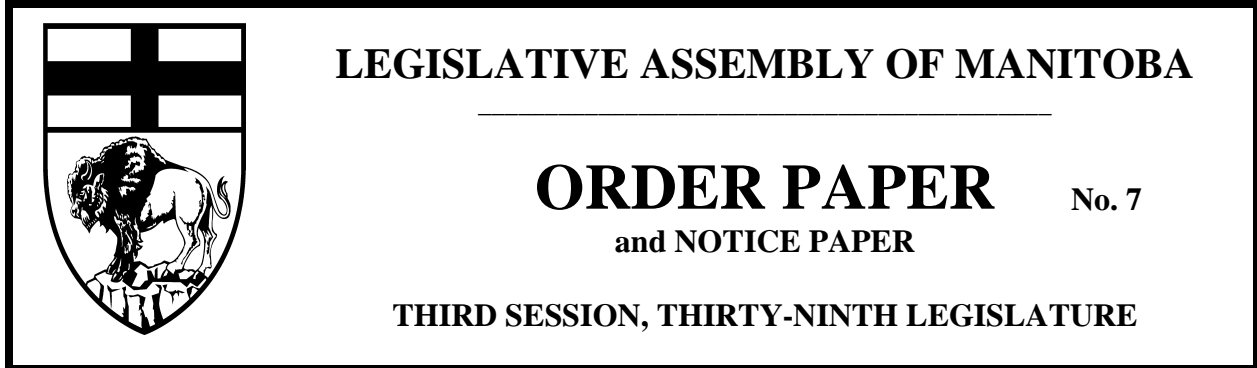


Friday, November 28, 2008



**PRAYER**

**SITTING AT 10:00 A.M.**

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

Mr. LAMOUREUX –

(No. 202) – The Highway Traffic Amendment Act (Bicycle Helmets)/Loi modifiant le Code de la route (casques de bicyclettes)

Hon. Mr. GERRARD –

(No. 204) – The Social Inclusion and Anti-Poverty Act/Loi sur l'inclusion sociale et la lutte contre la pauvreté

Hon. Mr. GERRARD –

(No. 214) – The Elections Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi électorale

Mr. LAMOUREUX –

(No. 215) – The Elections Amendment and Elections Finances Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi électorale et la Loi sur le financement des campagnes électorales

Hon. Mr. GERRARD –

(No. 216) – The Crown Appointment Review Act (Various Acts Amended)/Loi sur l'examen des nominations au sein des sociétés d'Etat (modification de diverses lois)

Mr. GOERTZEN –

(No. 222) – The Justice for Victims of Child Pornography Act/Loi sur l'indemnisation des victimes de pornographie juvénile

Mr. CULLEN –

(No. 223) – The Coat of Arms, Emblems and the Manitoba Tartan Amendment Act (Provincial Soil Designated)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les armoiries, les emblèmes et le tartan du Manitoba (désignation du sol provincial)

Mrs. TAILLIEU –

(No. 224) – The Regulatory Accountability and Transparency Act/Loi sur la responsabilité et la transparence en matière réglementaire

Mrs. TAILLIEU –

(No. 225) – The Labour Relations Amendment Act (Information in Employee's Language)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les relations du travail (renseignements fournis dans la langue des employés)

Mrs. ROWAT –

(No. 226) – The Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day Act/Loi sur la Journée de sensibilisation au deuil périnatal

Mr. LAMOUREUX –

(No. 227) – The Grandparents' Day Recognition Act/Loi sur la reconnaissance de la Fête des grands-parents

Mr. GRAYDON –

(No. 229) – The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation Amendment Act (Justice for Victims of Serious Automobile Accidents)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Société d'assurance publique du Manitoba (justice pour les victimes d'accidents d'automobile graves)

## **PETITIONS**

Mr. BOROTSIK  
Mr. DYCK  
Mr. LAMOUREUX  
Mr. GRAYDON  
Mrs. ROWAT  
Mr. MAGUIRE

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

## **TABLING OF REPORTS**

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

## **ORAL QUESTIONS**

## **MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

#### ADJOURNED DEBATE (Sixth Day of Debate):

On the Proposed Motion of Ms. SELBY –

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

We, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, thank your Honour for the gracious speech addressed to us at this Third Session of the Thirty-Ninth Legislature of Manitoba.

And the Proposed Motion of Mr. MCFADYEN in amendment thereto as follows:

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

But this House regrets:

(a) That the Government's Throne Speech fails to acknowledge that provinces, nations and civilizations rise and fall on the strength or weakness of their economies; and

(b) That the Speech fails to recognize that a strong economy is a pre-requisite for a united province that offers safe communities, effective healthcare, first class education systems, leading-edge environmental protection, healthy families and communities and the safety net programs that protect our seniors, the poor and the vulnerable; and

(c) That the Speech fails to take into account that for the past nine years, and particularly since the brief downturn that followed the 9/11 terror attacks, the government has failed to do enough to build Manitoba's economy and protect its finances; and

(d) That those failures and missed opportunities include the catastrophically wasteful directive to Manitoba Hydro to waste a minimum of \$640 million (or \$535 for every man, woman and child in Manitoba) on the longer, less reliable, less green west side transmission corridor and the self-serving Bill 37 "vote tax", which will take \$1 million from taxpayers over four years and put it in the pocket of the New Democratic Party;

(e) That as a result of the Government's failure to apply the record revenue increases it has enjoyed over the past nine years to more aggressively pay down debt, Manitoba's total debt has gone up when it should have gone down, and our total debt, including crown corporations, is now approaching \$20 billion, or \$16,600 for every man, woman and child in Manitoba; and

(f) That as a further consequence of the Government's failure to fix our financial roof while the sun was shining, the fiscal stabilization fund, our savings account, has only \$670,215,000 available for general purposes, which is a mere \$559 for every man, woman and child in Manitoba. By contrast, Saskatchewan now has almost \$2 billion in deposits, triple the protection that is available to Manitobans; and

(g) That as a result of the Government's failures and missed opportunities, the total debt is now 30 times higher than the balance in our savings account ; and

(h) That as a result of the Government's failure to build our economic engine during good times, Manitoba now relies on transfer and equalization to the tune of 37% of our income, which has increased from the 1999 level of dependency of 28%. This has created an unacceptable level of risk and vulnerability for Manitoba's finances as the sources of those transfers – provinces like Alberta, B.C., Saskatchewan, Ontario and Newfoundland - experience their own economic challenges; and

(i) That as a result of the cumulative effect of nine years of failure, drift and poor to mediocre results, Manitoba enters this new and uncertain phase in our history with a balanced and diverse economy that is burdened by provincial finances that are limited by new debt and new dependency; and

(j) That Manitobans expected, and deserve, a Throne Speech that would set out a vision for the economy of the future, building on traditional areas of strength such as agriculture, food sciences, aerospace, mining and transportation and also daring to envision new opportunities in manufacturing, clean energy research and development and modern transportation built on clean electricity, all of which could flourish around a new, state-of-the-art Inland Port, which has been tepidly endorsed and reluctantly advanced by the Government; and

(k) That Manitobans expected, and deserve, a Throne Speech that strongly addressed their current fears and anxieties about the security of their pensions in this post-Crocus environment and the security of their jobs in the context of a global downturn, but instead received vague and unconvincing assurances that everything will be fine; and

(l) That Manitobans expected, and deserved, a Throne Speech that painted a clear picture of the economy of 2012 and beyond, and an energetic plan to get us to the new Manitoba, but instead received a reheated serving of old and as yet unfulfilled promises; and

(m) That the Official Opposition asked for a plan, with clear priorities and a commitment to better results, but instead received a spending list with no sense as whether the spending promises - advertised as a bridge over troubled economic waters – was bridge to somewhere, or a bridge to nowhere; and

(n) The Speech failed to set out a vision for growth that would ensure that current spending would be paid for by new growth, as opposed to what the Government is offering, which is more debt, lower savings and diminished hope;

(o) The Speech contains many positive steps unrelated to the economy, such as protecting children from second-hand smoke and more promises related to the environment, which are commendable goals that, are shared by the Official Opposition. However, the failure to address the overarching issue of our time - our economic security - means that the Official Opposition will support many of the specific initiatives in the Speech while not endorsing the Speech itself; and

(p) The ongoing failure on the part of the Premier and Government Ministers to accept responsibility for systemic failures and broken promises in Healthcare, Child and Family Services, Public Safety and the Economy leaves Manitobans with little confidence that the newest round of promises and announcements will be fulfilled with any better results than promises of the past such as hallway medicine, fixing Child and Family Services, the collapsed Maple Leaf Distillers and Ainsworth Lumber deals and the others in the growing litany of failures; and

(q) The Speech failed to paint a picture of a better future based on the shared commitment and energy of our diverse population of First Nations and Metis peoples and the succeeding waves of immigrants who have built our province together. Furthermore, the Speech failed to address the specific issues and concerns of new immigrants, as well as our First Nations and Metis people. They, and all Manitobans, have been let down by a Government who has again announced hundreds of millions in new spending in order to get short-term headlines, rather than summon our people to a higher purpose, a stronger province and a more hopeful future.

AND AS A CONSEQUENCE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS THEREBY lost the trust and confidence of the people of Manitoba and this House.

(Mr. BRIESE – 27 mins.)

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## **SECOND READINGS:**

Hon. Ms. WOWCHUK –

(No. 2) – The Animal Care Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur le soin des animaux  
(Recommended by His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor)

Hon. Mr. STRUTHERS –

(No. 3) – The Forest Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les forêts  
(Recommended by His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor)

Hon. Mr. ASHTON –

(No. 4) – The Community Revitalization Tax Increment Financing Act/Loi sur le financement fiscal de la revitalisation urbaine  
(Recommended by His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor)

Hon. Mr. LEMIEUX –

(No. 5) – The Highway Traffic Amendment Act (Promoting Safer and Healthier Conditions in Motor Vehicles)/Loi modifiant le Code de la route (promotion de la santé et de la sécurité dans les véhicules automobiles)

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# NOTICE PAPER

## NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR MONDAY NEXT:

Hon. Mr. STRUTHERS –

(No. 6) – The East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act/Loi sur l'aménagement des terres traditionnelles situées du côté est et les zones protégées spéciales

Hon. Mr. GERRARD –

(No. 230) – The Mental Health Bill of Rights/Déclaration des droits des personnes ayant une maladie mentale

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## NOTICE OF MOTION FOR TUESDAY NEXT:

### OPPOSITION DAY MOTION:

Mr. MCFADYEN –

WHEREAS Manitoba is a diverse and beautiful province whose citizens take tremendous pride in its history, its culture and its plentiful natural attractions; and

WHEREAS Manitobans have watched their neighbours in other provinces enjoy prosperity and security as a result of those provinces' prudent financial practices and their strong efforts to help their businesses and industries thrive and be globally competitive; and

WHEREAS regrettably over the last nine years Manitoba has failed to fulfill its potential thanks to this government's ongoing failure to articulate a long-term vision aimed at making Manitoba grow and prosper; and

WHEREAS this Provincial Government's time in power can be characterized as one of missed opportunities and the failure to build Manitoba's economy and protect its finances; and

WHEREAS while Manitoba remains the only "have not" province in western Canada, the Provincial Government continues to act like a "will not" government; and

WHEREAS despite receiving unprecedented levels of funding from the Federal Government over the past nine years, the Provincial Government has not moved aggressively to pay down debt; and

WHEREAS at a time when Manitobans would like to see the province's finances improving, the province's total debt has grown to nearly \$20 billion, including crown corporations, representing \$16,600 for each person in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's total debt is now 30 times higher than the balance of the Manitoba's saving's account, the fiscal stabilization fund, due to the Provincial Government's poor planning and inaction;

WHEREAS as a result of the Provincial Government's failure to plan for these tough economic times, Manitoba's savings account only has \$670 million unallocated and available for use to support government services for Manitobans; and

WHEREAS according to the Conference Board of Canada consumer confidence in Manitoba is at an all time low; and

WHEREAS the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development is predicting the worst recession since the 1980s which it predicts will lead to growing unemployment in Canada; and

WHEREAS Manitoba experienced the lowest private sector employment growth in Canada from 2003 to 2007 and remains uncompetitive in attracting and growing business; and

WHEREAS single taxpayers in Manitoba without children start paying taxes sooner in Manitoba than in any other jurisdiction in Canada and Manitobans continue to pay the highest income taxes west of Quebec; and

WHEREAS Manitobans are still waiting for the Provincial Government to provide them with an economic update akin to the updates provided in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, an update that tells them about the state of the Province's finances today, and, just as importantly, how the Provincial Government plans to deal with the coming financial storm;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider acknowledging that under its stewardship, Manitoba has failed to fulfill its potential over the last nine years; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider releasing an economic plan for the Province that reassures Manitobans that they have a plan to deal with the immediate economic crisis as well as a long term economic vision for the province that will make us competitive with our western neighbours.

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**NOTICE OF MOTION FOR THURSDAY NEXT:**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION:**

**Mr. BOROTSIK – Making Manitoba a “Have” Province**

1. WHEREAS Manitoba is now the only “have not” province in Western Canada; and

WHEREAS Manitoba is not immune to the negative effects of a global financial crisis rooted in the mismanagement of financial resources; and

WHEREAS a strong indicator of a jurisdiction's prudence and accountability is the Provincial Government's ability to live within its means and balance its operating budget; and

WHEREAS this Provincial Government has passed legislation that allows it to run operating budget deficits without consequence; and

WHEREAS for Manitoba to move from "have not" to "have" status will require a positive business environment for entrepreneurs and business owners; and

WHEREAS this Provincial Government, in a global economic crisis, has passed legislation that has created a climate of fear and uncertainty among many family farmers, investors, entrepreneurs and workers; and

WHEREAS many Manitobans are exercising financial restraint during this period of economic downturn; and

WHEREAS this Provincial Government passed legislation that directs taxpayer revenue to the New Democratic Party of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS a bold and innovative vision is needed to take Manitoba from "have not" to "have" status, and no such vision is evident in any of this government's Throne Speeches or budgets; and

WHEREAS this Provincial Government has instilled neither spirit nor energy in developing a long term vision for Manitoba's future as a "have" province; and

WHEREAS receiving money from external and fluctuating sources of revenue is neither prudent nor visionary; and

WHEREAS Manitoba has become significantly more dependent on equalization payments from the Federal Government; and

WHEREAS Manitoba is currently receiving an unprecedented amount of equalization payments from the Federal Government; and

WHEREAS Manitobans are weary from the dependence on our neighbors that has grown under this Provincial Government and want to see Manitoba become economic leader in Canada.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider acknowledging that being a "have not" province is not acceptable and that is not in the best interests of the Province of Manitoba; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider - after being in government for nine years - accepting the challenge to making Manitoba a "have province".