



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 9

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. 9) – The Electricians' Licence Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur le permis d'électricien

(Hon. Ms. HOWARD)

(No. 215) – The Highway Traffic Amendment Act (Booster Seats)/Loi modifiant le Code de la route (sièges d'appoint)

(Mr. LAMOUREUX)

(No. 217) – The Phosphorus Curtailment Act (Municipal Act Amended and City of Winnipeg Charter Amended)/Loi sur la réduction du phosphore (modification de la Loi sur les municipalités et de la Charte de la ville de Winnipeg)

(Hon. Mr. GERRARD)

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. (L. Jackson, T. Lubkiwski, H. Harder 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. (M. Corneillie, G. Bannerman, A. Bannerman 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. (H. Robb, G. Bird, S. Popke 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. (J. Zayac, K. Ginter, G. Barron 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. (R. Balbuena, C. Toledo, J. Jaramilla and others)

Hon. Ms. WOWCHUK presented:

Manitoba Hydro-Electric Board, Quarterly Report, Six Months, April 1 to September 30, 2009.
(Sessional Paper No. 10)

Pursuant to Rule 26(1), Messrs. WHITEHEAD and BRIESE, Ms. BRICK, Messrs. HAWRANIK and NEVAKSHONOFF made Members' Statements.

The House resumed the Interrupted 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 proposed amendment moved by Mr. MCFADYEN 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.

And the debate continuing on the amendment,

And Mr. MARTINDALE, Mrs. DRIEDGER, Ms. BLADY, Mr. DYCK and Hon. Ms. MARCELINO having spoken,

And Mrs. TAILLIEU speaking at 5:00 p.m. The debate was allowed to remain in her name.

By leave, during the debate, it was agreed to temporarily set aside the Throne Speech debate to deal with Committee of the Whole consideration, Concurrence and Third Reading and Royal Assent of Bill (No. 2) The Legislative Assembly Amendment and Legislative Assembly Management Commission Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Assemblée législative et la Loi sur la Commission de régie de l'Assemblée législative, with the understanding that this is not to count as an interruption of or affect the number of days of debate held on the Throne Speech.

The House resolving into Committee of the Whole.

Bill (No. 2) – The Legislative Assembly Amendment and Legislative Assembly Management Commission Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Assemblée législative et la Loi sur la Commission de régie de l'Assemblée législative, was considered in Committee of the Whole and reported without amendment.

Bill (No. 2) – The Legislative Assembly Amendment and Legislative Assembly Management Commission Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Assemblée législative et la Loi sur la Commission de régie de l'Assemblée législative, reported from the Committee of the Whole, was concurred in, read a Third Time and passed.

Thursday, December 10, 2009

His Honour, Philip LEE, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Manitoba, having entered the House at 4:00 p.m., and being seated on the Throne:

Mr. Speaker addressed His Honour in the following words:

Your Honour,

At this sitting, the Legislative Assembly has passed a Bill that I ask Your Honour to give assent to.

(No. 2) – The Legislative Assembly Amendment and Legislative Assembly Management Commission Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Assemblée législative et la Loi sur la Commission de régie de l'Assemblée législative

To this Bill the Royal Assent was announced by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly as follows:

"In Her Majesty's name, His Honour assents to this Bill."

At 4:02 p.m., His Honour was then pleased to retire.

By leave, during the debate, it was agreed to waive Rules 31(2) and 31(3) regarding the timing for submission and prioritizing of Private Members' Resolutions with the understanding that the time frames for submission and prioritization will be determined by the House Leaders at a later date.

The House then adjourned at 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 a.m. Friday, December 11, 2009.

Hon. George HICKES,
Speaker.