



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 29

THIRD SESSION, FORTIETH LEGISLATURE

PRAYER

10:00 O'CLOCK A.M.

The following petitions were presented and read:

Mr. EWASKO – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Provincial Government and the Minister of Health to ensure that the Beausejour District Hospital and Primary Care Centre have a primary care physician available on weekends and holidays to better provide area residents with this essential service. (J. Delanney, D. Mukherjee, R. Bass and others)

Mr. MARTIN – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Provincial Government to not raise the PST without holding a provincial referendum. (M. Bebek, A. Pateman, R. Arjoon and others)

Pursuant to Rule 26(1), Hon. Mr. BJORNSON, Mr. MARTIN, Ms. CROTHERS, Mrs. DRIEDGER and Mr. DEWAR made Members' Statements.

The House resumed the Interrupted Debate on the Proposed Motion of Hon. Ms. HOWARD:

THAT this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government.

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

THAT the motion be amended by deleting all of the words after "House" and substituting:

therefore regrets that this budget neglects the priorities of Manitobans by:

- a) failing to repeal the massive tax and fee increases imposed in Budget 2012 and Budget 2013 including the PST hike the Provincial Government previously referred to as "ridiculous" and promised never to impose; and
- b) disrespecting Manitobans by refusing to hold the legally required referendum before increasing the PST and going to court in 2014 to permanently remove the rights of Manitobans to vote on major tax increases; and

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- c) breaking the promise to eliminate the structural deficit of nearly \$400 million created by years of government mismanagement and overspending despite record federal transfers, historically low interest rates and record government revenues; and
- d) failing to address the growing threat to services Manitobans count on such as health and social supports which are severely impacted by the more than \$32 billion provincial debt, a debt which was created by overspending even with record federal transfers, historically low interest rates and record government revenues; and
- e) breaking the promise to seniors by failing to provide promised tax relief; and
- f) neglecting vulnerable Manitobans by ignoring repeated calls from the Official Opposition and anti-poverty coalitions to immediately raise the Employment and Income Assistance rental allowance rates to 75% of median market rents; and
- g) failing to relieve the income tax burden for low income families; and
- h) ignoring repeated calls from the Official Opposition and independent experts to review the Provincial Government's \$25 billion Manitoba Hydro expansion gamble which has already resulted in dramatic hydro rate increases for Manitoba families and will continue to impose dramatic hydro rate increases for generations to come; and
- i) failing to encourage business confidence by stifling economic growth through excessive red tape and worsening the already uncompetitive tax environment by raising the PST; and
- j) continuing the Provincial Government's isolationist trade policies by failing to act on the repeated calls of the Official Opposition, leading employers and industry groups to join the New West Partnership.

As a consequence, the Provincial Government has thereby lost the confidence of this House and the people of Manitoba.

And the debate continuing on the amendment,

And Hon. Mr. CHIEF, Messrs. EICHLER, NEVAKSHONOFF and SCHULER and Hon. Ms. BRAUN having spoken.

And Mr. EWASKO speaking at 12:30 p.m. The debate was allowed to remain in his name.

The House then adjourned at 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. Monday, March 17, 2014.

Hon. Daryl REID,
Speaker.