



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 4

FOURTH SESSION, THIRTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

PRAYER

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

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

(No. 4) – The Workplace Safety and Health Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la sécurité et l'hygiène du travail

(Hon. Ms. HOWARD)

(No. 200) – The Personal Information Protection and Identity Theft Prevention Act/Loi sur la protection des renseignements personnels et la prévention du vol d'identité

(Mrs. TAILLIEU)

(No. 204) – The Child and Family Services Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les services à l'enfant et à la famille

(Mrs. MITCHELSON)

(No. 205) – The Crown Appointment Review Act (Various Acts Amended)/Loi sur l'examen des nominations au sein des sociétés d'État (modification de diverses lois)

(Hon. Mr. GERRARD)

(No. 206) – The Waste Reduction and Prevention Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la réduction du volume et de la production des déchets

(Hon. Mr. GERRARD)

(No. 207) – The Tax Administration and Miscellaneous Taxes Amendment Act (Land Transfer Tax Exemption for First-Time Home Buyers)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'administration des impôts et des taxes et divers impôts et taxes (exemption relative à la taxe sur les mutations de biens-fonds lors de l'achat d'une première maison)

(Mr. BOROTSIK)

The following petitions were presented and read:

Mr. DYCK – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Minister of Health to ensure that patients who are awaiting placement in a personal care home are not moved to distant communities and to consider working with the RHA and the community to speed construction and expansion of long term care facilities in the region. (E. Marshall, O. Kunzelman, E. Vatzel and others)

Mr. SCHULER – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request that the Minister of Transportation consider the immediate twinning of the PTH #15 Floodway Bridge for the safety of the citizens of Manitoba. (A. Ruby, A. Killen, J. Schaap and others)

Mrs. DRIEDGER – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Minister of Health to consider rethinking her refusal to allow an ophthalmologist to practice in Swan River and to consider working with the community to provide this service without further delay. (J. Dushaek, H. Vanderschaaf, B. Minish and others)

Mr. BRIESE – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Minister of Health to consider prioritizing the needs of these communities by ensuring they have access to a family doctor and to consider promptly increasing the use of nurse practitioners in these communities in order to improve access to quality health care. (I. Hackewich, R. Hackewich, L. Shelestynski and others)

Mrs. STEFANSON – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request the Minister of Conservation to consider acknowledging that more timely action should have been taken to address the shortcomings with the lagoons in the Whiteshell Provincial Park in order to protect the environment and to consider immediately developing short and long-term strategies to address the shortcomings with lagoons in the Whiteshell Provincial Park and to consider implementing them as soon as possible. (B. Nitzsche, C. Jacobson, L. Jacobson and others)

Mr. LAMOUREUX – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Provincial Government to consider establishing a 90 day guarantee for processing an application for a minimum of 90% of applicants that have family living in Manitoba. (D. D. Eulalia., A. Flora, D. L. Pery and others)

During Oral Questions, Mr. Speaker interjected and requested that the words "ventriloquist from Kildonan" spoken by the Honourable Member for Fort Whyte be withdrawn.

WHEREUPON Mr. MCFADYEN withdrew his remarks.

Pursuant to Rule 26(1), Mr. CALDWELL, Mrs. MITCHELSON, Ms. BRICK, Mr. CULLEN and Ms. BLADY made Members' Statements.

Prior to Grievances, Mr. MCFADYEN rose on a Matter of Urgent Public Importance and moved:

THAT in accordance with Rule 36(1), the regularly scheduled business of the House be set aside to discuss a Matter of Urgent Public Importance, namely issues that have arisen regarding management of risk at Manitoba Hydro, particularly in light of the most recent rate increase application, and questions regarding spending by the utility.

And Mr. MCFADYEN, Hon. Mr. BLAIKIE and Hon. Mr. GERRARD (by leave) having spoken to the urgency of the motion,

WHEREUPON Mr. Speaker ruled as follows:

I thank the Honourable Members for their advice to the Chair on whether the motion proposed by the Honourable Member for Inkster should be debated today. The notice required by Rule 36(1) was provided. Under our Rules and Practices, the subject matter requiring urgent consideration must be so pressing that the public interest will suffer if the matter is not given immediate attention. There must also be no other reasonable opportunities to raise the matter.

I have listened very carefully to the arguments put forward, however I was not persuaded that the ordinary business of the house should be set aside to deal with this issue today. Although this is an issue that some Members may have a concern about, I do not believe that the public interest will be harmed if the business of the house is not set aside to debate the motion today.

Additionally, I would like to note that other avenues exist for Members to raise this issue, including Question Period, Members' Statements and the Throne Speech Debate.

Therefore, with the greatest of respect, I must rule that this matter does not meet the criteria set by our Rules and Precedents and I rule the motion out of order as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

The House resumed the Adjourned Debate on the Proposed Motion of Mr. WHITEHEAD:

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 Fourth Session of the Thirty-Ninth Legislature of Manitoba.

And the debate continuing,

And Mr. MCFADYEN having spoken,

And Mr. MCFADYEN moved an amendment 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 was long on problems, but short on solutions; and
- (b) That the speech failed to address the fact that Winnipeg is the country's murder capital, the child poverty capital, and Manitoba has the lowest GDP per capita in the west; and
- (c) That the speech fails to address the high taxes that Manitoba families already pay under the current NDP Government; however the PC Caucus does support some positive initiatives in the Throne Speech, including the NDP Government's decision to avoid increasing taxes by refusing to move to a harmonized sales tax in a manner that would add to the already high taxes that Manitobans pay; and

- (d) That the speech references fiscal restraint, and yet the NDP Government has failed to practice fiscal restraint and has increased the size of its cabinet, while at the same time closing the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba over the holiday season, and putting some of the most vulnerable Manitobans at risk; and
- (e) That the speech indicates that the NDP Government's plans to use the Rainy Day Fund to pay for justice and child protection costs, which are important services provided by the province, and something that should already have been factored into the budgeting process; and
- (f) That instead of using the last decade of general global economic prosperity to move our province forward, the NDP Government has squandered an opportunity to make Manitoba a Have Province, and has instead left a legacy of debt for Manitobans; and
- (g) That the speech reinforces the government's lack of understanding of Manitoba's agriculture sector, as evidenced by the absence of any new programs or services to help producers facing economic challenges brought on by factors such as: adverse weather conditions; trade-related matters such as BSE and Country of Origin Labelling; and, public policy decisions based on politics and not on sound science, such as Bill 17; and
- (h) That the speech continues this government's history of paying lip service to the needs of rural Manitoba, as evidenced by its ongoing failure to develop broad-based strategies aimed at cultivating growth and opportunities in our rural communities, the spin-off benefits of which are felt throughout the entire provincial economy; and
- (i) That the speech revisits the government's habit of making promises about its commitment to protecting the environment in areas such as restoring the health of Lake Winnipeg, the creation of new parks and protection areas, and recycling, yet as its track record has shown, it has proven woefully slow in translating such promises into meaningful and timely actions; and
- (j) That the speech failed to put forward a plan to provide timely access to health care for all Manitobans, to address the closure of 17 rural emergency rooms, to bring back more than 1500 doctors who have left Manitoba since the NDP Government took office, and to shorten long wait times that threaten the health and well being of all Manitobans; and
- (k) That this Government continually fails to acknowledge the challenges facing Manitoba seniors – such as the shortage of safe, affordable housing, the availability of assisted living spaces and other long-term care options, better caregiver supports, and Pharmacare deductibles, which have increased almost every year under this Government; and
- (l) That this speech is rife with previous announcements and old health care capital commitments - some as old as 2003 – with no time line or reassurance that these projects will ever get off the ground; and
- (m) That this speech fails to acknowledge the lack of accountability at many of Manitoba's Crown Corporations and fails to put an end to wasteful, costly projects like the NDP-directed west side Bipole line and the NDP Government's Enhanced Driver License initiative; and

- (n) That this speech fails to lay out a vision for Manitoba Hydro, and as such is ignoring an asset that Manitobans take pride in, particularly given the ability of our province to generate clean power in an era when clean energy is coveted by other jurisdictions; and
- (o) That this speech does not propose solutions to combat child poverty in our province, or to better protect children in care by reducing the caseloads of social workers; and
- (p) That this speech takes a few small steps in the right direction with the funding for a police helicopter that the PC Caucus advocated for, and a commitment to start tracking gang members and known drug dealers; however it doesn't go far enough, especially given the horrendous summer of crime we just experienced with innocent victims getting shot at weddings and people being lit on fire in their back yard.

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

WHEREUPON Mr. Speaker ruled the amendment in order.

And the debate continuing on the amendment,

And Mr. REID and Hon. Mr. GERRARD having spoken.

And Hon. Mr. GERRARD moved a sub-amendment as follows:

THAT the Amendment be amended by adding the following after clause (p):

But this House further regrets:

- (q) That the Government's Throne Speech failed to address the chronic shortage of child care workers who enter into the field of early childhood education and remain the industry long-term and how this shortage of qualified workers is negatively impacting access to child care for Manitoba families; and
- (r) That the Government's Throne Speech failed address the issue of spending of hundreds of millions of taxpayers' dollars to unnecessarily remove nitrogen from the City of Winnipeg's municipal sewage and how this money would have been better directed towards assisting municipalities remove phosphorus from municipal lagoons located outside of the City of Winnipeg; and
- (s) That this Throne Speech fails to identify that the prevention of diabetes and FASD are integral to the success and financial manageability of Manitoba's health care system; and
- (t) That this Throne Speech made no mention of the disaster declarations in the four Interlake municipalities of Bifrost, Fisher, Armstrong and Gimli and that the massive overland flooding that has occurred in the area has so negatively impacted area farmers and agricultural producers that many may not be able to continue farming and that the government has made no provision for emergency relief; and

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- (u) That this Throne Speech makes no mention of the extreme erosion that is occurring along the shores of Lake Winnipeg and that a major highway is only feet away from being washed out and isolating the community of Sagkeeng; and
- (v) That this Throne Speech makes no mention of the serious blue green algae problem at Killarney Lake and that the effects of this are negatively impacting the community on a social and economic level; and
- (w) That the government did not make the necessary changes to expedite the processing of provincial nominee certificates in an attempt to reunite families sooner.

WHEREUPON Mr. Speaker ruled the sub-amendment in order.

And the debate continuing on the sub-amendment,

And Hon. Mr. STRUTHERS having spoken.

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

The House then adjourned at 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 a.m. Friday, December 4, 2009.

Hon. George HICKES,
Speaker.