAS Habitat for Humanity is a Christian non-profit organization dedicated to building affordable housing in partnership with low income people and contributing to community renewal; and

WHEREAS the Winnipeg affiliate of Habitat for Humanity has built 50 homes in the inner city of Winnipeg since 1988, thereby improving neighborhoods and property values, enhancing the lives of Manitoban families, and creating a larger tax base; and

WHEREAS in the year 2000, Habitat for Humanity's millennium project will further improve city housing by targeting Manitoba Avenue as part of its inner city revitalization strategy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba recognize the importance of the Winnipeg branch of Habitat for Humanity's Millennium projects in the coming year.

Mr. PENNER (Steinbach) –

58. WHEREAS during the eleven year tenure of the Progressive Conservative Government from 1988 to 1999, the Province of Manitoba has witnessed unprecedented success in the arena of economic development; and

WHEREAS the Winnipeg Free Press's report: *Winnipeg – Growing From Within* recently indicated that countries around the world are realizing that "true economic development requires measures that are environmentally sustainable"; and

WHEREAS this same article indicated that Manitoba's success in such sustainable development had not gone unnoticed as Winnipeg was selected as Canada's centre for the International Institute for Sustainable Development; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's economy is described in the article as "working like a well-tuned car" and as "outpacing all others"; and

WHEREAS the National Post, in its November 3, 1999 issue spoke of "The Manitoba Advantage" and reported that "all leading indicators suggest that the province of Manitoba is one of the most economically vibrant regions in this country today" and that "Manitoba's economic performance over the past few years...must certainly be considered a spectacular Canadian success story" and "The province is one of those rare locations which offers both a wide variety of important competitive advantages to businesses and an exceptionally attractive quality of life for individuals. What's more, private sector and community leaders agree Manitoba has all the right fundamentals in place to make a roaring entry into the global economy of the next century"; and

WHEREAS the Winnipeg Free Press recognized the accomplishments of the Progressive Conservative Government with the headline on November 12, 1999 "Our Economy Flying High" accompanied by comments that "Manitoba's economy has been one of the strongest in Canada" for the last few years; and



WHEREAS the Winnipeg Free Press recognized the results of the economic policies of the Progressive Conservative Government on November 13, 1999 with the headline of "Jobs Big Draw In Manitoba" later expanded into comments such as consumer confidence in Winnipeg "remains at record levels" and "that Manitoba's strong economic performance is not only helping to lure new residents to the province, it's helping keep the people who are already here"; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's economic community has welcomed tax cuts and incentives as reflected in their eagerness to invest, reinvest, expand and relocate their businesses to Manitoba over the course of the last eleven years; and

WHEREAS these progressive steps by the Progressive Conservative Government have been ignored by the Manitoba Federation of Labour (MFL) in their recommendation to the Lower Tax Commission that Manitoba does not need lower taxes coupled with the MFL's president's comments that "We don't see a huge need to change the tax system as it is now".

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba remind the new Provincial Government of the great success Manitoba has achieved in economic development under the previous administration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider fostering an economic environment of ongoing tax cuts that will keep Manitoba competitive with other provinces on a tax basis which in turn will serve as incentives for businesses to invest, reinvest, expand and relocate in the Province of Manitoba so that the province can continue to enjoy the nation-leading economic successes that it has recently enjoyed.

Mr. LOEWEN –

59. WHEREAS it is important that the City of Winnipeg and the Provincial Government work in partnership to deal with the challenges of downtown revitalization; and

WHEREAS Manitoba Hydro is considering building a new facility that will house 1,200 employees; and

WHEREAS the vacant Eaton's building downtown is an ideal location for Manitoba Hydro; and

WHEREAS downtown Winnipeg would benefit immensely from the location of 1,200 Manitoba Hydro and Centra Gas employees to the downtown area; and

WHEREAS locating Manitoba Hydro's offices in downtown Winnipeg would provide significant economic spin-offs for businesses in the area while contributing to the revitalization of the downtown area.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider securing the presence of Manitoba Hydro in downtown Winnipeg; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider taking further action to revitalize Winnipeg's downtown area.

Mr. NEVAKSHONOFF –

60. WHEREAS previous governments have not always adhered to a fair and equitable policy concerning the management and disposal of crown lands; and

WHEREAS in many cases crown land has been sold off to corporations instead of to independent owner-operator farmers; and

WHEREAS hinterland crown lands, that is, crown lands not accessible by road or adjacent to established agricultural zones, have been sold off in an irresponsible manner in the past to the detriment of the population as a whole; and

WHEREAS leased crown lands immediately adjacent to Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), previously acting as buffer zones between WMA's and privately owned agricultural lands and restricted to grazing only, have been without due consideration and public discussion sold off in the past.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider reassessing the procedure for the sale of crown lands with the object being to establish a fair and equitable system which takes into consideration the legitimate needs of the population as a whole; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to support a policy where green, buffer zones of crown land surrounding WMA's will remain in place to ensure that future generations will continue to enjoy the benefits of designated wildlife zones; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider monitoring sales of crown land to corporate entities so as to ensure that owner-operators of small and medium sized farms have fair and equal access to crown lands.

Mr. AGLUGUB –

61. WHEREAS Manitoba is a province built on the strengths of immigrants from various countries; and

WHEREAS the continued growth of Manitoba will require an increase in immigration levels; and

WHEREAS increased immigration to Manitoba will assist greatly in the economic development and growth of the province; and

WHEREAS those immigrants who establish themselves in Manitoba eventually make a significant economic contribution to the province's economy; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's proportional share of immigrants as compared with the rest of Canada has been significantly below average for numerous years.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba request that the Federal Government adopt new measures or amend current immigration policy in order to increase the number of immigrants entering into the province of Manitoba; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly direct the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to send a copy of this resolution to the Federal Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, and to all Manitoba Members of Parliament.

Ms. CERILLI –

62. WHEREAS recreation contributes directly to the physical and mental health of individuals of all ages throughout Manitoba; and

WHEREAS recreation contributes to the social health, the overall quality of life and the standard of living of our communities; and

WHEREAS investment and employment decisions are influenced by the range of recreation opportunities communities and regions can provide; and

WHEREAS a 1999 Statistics Canada report entitled "Body mass index and health" estimates that Manitoba has one of the highest populations of overweight and obese persons; and

WHEREAS a joint target to reduce the number of inactive Canadians by ten percent over a five year period beginning in 1998 was agreed upon by federal, provincial, and territorial leaders in August of 1997.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba recognize the value of recreation to all Manitobans and commend the work of the volunteers of many communities for encouraging active participation and for providing valuable recreational opportunities for Manitobans.

Mr. SCHELLENBERG –

63. WHEREAS the Federal Government is developing a new framework for reforming Canada's Financial Services sector; and

WHEREAS this framework is designed in part to lighten the regulatory load of financial institutions operating in Canada; and

WHEREAS this new framework will allow for easier entrance to the Canadian banking system by both foreign and domestic concerns; and

WHEREAS deregulation in the financial services sector in the United States has been accompanied by higher banking and ATM fees; and

WHEREAS the United States Department of Defense and a growing number of American cities have felt compelled to ban or propose banning rapidly escalating ATM fees; and

WHEREAS constitutional jurisdiction over consumer protection in the financial services sector is shared between the federal and provincial governments; and

WHEREAS the Federal government's new framework for reforming Canada's financial services sector will allow for increased access to the payments system by regulated financial institutions such as life insurance companies, money market mutual funds and securities dealers which will increase the number of institutions offering traditional financial services historically offered by the Canadian banking sector.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider taking all steps necessary to carefully monitor and examine the evolution of ATM fees in the province of Manitoba as the Canadian banking system undergoes a period of extensive de-regulation.

Mr. MALOWAY –

64. WHEREAS the prime bank lending rate is currently 6.25%; and

WHEREAS financial institutions in some cases are charging borrowers using credit cards interest rates in excess of 17%, and some department and other stores are charging rates in excess of 28%, resulting in an unreasonable spread between credit card rates and bank rates; and

WHEREAS the five major Canadian financial institutions reaped a total of \$7.1 billion in profits during the 1998 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS the increasing acceptance of credit cards has led to increased numbers of consumer bankruptcies and insolvency over the past few years.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba express its support for the efforts of the legislators, citizens, and consumer groups from all provinces who are working to achieve a reduction in interest rates for those using consumer credit cards.

Mr. DEWAR –

65. WHEREAS the Federal Government has a responsibility to maintain access to harbors and waterways in the Interlake region; and

WHEREAS despite recommendations by the Central Canada Freshwater Fisheries Report for continued services, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has announced that 1999 will be the final year for Canadian Coast Guard funded dredging; and

WHEREAS the build-up of silt or ice at the mouth of the Red River could hinder the movement of larger vessels and increase the chance of spring flooding in the region; and

WHEREAS a decreased Federal presence on these waterways will have serious consequences for northern communities which, in the absence of roads, rely on commercial ships for their provisions; and

WHEREAS failure to meet this obligation could lead to the demise of both the commercial fishing and tourism industry on Lake Winnipeg if areas become inaccessible; and

WHEREAS unsafe harbors will result in increasingly difficult search and rescue, environmental, and navigational operations on the Red River and Lake Winnipeg; and

WHEREAS these operations are further weakened by a recent \$15 million budget cut to the Coast Guard program and, more specifically, a declining presence at the Selkirk base; and

WHEREAS over the next five years the Federal government is anticipating a surplus of 95 billion dollars, some of which could be directed back into such programs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to live up to its responsibility for the dredging of waterways in the Interlake region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to reinstate funding to the Selkirk Coast Guard base to ensure continued access to waterways and the safe provision of operations to communities.

Mr. SANTOS –

66. WHEREAS there are skill shortages in Manitoba, most notably in the health care field, which could be remedied by the creation of new labour pools in the province; and

WHEREAS many immigrants arrive in this province with valuable education, skills, and work experience that would be immediately beneficial to the Province of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS there are some new immigrants in Manitoba who are unable to find work using the professional and technical education, skills, and training they possess; and

WHEREAS inability to receive accreditation can be a major obstacle to obtaining employment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider implementing a policy of formal recognition and accreditation on the skill and education of new Canadians; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly request the Provincial Government to consider the feasibility of forming an Accreditation and Licensing Board consisting of members drawn from the respective professional and technical groups, the general public, and the Provincial Government.

Mr. MARTINDALE –

67. WHEREAS increasing numbers of youths are becoming involved in gang activities and crime; and  
WHEREAS much of this crime is believed to be preventable through grass roots initiatives; and  
WHEREAS youth programs have been shown to keep kids active and out of trouble; and  
WHEREAS Sinclair Park Community Centre has recently begun a program targeting children at risk;  
and

WHEREAS the program has been successful since its inception in mid-April with a total of 170 youths enrolled in an after school extra curricular program.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba go on record as stating its hope for continued success of the Kids at Risk program operated through Sinclair Park Community Centre.

Mr. SANTOS –

68. WHEREAS a democratic system of government that is based on the principle of one-person, one-vote contemplates natural, physical living persons, not artificial persons like corporations, unions, banks, industrial entities, investment firms and other artificial persons; and

WHEREAS a democratic system of government presupposes the rule of the majority of the people as expressed through their politically elected representatives in Parliaments, Legislative Assemblies, City Councils and similar law-making bodies; and

WHEREAS the rule of the majority of the people through their democratically chosen representatives, like Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assemblies, Members of City Councils, is slowly being threatened by the influence of a privileged minority who are almost always those individuals who control the disposition and outlays of financial resources that crucially influence the outcome of electoral contests.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to put a stop to the growing influence of the privileged minorities that control large financial resources, by putting legal financial limits on the amount of political contributions and partisan donations that may be made by natural persons who are citizens or residents of the Province of Manitoba for income tax deduction purposes, and by not recognizing and not giving legal effects to political donations made by artificial persons so that, as far as Manitoba is concerned, only this set level of donations would be legally recognized as deductible partisan and political contribution in Manitoba.

Mr. ROCAN –

69. WHEREAS Canadian farmers are facing the lowest grain and oilseed prices in two decades; and

WHEREAS many farmers have experienced a sharp reduction in income this year and could face similar problems in the upcoming year; and

WHEREAS low world grain and oilseed prices are offset by generous government subsidies in the United States and European Union; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government has reduced the level of farm support dramatically; and

WHEREAS Canadian grain and oilseed producers are among the lowest net income producers in the world; and

WHEREAS the United States government supports its grain and oilseed producers through tariffs, acreage payments, loan programs and transportation assistance; and

WHEREAS the European Union supports its agricultural sector at an even higher level through various actions and programs; and

WHEREAS Canadian farmers cannot survive on their own in an atmosphere of trade distorting actions by other countries; and

WHEREAS the Canadian government has decimated western Canadian agriculture by reducing or eliminating all farm income support and safety net programs; and

WHEREAS the Agriculture Income Disaster Assistance program is totally inadequate in addressing the farm income shortfall; and

WHEREAS many young farmers are either leaving agriculture or are choosing not to enter agriculture as a profession because of the federal government's unwillingness to deal with the challenges facing the agricultural sector.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Government of Manitoba to consider taking strong action to ensure the survival of families in farming; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Government of Manitoba to impress upon the Federal Liberal Government its responsibility to bring a balance of support to western Canadian agricultural producers through equalization of tariffs and subsidies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to live up to its responsibility to ensure a competitive climate for agriculture in Manitoba; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Legislative Assembly of Manitoba ensure that a copy of this private members resolution is forwarded to the Parliament of Canada, including Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Federal Agriculture Minister Lyle Vanclief.

Mr. AGLUGUB –

70. WHEREAS Manitoba is a province built on the strengths of immigrants from many countries; and

WHEREAS all immigrants and refugees must pay \$500 to fill out an application and a further \$975 for a landing fee if the application is accepted; and

WHEREAS the current application of the \$975 limits the ability of the less fortunate to apply to immigrate to Canada; and

WHEREAS these fees often discriminate against people from Third World Countries who may earn a fraction of such fees working full time for a year; and

WHEREAS the entry fee has been condemned by various groups, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Canadian Human Rights Commissioner to Canada; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba Government and the Federal Government have signed the Canada-Manitoba Immigration Agreement which defines their respective roles and responsibilities regarding immigration policy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba request the Federal Government to reduce application and landing fees which have restricted potential immigration into the province; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly direct the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to send a copy of this resolution to the Federal Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, and to all Manitoba Members of Parliament.

Mr. REID –

71. WHEREAS within territory 2, as defined by the Automobile Insurance Certificates and Rates Regulation, the total number of heavy farm grain truck registrations with a gross vehicle weight between 4,541 and 16,330 kilograms has decreased 16% between 1995 and 1999, and the number of heavy farm tractor truck registrations with a gross vehicle weight over 36,501 kilograms has increased 44% within the same five year period; and

WHEREAS the well being of Manitoba's agribusiness is increasingly becoming dependant upon strong transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba trucking industry and the general public rely on well maintained roads and highways; and

WHEREAS the Federal government collects over \$146 million annually in fuel tax revenue from within Manitoba; and

WHEREAS over the last seven years, the Federal Government collected over \$915 million in excise taxes on Manitoba road fuels, and has only contributed \$36 million to the Manitoba highway system; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to redirect the funds collected through federal excise fuel taxes back to the province of origin as part of a strategy for sustainable highways that will benefit current and future generations.



Mr. SCHELLENBERG –

72. WHEREAS the availability of clean, fresh water is vital to ecosystems, human health, agriculture and industry; and

WHEREAS on February 9, 1999 the House of Commons unanimously passed an NDP motion for a federal ban on freshwater exports including bulk water shipments and inter-basin transfers; and

WHEREAS the federal Liberals announced a call on all ten provinces to institute separate provincial moratoriums on freshwater export; and

WHEREAS British Columbia and Alberta have already passed bills banning the removal of water, while Ontario is finalizing regulations to accomplish the same goal; and

WHEREAS an American company, Sun Belt Water Inc., has filed a suit under Chapter 11 of the North American Free Trade Agreement demanding up to \$10.5 billion (US) in compensation from the Government of Canada for the loss of its alleged rights to export bulk water from British Columbia; and

WHEREAS the federal government's bulk water strategy is both environmentally sound and consistent with Canada's international trade obligations and recognizes that provinces have the primary responsibility for water management.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba request the Federal Government to ensure that a comprehensive water policy be developed which prevents provincial water from becoming a commodity to be bought and sold; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly direct the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to send a copy of this resolution to the Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Federal Minister of Environment, and to all Manitoba Members of Parliament.

Mr. GILLESHAMMER –

73. WHEREAS Canada and the United States have a mutually beneficial exchange of agricultural and food products; and

WHEREAS the agricultural sector plays a vital role in the overall health not only of the Canadian economy, but also the Manitoba economy; and

WHEREAS many of Manitoba's agricultural producers rely on ready access to markets in the United States in which to sell their products and services; and

WHEREAS for several years the Canadian and United States governments have been involved in a series of disputes regarding the restrictive trade actions undertaken by individual American states, which included the obstruction of access of Canadian cattle, hogs and grain to the United States; and

WHEREAS Canada's federal and provincial governments as well as members of the agri-food sector have long expressed their concern over the difficulty in developing coherent trade negotiating positions for agriculture; and

WHEREAS a strong two-way trading relationship between Canada and the United States is beneficial to both countries' economies; and

WHEREAS Canada's farmers will benefit from a strong and unified approach to bilateral trade discussions with the United States.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba encourage the Federal Government to forge a position that seeks to create a strong, universal rules-based international trading system and facilitate the unimpeded export of Canadian agricultural products to American markets.

Mr. STRUTHERS –

74. WHEREAS Manitoba's river water continues to be threatened by the transfer of foreign biota because of the proposed Garrison Diversion project; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's river water continues to be threatened by the transfer of foreign biota because of the proposed Devils Lake project in North Dakota.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to continue its opposition to these two projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly direct the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to send a copy of this resolution to the State Government of North Dakota.

Mr. DYCK –

75. WHEREAS all children need to grow up in a safe environment that promotes healthy growth; and

WHEREAS the Children and Youth Secretariat launched Manitoba's *ChildrenFirst* strategy in 1997; and

WHEREAS *ChildrenFirst* is a long-term strategy that will continue to produce healthier, more productive and more successful children and families with bright futures; and

WHEREAS *ChildrenFirst* emphasizes the importance of focusing on prevention and early intervention within the family during the crucial early development years that lay the foundation for successful adulthood; and

WHEREAS *ChildrenFirst* is based on a commitment to strengthen and support families and communities throughout Manitoba; and

WHEREAS *ChildrenFirst* is also committed to reducing barriers to coordinated, result oriented services for children and youth; and

WHEREAS through *ChildrenFirst* the Children and Youth Secretariat has developed effective programs such as BabyFirst, Early Start, Healthy Choices, Women and Infant Nutrition (WIN), and STOP FAS.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to build upon the work of the previous Progressive Conservative administration and consider pursuing the *ChildrenFirst* strategy to provide families with the support they may need to raise happy, healthy children.

Mr. SMITH (Brandon-West) –

76. WHEREAS agriculture in all regions of Canada may be impacted by a disaster physically, environmentally or economically; and

WHEREAS valuable time is wasted in responding to disasters due to time consuming bureaucratic arguments over what constitutes an agricultural disaster; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government has reacted inconsistently in its decisions to offer funding assistance to affected communities; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government is not serving the interests of Canadians with inconsistent decisions on where and when to provide disaster assistance; and

WHEREAS there seems to be no consideration being given to Saskatchewan or Manitoba during the largest agricultural disaster of the century resulting in massive unseeded acreage due to flooded farmland;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider studying the feasibility of creating a non-partisan, non-stipendiary, advisory committee of producers, community members, and other experts that can assist in the rapid compilation of evidence of the extent and nature of agricultural disasters so as to support the Provincial Government's efforts to urge the Federal Government to quicker and more efficient action.

Mr. PENNER (Emerson) –

77. WHEREAS subsidy supports for Canadian farmers are substantially lower (9 cents to the dollar) than those enjoyed by their American (38 cents) and European (56 cents) counterparts; and

WHEREAS this subsidy disparity combined with low world prices for major crops results in serious and widespread farm income reductions; and

WHEREAS the Agricultural Income Disaster Assistance (AIDA) program was established by the Federal Government to support farmers who are facing drastically curtailed incomes because of circumstances beyond their control; and

WHEREAS in order to qualify for AIDA support, a farmers' income must fall below 70 percent of their average income over the previous three years; and

WHEREAS this excludes new farmers who have not yet earned a farm income; and

WHEREAS this also excludes farmers who have lost money in the years leading up to application for assistance from AIDA; and

WHEREAS the losses incurred by farmers in a year when they seek AIDA support may be of a severity that far exceeds the losses of previous years, and such that the farmer's ability to continue production is threatened.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to consider terminating the AIDA program and, in consultation with the farm community, develop a workable solution to the disaster being faced the farm community in the grain and oilseed sector.

Mr. JENNISSEN –

78. WHEREAS rail travel is an essential part of life for the residents of many of Manitoba's northern communities including Thicket Portage, Ilford, Pikwitonei, Sherridan, Pukatawagan; and

WHEREAS the residents of other northern communities are reliant on the passenger train service for functions as common as visiting a doctor, and shopping for basic supplies; and

WHEREAS the residents of northern rail line communities are subjected to second and even third rate travel conditions including young children and adults travelling in unsecured and unsanitary box cars for trips taking as long as 7 hours; and

WHEREAS the efficient and effective operation of these routes is essential to many northern businesses and their clients for the delivery of staples and basic goods; and

WHEREAS over 18,000 tourists from around the world travel great distances to visit Churchill each year; and

WHEREAS tourism is an important and, potentially, major part of the economy for Churchill and other northern communities; and

WHEREAS northern municipalities and northern organizations have attempted for years to advocate for and achieve better and safer service.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba call on the Federal Government to direct VIA to meet with elected officials; community representatives; Northern economic development and business organizations; representatives of the tourism industry; and others, as appropriate, to determine a course of action for the improvement of rail services to Northern Manitoba; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba call upon the Federal Government to direct VIA to improve the quality, the dependability and the safety of their rail service in Northern Manitoba.

Mr. ENNS –

79. WHEREAS there are thousands of kilometres of railway lines crossing the Province of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the presence of a strong railway system is critical to the overall health of the Manitoba economy as not only does it facilitate the local movement of both people and goods but it is also an important cog in the continental transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS policy decisions made by the Federal Government, such as elimination of the western grain transportation subsidy, have resulted in more grain and other goods moving by truck, rather than via the railway system, thereby increasing costly wear and tear on the provincial highway system; and

WHEREAS the emergence of shortline railway companies has been important in that they not only provide an alternative transportation option for shippers, but they can also be more responsive to local customers' needs and concentrate on effective, grassroots customer services; and

WHEREAS federal legislation should be enacted that would facilitate the transfer of any line a railway company seeks to abandon to another railway company willing to operate the line on an economic basis; and

WHEREAS the viability of short-line railways and competitiveness of shippers would be improved by the federal government granting commercial railways limited running rights over federal rail lines.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to consider amending existing transportation legislation to grant commercial railways limited running rights over federal rail lines; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to consider pursuing international railway running rights to create a more competitive transportation environment.

Ms. ASPER –

80. WHEREAS notable historians have characterized the 20<sup>th</sup> century as "an age of catastrophe" marked by numerous international conflicts including two World Wars; and

WHEREAS billions of dollars continue to be directed to military expenditures; and

WHEREAS conflicts today continue to prevent many nations from providing human development initiatives in health, education, and environmental areas; and

WHEREAS the new millennium provides an opportunity to work towards a more peaceful global village; and

WHEREAS the United Nations, through resolution 52/15, proclaimed the year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba recognize and support the United Nations' resolve to work toward peace in the new millennium.

Mr. RONDEAU –

81. WHEREAS literacy has come to be seen as crucial to the economic performance of industrialized nations; and

WHEREAS the growing complexity of society is increasingly being reflected in the proliferation of high-skilled jobs and the depletion of low-skilled jobs; and

WHEREAS the future of our communities at the local, provincial, and national levels are increasingly being determined by the requirements of a knowledge based society; and

WHEREAS low literacy skills are inextricably linked with adverse effects upon ageing, infant mortality, living conditions, and the dependency on social assistance; and

WHEREAS the ability to read is linked to better health and increased income; and

WHEREAS literacy increases an individual's ability to learn more efficiently, to be flexible in their learning, and to develop a personal appreciation for life long learning; and

WHEREAS life long learning provides individuals with the skills and motivation necessary for making informed decisions; a basic virtue of good citizenship and one of the cornerstones of democracy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider examining and promoting the development of education programs that provide basic literacy to all Manitobans.