

Fifth Session – Forty-Second Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba
DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
Official Report
(Hansard)

*Published under the
authority of
The Honourable Myrna Driedger
Speaker*

Vol. LXXVII No. 1 - 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 15, 2022

ISSN 0542-5492

MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Forty-Second Legislature

Member	Constituency	Political Affiliation
ALTomARE, Nello	Transcona	NDP
ASAGWARA, Uzoma	Union Station	NDP
BRAR, Diljeet	Burrows	NDP
BUSHIE, Ian	Keewatinook	NDP
CLARKE, Eileen, Hon.	Agassiz	PC
COX, Cathy	Kildonan-River East	PC
CULLEN, Cliff, Hon.	Spruce Woods	PC
DRIEDGER, Myrna, Hon.	Roblin	PC
EICHLER, Ralph	Lakeside	PC
EWASKO, Wayne, Hon.	Lac du Bonnet	PC
FONTAINE, Nahanni	St. Johns	NDP
FRIESEN, Cameron, Hon.	Morden-Winkler	PC
GERRARD, Jon, Hon.	River Heights	Lib.
GOERTZEN, Kelvin, Hon.	Steinbach	PC
GORDON, Audrey, Hon.	Southdale	PC
GUENTER, Josh	Borderland	PC
GUILLEMARD, Sarah, Hon.	Fort Richmond	PC
HELWER, Reg, Hon.	Brandon West	PC
ISLEIFSON, Len	Brandon East	PC
JOHNSON, Derek, Hon.	Interlake-Gimli	PC
JOHNSTON, Scott, Hon.	Assiniboia	PC
KHAN, Obby	Fort Whyte	PC
KINEW, Wab	Fort Rouge	NDP
LAGASSÉ, Bob	Dawson Trail	PC
LAGIMODIERE, Alan, Hon.	Selkirk	PC
LAMONT, Dougald	St. Boniface	Lib.
LAMOUREUX, Cindy	Tyndall Park	Lib.
LATHLIN, Amanda	The Pas-Kameesak	NDP
LINDSEY, Tom	Flin Flon	NDP
MALOWAY, Jim	Elmwood	NDP
MARCELINO, Malaya	Notre Dame	NDP
MARTIN, Shannon	McPhillips	PC
MICHALESKI, Brad	Dauphin	PC
MICKLEFIELD, Andrew	Rossmere	PC
MORLEY-LECOMTE, Janice	Seine River	PC
MOSES, Jamie	St. Vital	NDP
NAYLOR, Lisa	Wolseley	NDP
NESBITT, Greg, Hon.	Riding Mountain	PC
PEDERSEN, Blaine	Midland	PC
PIWNIUK, Doyle, Hon.	Turtle Mountain	PC
REDHEAD, Eric	Thompson	NDP
REYES, Jon, Hon.	Waverley	PC
SALA, Adrien	St. James	NDP
SANDHU, Mintu	The Maples	NDP
SCHULER, Ron	Springfield-Ritchot	PC
SMITH, Andrew, Hon.	Lagimodière	PC
SMITH, Bernadette	Point Douglas	NDP
SMOOK, Dennis	La Vérendrye	PC
SQUIRES, Rochelle, Hon.	Riel	PC
STEFANSON, Heather, Hon.	Tuxedo	PC
TEITSMA, James	Radisson	PC
WASYLIW, Mark	Fort Garry	NDP
WHARTON, Jeff, Hon.	Red River North	PC
WIEBE, Matt	Concordia	NDP
WISHART, Ian	Portage la Prairie	PC
WOWCHUK, Rick	Swan River	PC
<i>Vacant</i>	Kirkfield Park	

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

At 1:30 p.m. the Sergeant-at-Arms, carrying the mace and followed by the Speaker, the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, entered the Chamber.

The Sergeant-at-Arms proceeded to the southeast door and met Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor with the mace.

Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms (Mr. Cam Steel): Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor.

The Drummer drummed as Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor, accompanied by the honorary aide-de-camp, the Premier and the Acting Chief Justice, entered the Chamber and took her seat on the throne.

The Sergeant-at-Arms made obeisance with the mace and retired to the side of the Chamber.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Hon. Anita R. Neville (Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Manitoba): Please be seated.

Madam Speaker and members of the Manitoba Legislature, we are gathered on Treaty 1 territory and acknowledge that Manitoba is located on the treaty territories and ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Ojibwe-Cree, Inuit, Dakota and Dene peoples. Manitoba is located on the Homeland of the Red River Métis, and we acknowledge that northern Manitoba includes lands that were and are the ancestral lands of the Inuit.

As Manitoba's 26th Lieutenant Governor, I welcome you to the Fifth Session of the 42nd Legislative Assembly of the Province of Manitoba.

We express our sincerest sadness on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Her Majesty's unparalleled, lifelong commitment to service and duty throughout the Commonwealth is truly an inspiration to us in this Chamber, in our public service and in our communities.

We welcome the ascension of King Charles III to the throne and acknowledge the role of the Crown in Manitoba's history and constitution. From his first official visit in 1970 to his most recent in 2014 when he was present in this Chamber, His Majesty has had a special relationship with this province. The Crown

underpins our constitutional relationships with the federal and provincial governments and Indigenous communities. It is a reminder to government that our power to govern rests elsewhere and it is entrusted to elected governments to exercise on behalf of, and in the interests of, the people.

I also express sincere gratitude to the Honourable Janice Filmon for serving as Manitoba's 25th Lieutenant Governor. She served Manitoba with dignity and with grace.

Today, Manitoba is at a crossroads with tremendous potential ahead as we continue these early days of moving beyond the pandemic. Signs of recovery surround us as Manitobans literally step out into the world once again with a renewed sense of hope and of optimism, but significant challenges remain as Manitobans carry the burden of high inflation and cost of living increases, making it difficult for so many to make ends meet.

Our government's role is to be a help to Manitobans with measures like our affordability package, to help families and seniors most in need, with tax relief measures for everyone and with supports for small-business communities.

Our government's role is also to fight to help our health-care community heal with innovative programs and initiatives to shorten wait times for surgical and diagnostic services and supports that rebuild, retain and retrain our network of front-line health-care professionals, who continue to suffer the most.

* (13:40)

Our government also thinks of our young people and our seniors and the tremendous burden they carried through the pandemic. Walking alongside them, we will continue to strengthen and expand services in mental health and addictions to ensure that, as a community and as a province, we recover together.

Left behind are the vestiges of human suffering that we experience every day in a violent crime rate that is escalating and must be arrested. Working in partnership with so many community organizations dedicated to our sense of safety, our government has said enough is enough as it introduces tough new measures to support police while addressing on a—in a

significant way the root causes, including poverty and homelessness.

Together, we have faced with what historians will no doubt call the greatest challenge in generations. It has been an easy path for no one, but our government will continue to tackle all challenges with a renewed sense of vigour. We will not give up fighting to right our great province for the benefit of our children and seniors, our doctors and nurses and teachers, our business community, and every citizen who calls this great province home.

A year ago, my predecessor laid out our government's vision and priorities for the remaining years of its current mandate. These priorities include a focus on reducing surgical and diagnostic backlogs, promoting economic recovery, improving our competitiveness to attract more investment, addressing labour supply needs and investing in infrastructure and communities and significant efforts towards reconciliation.

Des progrès ont été réalisés, mais il reste beaucoup à faire.

Translation

Progress has been made but much more needs to be done.

English

In the coming year, we will commit to helping make our communities safer, helping families make ends meet, strengthening health care and reducing surgical and diagnostic backlogs, helping make Manitoba more competitive, helping protect our environment, climate and parks, helping build stronger communities and advancing of reconciliation.

Our government will continue to listen to and work with Manitobans to accomplish our shared goals.

Helping Make Our Communities Safer

Throughout our province, communities are confronted with unprecedented concerns over violent crimes and public safety.

Our government will continue to work 'collabority' with all police agencies, alongside all levels of government to ensure the resources needed to make our communities safer are available and investments are made strategically and focused on protecting our citizens.

Our government will continue to tackle the underlying issues of homelessness, addictions and mental health by providing increased supports for front-line

law enforcement officers through technology, specialized training, increased police presence and support for more officers. These measures will provide the tools and staffing necessary to deal with those who have resisted help, preyed on others and chosen a life outside the law.

Our government understands that without addressing the root causes of crime, we will not succeed in ensuring families across the province feel safe. Manitobans experiencing homelessness deserve a safe place. For this first time in more than two decades, our government properly addressed the funding and moderation of our shelters with a recent announcement of a \$15-million investment.

Early next year, as part of Manitoba's first-ever homelessness strategy, we will include funding for non-profit organizations who partner with us so that they can provide enhanced and sustainable services. Our recent investments of \$1.7 million in N'Dinawemak's 24-7 shelter ensures that those in need have a safe, warm place to spend the night.

Violence against women and girls, and incidence of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, continues to be a priority for our government. The first progress report and update to the gender-based violence framework will be released in the coming months.

Our government is not only putting additional funding into homelessness initiatives, but we will contribute additional funding to help police deal with serious street crime, gang and organized crime prosecutions. Over the next number of months, in collaboration with front-line officers, other levels of government and key stakeholders, my government will continue to strive toward providing a greater sense of safety, whether you are going downtown to work, to sporting events or to a family outing.

We recently announced that—more than \$3.2 million to invest in an intensive bail supervision and high-risk warrant units to ensure the most violent criminals do not remain on the streets. This will be properly monitored upon release to decrease the instance of repeat offence. This will help us find and apprehend the most violent criminals responsible for committing the most heinous crimes in our communities.

The Downtown Community Safety Partnership is making strides in creating a safer city centre. Earlier this month, we extended funding to the D-C-P-S-P with a \$3.6-million grant.

Working with our community partners, a renewed and enhanced camera network system will provide even more eyes on the ground to make downtown safer for everyone.

Crimes targeting children are of the utmost concern to our government. To stop those preying on our children, we will increase funding that targets gang activities and child exploitations.

Helping Families Make Ends Meet

We know that in Manitoba and across this country, families and individuals are grappling with the rising cost of living. Everything from gas to groceries is getting more expensive as a direct result of rising inflation and the federal carbon tax.

Our government has and will continue to listen to the needs of Manitobans.

We have heard, we have acted and we will continue to fight to help families make ends meet.

Earlier this year, we introduced new taxation measures, as well as the \$87-million Family Affordability Package to help families with children, seniors living on a fixed income and vulnerable Manitobans.

We have also established two refundable tax credits in relation to the new affordability payments for families with children and low cost–low-income seniors. Families with children under the age of 18 with a household income of under \$175,000 receive Family Affordability cheques of \$250 for the first child, plus \$200 for each additional child. This means an average Manitoba family with two children will receive a \$450 cheque in their mailbox. And, seniors will receive a \$300 Seniors Affordability Cheque.

Nous sommes convaincus que cela aidera à alléger le coût de la vie, en particulier pour les personnes qui en ont le plus besoin.

Translation

We are confident this will help ease the cost of living, especially for those who need it most.

English

In recent months, our government also moved to raise the minimum wage. And it will reach \$15 per hour in October 2023.

In 2023, the Education Property Tax Rebate will provide even further assistance with an increase for residential and farm properties to 50 per cent from the 37.5 per cent in 2022, increasing the average

rebate for a homeowner to \$774 in 2023 from \$581 this year.

* (13:50)

Manitoba Public Insurance has issued rebates, averaging \$700 over the last two years, and we will continue to do even more as we strive to help to make life more affordable for all Manitobans, with a pledge to look at new supports as they are needed. And we head into the winter and the holiday season, our government is particularly mindful of additional cost pressures and will stand with all Manitobans.

Our government values Manitoba Hydro, the resource it is for Manitobans and the key driver it is for our economy.

Manitoba Hydro has been historically mismanaged by previous governments. Significant increases to funding for the Public Utilities Board will strengthen its ability to fulfill its independent regulator role, reviewing rate applications and acting in the best interests of Manitoba ratepayers.

Our government will financially stabilize Manitoba Hydro as a Crown corporation. We have taken actions before and we will take even more action in the months to come. Our actions will secure Hydro's future. We will lead in providing clean hydroelectric power for Manitobans and their businesses among the lowest rates in the country for years to come.

Additional announcements will be made in the weeks ahead as we work to ensure hydro continues to be affordable for Manitoba ratepayers.

Strengthening Health Care

Manitobans deserve consistent, accessible health care, and it is time for Manitobans to stop waiting for the care they deserve. We are solution-focused and open to innovation and new ideas, especially from health-care practitioners. Our focus on putting patients first will ensure the changes we make today will benefit Manitobans today, and for decades to come.

Partnerships are integral to finding solutions, and we will be pursued when they benefit all Manitobans. Other provinces have demonstrated that a blended public-private delivery system works. We will continue to secure partnerships to ensure we explore any and all avenues to get Manitobans the help they need now. Fundamentally, Canada needs to invest in people and facilities.

This year, our Premier (Mrs. Stefanson) chairs the Council of the Federation. It is notable that the

council, made up of all Canadian premiers, is calling upon the federal government to restore our fair share of health-care funding. Federal contributions are now less than half of what they were when Canada's public health system was first implemented. Provinces alone cannot fund all the investments needed in health care, nor should we. Our government will continue to fight for our fair share of federal funding for health care.

Like all other Canadian provinces, Manitoba is facing a shortage of trained health-care professionals. Last year, we committed to establishing 400 new nurse training seats within the province, but we are prepared to do so much more. As recently announced, we will add 2,000 more professionals to our health-care system through our aggressive, \$200-million, multi-year health human resources action plan. Manitobans have been seeking a comprehensive human resource plan and, in this initiative, we will focus on recruiting, retaining and retraining professionals in an environment that is anchored in respect.

Our investment of \$110 million in the Surgical and Diagnostic Task Force is making noticeable progress addressing backlogs with innovative ideas. Cataract surgery case backlogs have dropped dramatically from 1,200 cases in February to 116 cases in August of this past year. As well, the number of backlogged orthopedic total hip and knee replacements has fallen from a hundred and—or, 1,557 in February to 1,140 in August.

We know that much more needs to be done, and we are prepared to take the bold steps necessary to further reduce wait times for Manitobans in need of care.

Modern health facilities are a critical part of a strong health-care system, which is why we continue to build. Our initial \$812-million commitment outside of Winnipeg includes new hospitals for Neepawa and Portage la Prairie, in addition to other health-care facility enhancement projects in Brandon, Steinbach, Dauphin, Selkirk, Ashern and Winkler.

Today, our government is making an even greater commitment with a multi-year, multi-billion-dollar capital investment in our hospitals. This unprecedented investment in Winnipeg hospitals will ensure Manitobans get the best care possible in the most modern of facilities.

Across Canada, many seniors suffered horribly through the pandemic. To better protect and safeguard them, we are committed to further improving our long-term-care homes as a demonstration of care,

concern and respect to the generations who have committed so much to Manitobans.

Like never before, the demand for mental health services and treatment for addictions is on the rise nation-wide, making timely access increasingly difficult. Since 2019, we have invested a record \$58 million in innovative programs to increase and improve mental health and addictions services across the province.

To ensure everyone seeking treatment is given an opportunity to be healthy, our government is making a significant investment to increase and support up to 1,000 treatment spaces. Care that is recovery-oriented helps reduce deaths, which is why we must continue to invest in saving the lives of so many precious family members.

Child and youth suicide is a national crisis requiring strong federal leadership. No family and no community should suffer from the needless loss of life. Suicide crises are most acute when—within Indigenous communities. Building on our existing five-year road map for mental health, we will complete and implement a provincially co-ordinated strategy for suicide prevention, focusing on youth and at-risk communities.

Our government is committed to collaborating with Indigenous communities and the federal government to bolster regional health care and mental health and addictions services.

Education

The hallmark of a successful education system is one which provides a strong, cohesive continuum of learning from childhood to adulthood in safe, secure environments. Transformational investments in child care, education and advanced education are critical to preparing young Manitobans for their future.

To address the need for affordable and accessible high-quality early-childhood education, especially in rural communities, we are investing up to \$70 million to fund up to 17 new facilities, to create more than 1,200 new spaces. To strengthen the sector and encourage more individuals to pursue a career in early-childhood education, an increase to operating grants is planned for early in the new year to support increased wages. As the workforce grows, more investments will be made to add more spaces.

Our Province is also making unprecedented investments in K-to-12 education. We are on track to deliver on the \$1.6-billion, four-year funding guarantee,

with over \$1.3 billion invested in the first three years, including more than \$460 million for 2022-23.

We will be creating both a teacher registry and an independent body to improve accountability and transparency related to educator misconduct in the K-to-12 schools. Our government will continue to work with community agencies, policing services and departmental—and department stakeholders to prevent child exploitation, be it online or in schools.

* (14:00)

Growing the workforce is a priority and Manitoba's supporting investments in adult and continuing and post-second education are on track.

It is essential that we strengthen our collaboration with post-secondary institutions and businesses to identify skills and labour needs and respond to the training, research and development needs of Manitoba businesses, including the manufacturing sector.

Our government is considering all post-secondary education proposals that will help address labour shortages and foster economic growth.

Government is also taking a close look at ensuring equitable funding across post-secondary education—institutions.

Our government will work with colleges to refine their College Growth Proposal to address labour and skills shortages.

Earning micro-credentials is becoming increasingly important, and our colleges are adapting programs to serve students, employees and businesses.

A comprehensive review to inform the development of an adult education strategic plan is under way on how best to retrain Manitobans to address high demand, well-paying trades in our province.

Promoting skilled trades as a strong career path will help Manitoba build and support a skilled, diverse workforce.

A new income support program to address the unique needs of people with severe and prolonged disabilities will be launched next spring.

And, the journey to independence fund will be introduced to help Manitobans for better job prospects and community participation.

Making Manitoba More Competitive

Manitoba's workforce is projected to grow by 3.7 per cent by 2026.

Nearly a third of job openings over the next five years are expected to be new jobs created by economic growth, and six out of ten will require post-secondary education.

The Conference Board of Canada shows Manitoba's real economic growth will rise again this year, although inflation and higher interest rates may impact that growth.

To make us more competitive, our government has and will continue to make strategic investments in venture capital and infrastructure to position our province to capitalize on developing global economic growth opportunities in green energy, digital services, sustainable agriculture, manufacturing and critical minerals.

Earlier this year, we announced a \$50-million investment into Manitoba Venture Capital Fund. As Manitoba companies use the fund to grow from within or choose to locate in Manitoba, our government will make further investments to ensure the financing required at all growth stages of a company are available and in place. Already, this initial investment has generated more than \$100 million in private sector interest.

The Communities Economic Development Fund supports northern economic development by providing a reliable source of capital for northern business development. The fund will soon reopen its business loan program to support key sectors of a growing northern economy and help fill financing gaps for Manitoba businesses.

Manitoba is in a unique position economically, with gateways to trade in the North, the south, the east and the west.

Our vision and strategy is to build on our multi-modal transportation hub and trade gateways, to forge a more prosperous future for all Manitobans.

La création d'une province plus compétitive nous permettra de croître pendant que nous résistons à la tempête économique.

Translation

Helping to create a more competitive province will allow us to get growing while we are weathering the economic storm.

English

Investments will strengthen and complement existing projects, including the Winnipeg Perimeter freeway initiative, the CentrePort rail park, and the

Hudson Bayl [*phonetic*] rail line and completing the twinning of the Trans-Canada Highway to the Ontario border.

Accelerated investments in these key trade corridors will maximize our trade capacity. A recent \$40-million commitment to CentrePort will stimulate high-paying jobs essential to economic growth.

We will continue to work with the City of Winnipeg as they develop their transportation master plan.

Northern Manitoba's success is essential to our province's long-term economic sustainability. The recent announcement of \$74 million in the Hudson Bay rail line will guarantee continued service to remote communities and will attract increased investment in the Port of Churchill. The dividends flowing from these northern critical infrastructure investments will be in the form of new jobs.

In this tumultuous time, people, companies and investors are recognizing that Manitoba is the answer to many of the world's problems. The world has discovered that the combination of Manitoba's critical mineral and strategic resources, our affordable, reliable, renewable energy and our highly skilled workforce will be key to creating the materials and products that will drive the world's energy transition. This is best illustrated by the record investment by local companies—by global companies—I'm sorry—in mineral exploration in Manitoba last year. We are regaining our reputation as leading mining jurisdiction.

While the world grapples with food insecurity caused by Russia's aggression, Manitoba's agricultural industries have rebounded to record yields, helping feed and drive economic growth.

And soon products and resources from across the West will reach markets around the world using western Canada's northern transportation corridor. From the Rockies to Hudson Bay, Manitoba will lead the development of the northern trade corridor.

Manitoba is also experiencing 'unprecid' interest from global manufacturing businesses seeking to shorten their supply chains and reduce the carbon intensity of their products. With assets like CentrePort, our affordable, clean energy advantage and our unique multimodal transportation infrastructure, Manitoba has the answer for the world's manufacturing and supply chain challenges.

As part of our mineral strategy, our government will incent capital investment to process Manitoba's critical minerals right here in Manitoba.

The Manitoba Protein Advantage strategy will make Manitoba an even greater standout in protein industry development, with more investment and more jobs. We have seen historic investment in key protein processing facilities in recent years, and our government will continue to focus on attracting world-leading industry partners.

To help ranchers recover from climate change-driven droughts and floods, a temporary rent reduction on agricultural Crown lands will be provided in 2023 to 2025. These rent reductions will provide almost \$4 million in support.

To contribute to our economic competitiveness, red tape reduction through regulation reform and modernization continues.

Economic reconciliation, key to building a stronger province for everyone, will continue with Indigenous peoples by removing barriers to full participation in Manitoba's economy, ensuring access to education and training and revenue sharing.

Manitoba's film and television production industry is experiencing significant growth, attributable to the Manitoba Film and Video Production Tax Credit. The industry is worth almost \$400 million, and it can reach half a billion dollars. To get there, we require more film crews and more investment in training Manitobans, building on the new regular direct air access to Los Angeles.

Helping Protect Our Environment, Climate and Parks

Advancing economic activity and job creation are key to our province's future, and so is environmental protection and conservation.

* (14:10)

Our government made substantial investments in water management, conservation and protection, and more will follow. Water is our most valuable resource, and every drop counts.

To secure Manitoba's water future and advance our environmental, economic and community priorities, the action plan for our recently announced water strategy framework will be released by spring 2023. A thorough review of all water legislation to guide our water management will be initiated.

Manitobans value their provincial parks, and a capital plan for major investment in our parks will be announced. A trails strategy and action plan to enhance and support a high-quality network of accessible trails will soon be announced. It will create a path forward, providing health, social and economic benefits for trail users in communities across the province.

We will revitalize our Conservation Officer Service, the largest—the third largest peace officer force in Manitoba, by hiring more officers and outfitting them with better equipment and technology to combat dangerous activities such as poaching, night hunting and road hunting. This investment in both the tools and the people will ensure safety in our parks, in our forests, on our lakes and in our fields.

Our government will continue with significant investments to achieve critical environmental goals, such as the \$167-million investment in the second phase upgrade to the North End Sewage Treatment Plant.

Manitoba continues to pursue further emissions reductions across all sectors of the economy, and we will do our share to help Canada meet its international obligations. Our comprehensive provincial adaptation strategy will reduce the impact of extreme climate events such as floods, droughts, wildfires and more.

Working with stakeholders, we will modernize the waste diversion and recycling framework to divert more materials from our landfills and create new business and job opportunities within a circular economy.

Helping Build Stronger Communities

Investments in our communities, recreation, arts and culture, and newcomers to our province creates prosperity and a good quality of life.

Many organizations face reduced revenues and fundraising challenges. The Arts, Culture and Sport in Community Fund will invest \$100 million in communities to maintain and strengthen the programs and facilities that are an important part of this place that we call home. Notably, the first year's allocation will be fully subscribed.

Public libraries are important institutions within our communities, and we will continue to strengthen our public library systems with increased funding.

Every region of the province benefits from the tourism 'revenue' and jobs. Updated forecasts predict Manitoba tourism revenues to return to 2019 levels in 2023, a year earlier than originally estimated.

L'immigration est un élément clé de notre plan d'approvisionnement en main-d'œuvre.

Translation

Immigration is a key component of our labour supply plan.

English

Throughout our history as a province, Manitoba has been a destination for those fleeing conflicts around the world, seeking peace and the opportunity for a better life for their families. Manitoba continues to welcome and support newcomers to our province. Last year, we welcomed more than 1,600 newcomers to this province and this year, in a little over six months, the welcoming and generous spirit of Manitoba was exemplified by how we united as a community to welcome more than 12,000 people fleeing the brutal and unjust war in Ukraine.

We are the gold standard across Canada for welcoming refugees from Ukraine. This demonstrates, once again, that when we work together, we win together.

The final report of Manitoba's Immigration Advisory Council will be delivered soon, with recommendations to enhance the success of Manitoba's Provincial Nominee Program.

Our renewed Canada-Manitoba Immigration Agreement will ensure our province is able to attract potential immigrants based on provincial economic priorities, while collaborating on the settlement and integration of newcomers.

To conclude, we have outlined our plan for the upcoming year.

We will help make our communities safer. We will help families make ends meet. We will strengthen our health care and reduce wait times. We will make Manitoba more competitive. We will protect our environment, climate and parks. We will help build stronger communities.

Estimates for the requirements for the public services of the province for the next fiscal year, and the Public Accounts for the last fiscal year, will be placed before you for your consideration.

I leave you now to the faithful performance of your many duties and trust that, in meeting them, you may have the guidance of Divine Providence in all your deliberations.

I wish hope and opportunity for all Manitobans.

God bless Canada, and God save the King.

Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor rose from the throne and retired from the Chamber escorted by the Sergeant-at-Arms carrying the mace and followed by the honorary aide-de-camp, the Premier and the Acting Chief Justice.

Prior to their exiting the Chamber, God Save the King and O Canada were sung.

The Speaker proceeded to the throne.

The Sergeant-at-Arms approached the Speaker, made obeisance with the mace, then placed the mace on the table.

* (14:20)

Madam Speaker: O Eternal and Almighty God, from Whom all power and wisdom come, we are assembled here before Thee to frame such laws as may tend to the welfare and prosperity of our province. Grant, O merciful God, we pray Thee, that we may desire only that which is in accordance with Thy will, that we may seek it with wisdom and know it with certainty and accomplish it perfectly for the glory and honour of Thy name and for the welfare of all our people. Amen.

We acknowledge we are gathered on Treaty 1 territory and that Manitoba is located on the treaty territories and ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg, Anishinewuk, Dakota Oyate, Denesuline and Nehethowuk nations. We acknowledge Manitoba is located on the Homeland of the Red River Métis. We acknowledge northern Manitoba includes lands that were and are the ancestral lands of the Inuit. We respect the spirit and intent of treaties and treaty making and remain committed to working in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in the spirit of truth, reconciliation and collaboration.

Good afternoon, everybody. Welcome, and please be seated.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill 1—An Act Respecting the Administration of Oaths of Office

Hon. Heather Stefanson (Premier): Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Friesen),

that Bill 1, An Act Respecting the Administration of Oaths of Office; Loi sur la prestation des serments d'entrée en fonction, be now read a first time.

Motion presented.

Madam Speaker: The Honourable First Minister.

Mrs. Stefanson: Madam Speaker—[interjection]

Madam Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion? [Agreed]

* * *

Mrs. Stefanson: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Economic Development, Investment and Trade (Mr. Cullen), that the speech of Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor be taken into consideration tomorrow.

Motion agreed to.

Mrs. Stefanson: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Education, that this House do now adjourn.

Madam Speaker: Before putting the question to the House, I would like to invite everybody to a reception that is being held just down the hall in one of our committee rooms. It is open to everybody that is here today, and it's a great chance for us to, once again, for the first time in a long time, be able to gather here for such an auspicious occasion.

And, you know, in a province, the Throne Speech is very significant. We're grateful that all of you made it here and we hope that you will stay and enjoy refreshments with all of us just down the hall.

So, it has been moved by the Honourable First Minister, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Education, that this House do now adjourn.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion? [Agreed]

The House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

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<http://www.manitoba.ca/legislature/hansard/hansard.html>