



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 52

FIRST SESSION, FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

PRAYER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

10:00 O’CLOCK A.M.

MLA CHEN moved:

THAT Bill (No. 212) – The Asian Heritage Month Act (Commemoration of Days, Weeks and Months Act Amended)/Loi sur le Mois du patrimoine asiatique (modification de la Loi sur les journées, les semaines et les mois commémoratifs), be now read a Second Time and be referred to a Committee of this House.

And a debate arising,

And MLA CHEN having spoken,

And Mr. SCHULER, MLA LAMOUREUX, Hon. Min. CABLE, MLA LAGASSÉ, Ms. BYRAM and Mr. PERCHOTTE having questioned the Member,

And the debate continuing,

And MLAs LAGASSÉ and MOYES, Mr. SCHULER and MLA LAMOUREUX having spoken,

And Ms. BYRAM speaking at 11:00 a.m. The debate was allowed to remain in their name.

MLA DELA CRUZ moved:

Resolution No. 12: Respecting Seniors

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has set aside \$22.3 million to provide better care for seniors through more direct hours of care for seniors in personal care homes and a new Safe and Healthy at Home program to support aging in place; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has set aside funding for a new Seniors’ Advocate to protect seniors and Elders in the province from harm; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has created a new tax credit for seniors and funding for senior’s accessibility upgrades so all can live their retirement in dignity; and

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WHEREAS the Provincial Government announced that a new 95-bed personal care home will be built in Lac du Bonnet so that seniors can age in their community with dignity; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government is adding staff for over 60 lower acuity beds, which will support seniors and Elders who are waiting for a space in personal care homes; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has been listening to healthcare professionals across the province, including staff at personal care homes and home care staff; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has laid out a plan to help seniors get the care that they need by pledging to hire 1,000 new healthcare staff which will in turn reduce emergency room wait times, increase diagnostic capacity, and open up surgical slots right here at home; and

WHEREAS the previous PC Provincial Government cut supports for seniors care homes and allowed affordable seniors housing to be sold off; and

WHEREAS the previous PC Provincial Government promised to create 1,200 new personal care home beds, but the bed count dropped when they were in office.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Legislative Assembly urge the Provincial Government to respect and make life more affordable for seniors and Elders as they age and undo years of reckless cuts and mismanagement of the former PC Provincial Government by fulfilling its plans to fund accessibility modifications to age at home and build personal care home beds.

And a debate arising,

And MLA DELA CRUZ having spoken,

And Mr. JOHNSON, MLA CROSS, Mrs. HIEBERT, Mr. WOWCHUK and MLA BEREZA having questioned the Member,

And the debate continuing,

And Mr. JOHNSON, MLA CROSS, Mmes. HIEBERT and SCHOTT, MLA BEREZA and Hon. Mr. KOSTYSHYN having spoken,

And Mr. WOWCHUK speaking at 12:00 p.m. The debate was allowed to remain in their name.

1:30 O’CLOCK P.M.

The following Bill was read a First Time and had its purposes outlined:

(No. 213) – The Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Control Amendment and Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Corporation Amendment Act (Expanding Liquor Retail)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la réglementation des alcools, des jeux et du cannabis et la Loi sur la Société manitobaine des alcools et des loteries (vente au détail d’une gamme élargie de boissons alcoolisées)

(Mr. WHARTON)

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Pursuant to sub-rule 28(1), MLA MOYES, Mrs. COOK, Hon. Mr. MOSES, Mr. KING and Hon. Min. ALTOMARE made Member's statements.

The following petitions were presented and read to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba:

Mr. EWASKO – To urge the Provincial Government to remove the federal carbon tax on home heating bills for all Manitobans to provide them much needed relief.

Mr. GUENTER – To urge the Provincial Government to lobby the Federal Government to stop the expansion of medical assistance in dying to those for whom mental illness is the sole condition; and to lobby the Federal Government to protect Canadians struggling with mental illness by facilitating treatment, recovery, and medical assistance in living, not death.

Pursuant to Rule 34, the Acting Government House Leader announced that the Private Member's resolution titled "Affordability in the North" will be considered on the next Tuesday of Private Members' Business.

The House resumed the debate on the proposed motion of Hon. Mr. WIEBE:

THAT Bill (No. 30) – The Unexplained Wealth Act (Criminal Property Forfeiture Act and Corporations Act Amended)/Loi sur les richesses inexplicées (modification de la Loi sur la confiscation de biens obtenus ou utilisés criminellement et de la Loi sur les corporations), be now read a Second Time and be referred to a Committee of this House.

And on the proposed amendment of Mr. JOHNSON as follows:

THAT the motion be amended by deleting all the words after the word "THAT" and substituting the following:

this House declines to give Second Reading to Bill (No. 30) – The Unexplained Wealth Act (Criminal Property Forfeiture Act and Corporations Act Amended)/Loi sur les richesses inexplicées (modification de la Loi sur la confiscation de biens obtenus ou utilisés criminellement et de la Loi sur les corporations), because this House has not received satisfactory evidence or assurance that this Bill is different to the existing legislation that was brought forward and passed in this House in 2021.

And the debate continuing on the amendment,

And Mr. GOERTZEN, Hon. Mr. WIEBE, MLAs BEREZA and MOROZ and Messrs. GUENTER and NARTH having spoken,

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

Mrs. COOK asked Written Questions (Nos. 1 and 2) for reply to the following:

1. Could the Minister of Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care provide a list of all RFSA's signed by the Diagnostic and Surgical Recovery Task Force while the DSRTF was active, broken down by service type and facility, with an updated status on whether the RFSA has been renewed for fiscal year 24/25?
2. Could the Minister of Labour and Immigration advise how many workers have been brought over and are working in Manitoba in total in 2024 thus far through the Philippines Recruitment Program?

Mr. JOHNSON asked Written Questions (Nos. 3 and 4) for reply to the following:

3. Can the Premier of Manitoba advise upon the makeup and time frame for the establishment of the all-party committee on homecare that he previously committed to creating?
4. Can the Minister of Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care disclose the date that parking fees at all Manitoba Health Care facilities will be eliminated so as to ensure that "...how much is in someone's wallet should not be a barrier to access in this health-care system" and the total annual offsetting financial resources to facilities from the Provincial Government?

Mr. GUENTER asked Written Question (No. 5) for reply to the following:

5. In March of 2022, STARS Air Ambulance services in Manitoba were extended by two years with an extension of its contract. Considering the essential services that STARS provides, especially the peace of mind given to rural Manitobans, can the Minister of Consumer Protection and Government Services provide an update on the status of this contract and the provision of these services to Manitobans?

Mr. KHAN asked Written Questions (Nos. 6 to 9) for reply to the following:

6. Can the Minister of Finance advise the locations and time frames for the establishment Manitoba Hydro customer service centres that would fulfil the Provincial Government's commitment of all customers being located within one hour of an office?
7. Can the Minister of Finance advise when the tax deduction he previously committed to establishing for Caisses Populaires and Credit Unions to benefit the francophone community in the province takes effect?

8. On February 22nd, 2024, during a meeting of the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations, the interim President and CEO of Manitoba Hydro, as well as the President of the Manitoba Hydro-Electric Board took multiple matters under advisement and committed to returning substantial answers to the matters raised and reply to the Committee through the Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro. The estimated timeline to provide the response was “three to four weeks”. Can the Minister produce those materials, as well as an explanation for the delay?
9. The Minister of Finance made reference, both in the House and in his Bill briefing, to research that the Department of Finance had done to ensure that any savings from a Fuel Tax Holiday would make their way to Manitobans. Will the Minister provide this documentation and table it in the Legislature?

Mr. BALCAEN asked Written Question (No. 10) for reply to the following:

10. The Minister of Justice advised that an immediate anti-opiate strategy that includes the “restriction of the sale of pill presses in this province to keep fentanyl off the streets” was required. Can the Minister disclose the date the ban takes effect?

Mr. PERCHOTTE asked Written Question (No. 11) for reply to the following:

11. The Minister of Advanced Education and Training has allocated attestation letters to allow international students to study at Manitoba institutions. Will the Minister provide for this House a breakdown of exactly how many attestation letters each institution has been allocated for the 2023/24 academic year, compared to how many international students the same institution had in the 2021/22 and 2022/23 academic years?

Mr. WOWCHUK asked Written Question (No. 12) for reply to the following:

12. With the emergent threat of zebra mussels in Clear Lake, there is great need for enhanced water monitoring upstream to ensure that further waterways are safe and secure. Can the Minister of Environment and Climate Change produce data on the frequency of testing of water coming out of Clear Lake, as well as any measures taken to ensure that the Aquatic Invasive Species spread is limited?

Mrs. HIEBERT asked Written Question (No. 13) for reply to the following:

13. The Minister of Families previously called for the installation of additional security cameras at Manitoba Housing units to enhance tenant safety. Can the Minister of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness advise how many additional cameras have been installed, their locations, cost and who is monitoring them?

MLA BEREZA asked Written Question (No. 14) for reply to the following:

14. The MLA for the Maples indicated that farmers from the Punjab province of India should be made a priority in terms of accelerating the immigration process for them through the Farm Strategic Recruitment Initiative. What steps has the Minister of Agriculture implemented to recruiting farmers from the Punjab province to Manitoba?

Mr. PIWNIUK asked Written Questions (Nos. 15 and 16) for reply to the following:

15. On March 5th, 2024, during a meeting of the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations, the President and CEO of Manitoba Public Insurance took multiple matters under advisement and committed to returning substantial answers to the matters raised and reply to the Committee through the Minister responsible for MPI. Can the Minister produce those materials, as well as an explanation for the delay?
16. On February 27th, 2024, during a meeting of the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations, the CEO of Efficiency Manitoba took multiple matters under advisement and committed to returning substantial answers to the matters raised and reply to the Committee through the Minister responsible. Can the Minister produce those materials, as well as an explanation for the delay?

Mr. NARTH asked Written Questions (Nos. 17 and 18) for reply to the following:

17. On February 13th, 2024, during a meeting of the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations, the President and CEO of Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Corporation took multiple matters under advisement and committed to returning substantial answers to the matters raised and reply to the Committee through the Minister responsible for MBLL, estimating it would take a week. Can the Minister produce those materials, as well as an explanation for the delay?
18. On February 13th, 2024, during a meeting of the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations, the President and CEO of Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Corporation was unable to provide substantial answers related to the operational and staffing costs for Liquor Mart Express outlets. Can the Minister provide these annual expenses?

The House then adjourned at 5:00 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, 2024.

Hon. Tom LINDSEY,
Speaker.