

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

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Speaker*

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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Forty-Second Legislature

Member	Constituency	Political Affiliation
AL TOMARE, 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

Thursday, December 1, 2022

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Clerk (Ms. Patricia Chaychuk): –that the Speaker is unavoidably absent. Therefore, in accordance with the statutes, I would ask the Deputy Speaker to please take the Chair.

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Andrew Micklefield): Good afternoon, everybody. Please be seated.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

**Bill 218—An Act Respecting
the Title "Associate Judge"
(Various Acts Amended)**

MLA Nahanni Fontaine (St. Johns): I move, seconded by the member for Concordia (Mr. Wiebe), that Bill 218, An Act Respecting the Title "Associate Judge" (Various Acts Amended), be now read a first time.

Miigwech. Thank you.

Motion presented.

MLA Fontaine: I'm proud to stand in the House and introduce Bill 218, An Act Respecting the Title "Associate Judge," various acts amendment.

This bill amends The Court of King's Bench Act to change the title of the judicial officials from master to associate judge. This is an important change due to the history the word master and its connotations that it draws with slavery.

This bill takes an important step forward, ensuring that the language used in our institutions reflects the values of today. Miigwech.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion? [*Agreed*]

No other bills?

COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Standing Committee on Social
and Economic Development
Second Report**

Mr. Dennis Smook (Chairperson): I wish to present the second report of the Standing Committee on Social and Economic Development.

Clerk (Ms. Patricia Chaychuk): Your standing committee—

Some Honourable Members: Dispense.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Dispense.

Your Standing Committee on Social and Economic Development presents the following as its Second Report.

Meetings

Your Committee met on November 30, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in Room 255 of the Legislative Building.

Matters under Consideration

- *Bill (No. 3) – The Vital Statistics Amendment Act (Name Registration) / Loi modifiant la Loi sur les statistiques de l'état civil (forme du nom)*
- *Bill (No. 5) – The Demise of the Crown Act (Various Acts Amended) / Loi sur la dévolution de la Couronne (modification de diverses lois)*
- *Bill (No. 213) – The Animal Care Amendment Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur le soin des animaux*

Committee Membership

- *Mr. BUSHIE*
- *MLA FONTAINE*
- *Hon. Mr. GOERTZEN*
- *Hon. Mr. HELWER*
- *Mr. MICHALESKI*
- *Mr. SMOOK*

Your Committee elected Mr. SMOOK as the Chairperson.

Your Committee elected Mr. MICHALESKI as the Vice-Chairperson.

Non-Committee Members Speaking on Record

- *Mr. KHAN*

Bills Considered and Reported

- *Bill (No. 3) – The Vital Statistics Amendment Act (Name Registration) / Loi modifiant la Loi sur les statistiques de l'état civil (forme du nom)*

Your Committee agreed to report this Bill without amendment.

- **Bill (No. 5) – The Demise of the Crown Act (Various Acts Amended) / Loi sur la dévolution de la Couronne (modification de diverses lois)**

Your Committee agreed to report this Bill without amendment.

- **Bill (No. 213) – The Animal Care Amendment Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur le soin des animaux**

Your Committee agreed to report this Bill without amendment.

Mr. Smook: I move, seconded by the honourable member for Dauphin (Mr. Michaleski), that the report of the committee be received.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Tabling of reports?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Hon. Kelvin Goertzen (Government House Leader): Mr. Deputy Speaker, can you canvass the House for leave to allow a ministerial statement on World AIDS Day and a ministerial statement for International Day of Persons With Disabilities?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there leave of the House to allow for a ministerial statement on World AIDS Day and another ministerial statement on International Day of Persons With Disabilities?

Is there leave? *[Agreed]*

International Day of Persons With Disabilities

Hon. Rochelle Squires (Minister responsible for Accessibility): As the Minister of Families and the Minister responsible for Accessibility, I'm pleased to proclaim December 3rd as International Day of Persons With Disabilities in Manitoba.

In 1992, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the observance of December 3rd as the international day of disabled persons. The goal is to promote an understanding of disability issues and to mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.

While Manitoba has celebrated the International Day of Persons With Disabilities for over a decade, this year the Province has officially proclaimed it in perpetuity.

Manitoba continuously strives to ensure that all individuals with a disability are able to access the services they need by removing barriers and supporting a skilled and committed front-line direct service

workforce. The Province has taken steps to stabilize this important workforce in recent months.

In March 2022, Manitoba issued a one-time Labour Force Support Grant to Community Living disABILITY Services for provider–recruitment and retention activities.

Additionally, in this year's budget, our government invested \$10 million in new funding to increase wages paid to direct service workers who deliver residential services in community. We recognize that more needs to be done and that this was an initial first step.

To support children accessing the Children's disABILITY Services program and their families, \$5 million in new funding was provided to reduce wait-lists for much-needed therapies and case management services.

We also established a brand new \$8-million bridge program for children and youth with disabilities to—so that their families can care for children with complex needs and give them the option of accessing longer term out-of-home support.

These are just a few of the initial investments our government has made in recent months to support people living with disabilities, and our commitment is to continue ensuring that all Manitobans can achieve a high quality of life in our province.

This year, our government also launched the inaugural Manitoba Accessibility Fund, and its tremendous success demonstrates the desire from the community to ensure a welcoming environment for all people of all abilities. I was honoured to award 30 different organizations a total of \$756,000 towards accessibility.

It is important to mark December 3rd as a day to acknowledge the vital contributions Manitobans with disabilities make in our personal lives, to our workforce, our economy and our community.

This year, the Manitoba Accessibility Office will be hosting a virtual event. Keynote speakers and a panel of guests will be discussing the United Nations Convention of rights—on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and how it impacted their own lives.

It is through these initiatives and many more that we are striving to make Manitoba the most accessible province to live and work in.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Eric Redhead (Thompson): This Saturday, December 3rd, will be the International Day of Persons With Disabilities. This day of recognition was first observed internationally in 1992, and the day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities at every level of society and development.

It is important we continue to advocate on behalf of the rights of people with disabilities so they can participate fully, equally and effectively in our society.

In Manitoba, there are over 200,000 Manitobans living with a disability, many living productive, healthy and meaningful lives in all sectors of our society. Evidence and experience shows that when barriers to inclusion are removed and persons with disabilities are empowered to participate fully in societal life, the entire community benefits.

There are still barriers and stigma for persons with disabilities. For example, the current employment rate for persons with disabilities in Canada is only 17.9 per cent. However, once hired, they have a retention rate of 72 per cent. Studies have shown that 90 per cent of people with disabilities can work just as productively or even more so than their colleagues.

In the spirit of this day, we must also recognize that we can do and should do better for persons with disabilities so that everyone can live in an accessible and equitable world.

I want to give a shout-out to organizations such as the society of Manitobans with disabilities who do incredible work every single day to make sure these rights are not forgotten and that individuals with disabilities can live the lives they want. It is important to recognize employers that ensure that persons with disabilities are provided inclusive and supported workplaces.

The Manitoba NDP would also like to recognize and honour all persons with disabilities for their resilience as they continue to contribute to our society in incredible ways despite the barriers, struggles that they may face.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Jon Gerrard (River Heights): Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I ask leave to respond to the minister's statement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there leave for the member for River Heights to respond to the minister's statement?
[Agreed]

Mr. Gerrard: Mr. Deputy Speaker, we spend far too much time emphasizing the disability, and we need to spend more time talking about the amazing things that people with physical, mental or brain disabilities are doing.

A friend of mine is in a wheelchair, on a respirator, is married and is holding down a full-time job. She's an incredible example of what is possible.

* (13:40)

Too often when we think of disabilities, we don't pay enough attention to those with mental or brain health conditions. After all, learning disabilities are one of the most common disabilities; indeed, perhaps the most common disability.

People who are neurodivergent, who have a learning disability, ADHD, autism or FASD are too often stigmatized and not giving the help they need.

At a recent forum I held on neurodiversity, the mother of a 19-year-old son told the story of how her son with a learning disability, an executive function disability, who had supports as a child, was no longer provided any government support when he turned 18. Without any help, he is almost certainly 'helpless'—homeless. His parents are growing to incredible lengths to help him, but it is exhausting. Indeed, at the forum, the room was full of exhausted parents.

The Province needs to do better. There are too many who are neurodivergent who are struggling, homeless and having great difficulty.

Recently the government announced the backlog of FASD assessments would be cleared up in 18 months. This is an extraordinarily long time for a child with FASD. It's unacceptable that some children will have to wait 18 months. It's horrible—it's unimaginable—that the wait is as long as 18 months. We must do much better.

Indeed, I recommend all members read a book on the power of neurodiversity. There is incredible potential out there if we can help those individuals who are neurodiverse and who are neurodivergent.

Thank you.

World AIDS Day

Hon. Audrey Gordon (Minister of Health): I rise today in the House to recognize that December 1st is World AIDS Day.

This is the 34th year, since its inception in 1988, that we take time to unite in the fight against HIV/AIDS and honour victims of this life-altering disease.

I also encourage Manitobans to take part in the Rock the Ribbon campaign by wearing a red ribbon in honour of patients and victims worldwide.

Although this disease was only discovered in 1984, it has made a lasting impact on the lives of 38 million people in the world today.

In Manitoba, there are roughly 1,400 people living with HIV/AIDS.

Here in Manitoba, our government has taken action by broadening access to treatment, including adding pre-exposure 'prophylactic,' or PrEP, to the provincial pharmacare formulary. PrEP helps prevent the contracting of HIV.

Additionally, our government has invested \$2.3 million for an Indigenous-led sexually transmitted blood-borne infections testing and contact tracing strategy.

We are also investing \$632,000 over the next two years to strengthen HIV/AIDS services in areas most affected by case increases.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is important to also recognize the effects here in Manitoba that contribute to our HIV rates: substance use, homelessness and other challenges. We will address these impacts by providing treatment-as-prevention, enhancing primary-care capacity and prevention, continuing with harm reduction efforts and providing resources and supports for people living with HIV who are experiencing homelessness.

We value the health partnership that has been established with Ka Ni Kanichik, so that we ensure Indigenous-led approaches are used for care.

There is more work to be done. Together we can raise awareness and provide treatment for patients around the world.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

MLA Uzoma Asagwara (Union Station): Today is World AIDS Day, a day when we recognize those in our province living with HIV and AIDS and reiterate our support for them as they seek to live their lives to the fullest.

World AIDS Day is an important reminder to end the stigma that those living with HIV and AIDS experience. Advancements in treatment have drastically improved the length and quality of life for those

living with HIV and AIDS. But there's still more work that can be done to ensure they have access to the quality health care they deserve.

Unfortunately, we have been seeing a large increase of new HIV cases in the province recently. More than 200 people were diagnosed in the last four quarters alone. That is twice the number of diagnoses—diagnoses, rather, we saw a few years ago.

We know that there are measures this government could be taking that would help reduce the number of HIV diagnoses in Manitoba. They could support supervised consumption sites which reduce blood-borne illnesses. Supervised consumption sites save lives and it's time for the government to step up and commit to supporting supervised consumption sites in Manitoba.

While the PC government has been refusing to support these measures that would reduce the number of HIV diagnoses and save lives, organizations on the ground continue to do the work for them by providing Manitobans with the treatment and support they need and deserve.

In particular, I would like to highlight the work of the Manitoba Harm Reduction Network and the Nine Circles Community Health Centre which provides culturally appropriate care, treatment, support and advocacy for those living and affected with HIV.

Your work is appreciated by the Manitoba NDP and all Manitobans, quite frankly, and we will continue to stand with you and all those living with HIV and AIDS across our province.

Thank you.

Hon. Jon Gerrard (River Heights): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I ask for leave to speak to the minister's statement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does the member have leave to speak to the minister's statement? [*Agreed*]

Mr. Gerrard: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is a sad testament to the failure of the provincial government to do an adequate job to prevent HIV/AIDS in Manitoba when the number of people with HIV/AIDS is going up and not down. Indeed, 2021 saw an incredible and very distressing 44 per cent increase in HIV cases from 116 in 2020 to 167 in 2021.

This is a preventable condition.

Indeed, a major report released today talks of the dangerous inequalities in societies like ours with rising rates of HIV/AIDS. The report headlines the

fact that inequalities are stopping the world from ending AIDS. It is an embarrassment that Manitoba, which has the international centre for human and animal health in Winnipeg, with world experts here on HIV/AIDS, is doing so poorly.

It is true that under the NDP, the Province was very slow to bring in the latest approaches to HIV/AIDS prevention.

The PCs have made some changes, including making PrEP available. That is good, but they are not yet enough, and their overall record during the last six and a half years is poor.

Manitobans deserve much better, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on World AIDS Day.

Today, let us aim for better in the next year.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Justine Proulx

Hon. Audrey Gordon (Minister of Health): I'm honoured to acknowledge community member Justine Proulx.

Justine has been using her amazing artistic abilities to bring stunning painted murals to the halls of schools in my constituency.

These murals depict the seven sacred teachings, truth and reconciliation, diversity and include Indigenous symbols and imagery done in Justine's style of bold colours and lines which are her interpretation of the Woodland art style.

As a Métis artist, who also has Cree and Ojibway ancestry, Justine says being able to create and share her art has been incredibly meaningful.

Justine shared, it is important to bring Indigenous culture to places where it previously wasn't visible or allowed. She said, by putting that culture back into schools, it's doing a lot of healing.

She has received feedback from students of how impactful her art has been. Louis Riel Arts & Technology Centre Principal Brian Cameron says Justine's murals in his school have created a much more vibrant environment, bringing colour and meaning into what were previously bland spaces.

Graduating as a hairstylist from ATC, Justine eventually pursued a career as a tattoo artist. During the pandemic, when business slowed, she completed a mural in her mother's Indigenous studies classroom at Miles Macdonell Collegiate.

This led to more painting opportunities and she has since completed more than a dozen murals including recently at École Howden in Windsor Park.

* (13:50)

There were times when people tried to discourage Justine from pursuing careers based in art. She wants to encourage and empower young Indigenous people to pursue their passions and not be dissuaded by other's opinions or negativity.

Congratulations on your well-deserved success, Justine, and thank you for making a positive contribution for the students and schools in our communities.

Thank you.

Introduction of Guests

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Before proceeding with the next private members' statements, I wish to draw the attention of all members to the public gallery where we have seated 20 grade 9 students from River East Collegiate under the direction of Mr. Cochrane. This group is located in the constituency of the honourable member for Rossmere—that's me.

We welcome you to the Manitoba Legislature.

Health-Care System

MLA Uzoma Asagwara (Union Station): Deputy Speaker, I'm honoured to rise as the member for Union Station / To talk about how PC cuts to health-care have caused devastation. /

The Premier (Mrs. Stefanson) would have us believe private care is the solve / To public health services that she's tried to dissolve. / They cut ERs, fired nurses, cut CancerCare and more. / But they were just getting started, and now have even more in store. / Union Station constituents tell me how these cuts have hurt. / They see clearly the PCs are putting people last and putting profits first. / My constituents want to see health inequities in Manitoba addressed / not cuts and nurses forced from public hospitals, which creates much more health system stress. /

Public health care is a Canadian value which should be defended by all in this space / Not undermined by the Minister of Health (Ms. Gordon) when she stands up in her place. / Communities I represent and all of us do as well / Have much to say about the PCs failed approach, and the stories they do tell. / From broken home care which is being ignored by the new minister assigned / To no action on supervised consumption sites of which science is aligned. /

So to the constituents of Union Station and all those across our province, I assure you this: / Our NDP team stands with your communities, seniors, families and your kids. / We will work alongside health-care workers, nurses, professionals and doctors alike. / We will treat them with respect, not like the PCs who just pick fights. / We will fill vacancies, build capacity and make public health care strong / Because we all know what the PCs have done to health care in Manitoba is just plain wrong. / So, trust the NDP is working hard / And with you we're unified. / And in 2023, together we'll make sure our NDP caucus sits on that side. /

Becki Thiessen

Hon. Sarah Guillemard (Minister of Mental Health and Community Wellness): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honour an exemplary educator from Fort Richmond Collegiate, Ms. Becki Thiessen.

Ms. Thiessen has developed the choir programs at FRC and reached a level that is recognized locally and across the country as top-notch. She has found the secret to getting the best out of her students and consistently shows a level of patience that can only be achieved with a heart of gold.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, music is an integral part of the fabric of every culture around the globe and is used for celebrations as well as to lighten moods. Some people are gifted with a natural talent for singing, while some require a little bit of work to develop their vocal instrument.

Ms. Thiessen has been a wonderful leader in the music program at FRC and has been instrumental in building on her students' natural talents. She has helped many find their voice in order to gift others with beautiful harmonies, as was demonstrated earlier today in the Legislative Building.

Ms. Thiessen's positive influence is not limited to the music that she weaves through each student's heart, but it also extends beyond the school day with genuine connection she makes with every member.

She may not be aware of it, but her actions and care have changed the trajectory and the outlook on life for many youth that she has taught. And for that, I am personally grateful.

I would like to share a couple of comments from her students.

Hark said: I feel as though choir isn't just a gathering, it's another place that I would call home.

Daniel shared: Ms. Thiessen always makes me want to become a better version of myself. She teaches with such passion and fire, and I feel it.

Kody commented: Ms. Thiessen makes me feel like I have a place, somewhere I can be myself.

It is fitting, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this talented and very loved educator will be receiving the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal later today for her invaluable contributions to the youth in Fort Richmond.

Joining me here today in the gallery are Ms. Becki Thiessen and the Vox Anima Chamber Choir, and I ask my colleagues in the Chamber to join me today in thanking and honouring Ms. Becki Thiessen.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was wondering if you could ask for leave of the House to allow the Vox Anima Chamber Choir to give a little taste of what they had performed earlier today in the Legislature.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay. Is there leave? *[Agreed]*

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Someone else can ask leave for another one, or—the honourable member for Thompson (Mr. Redhead).

Sheri Porth

Mr. Eric Redhead (Thompson): First of all, thank you. Wow. That was amazing.

I stand today to acknowledge elementary school-teacher Sheri Porth and her grade 7 and 9 class at Juniper elementary school in Thompson, who received the Peter Henderson Bryce Award.

This award is given out to first—sorry, this award is given out by First Nations Child and Family Caring Society. It was given to Ms. Porth and her class because of their collective advocacy for bringing awareness to MMIWG2S.

This award is named after Peter Henderson Bryce, a public health physician in Canada from the late 18th to 19 hundreds, for his advocacy for the proper treatment of Indigenous children in residential schools.

In Porth's words, Henderson Bryce was brave enough to step up when no one else was.

Porth—while Porth's teaching career spans 14 years, she admits that she still has more learning to do about Canada's history. When she learns it, she teaches her students and passes that on.

This passion for education and social justice is the driving force which led her students to learn the histories of residential school, missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, and two-spirited people, Orange Shirt Day, the Secret Path and the Downie Wenjack fund and the '60s scoop.

Porth, like many other educators, sees the necessity of educating youth and future leaders about these dark parts of Canadian history. The truth is what's important, and through understanding of these harms that were done is essential for reconciliation with Indigenous communities.

* (14:00)

Porth ensures her class participates in events such as Orange Shirt Day, the Wenjack walk, tying ribbons to the Miles Hart Bridge for MMIWG2S. She also facilitates the hard discussions that foster a deeper understanding of these topics.

The award comes with a \$500 prize, and the class is collaboratively deciding where the money should be spent.

Unfortunately, the class was not able to attend in the gallery today, but please join me in congratulating them as they view us livestream via Thompson.

Rhonda Nichol

Hon. Jon Gerrard (River Heights): I rise today to speak of Rhonda Nichol, a nurse who has dedicated much of her life to serving and helping others. She worked diligently for 29 years at the Grace Hospital in various areas, including the emergency room, in oncology and in surgery. She has also worked as a clinical education facilitator with the U of M to share her passion for nursing with third-year students.

She carries her commitment to helping others in her current role in clinical trials and research. She understands the importance of constantly working to find new and better ways to care for patients and to be doing this through carefully planned research.

Rhonda was integral in the implementation of the use of micro-introducers and ultrasound for PICC insertions at the Grace. She organized a better process for ordering supplies from vendors. She was involved in the WRHA logistic group to find better, more cost-effective alternatives for medical products. She has brought an in-depth understanding of our health-care system and the changes needed.

I can already tell in conversation with her that there are reasons why the PCs' approach to health care

is not getting the results we need. As a physician and MLA, I see first-hand how critical it is to have Rhonda, with her more than three decades' experience as a nurse, as an important voice in the Manitoba Legislature. With her in-depth knowledge of health care, we have the best chance of seeing improvements for Manitoba.

The government's plan for health care is not working well. The NDP revealed their plan yesterday, and I quote: We have a plan: it's to not cut health care. But there's much more to do than this. We need the insight of individuals like Rhonda Nichol.

I hope all MLAs will support a better approach to health care and support the election of Rhonda Nichol in the by-election on December 13th.

ORAL QUESTIONS

Manitoba Hydro Assets Sale of Subsidiaries

Mr. Wab Kinew (Leader of the Official Opposition): A huge shout-out to the FRC chamber choir and Ms. Thiessen. That was amazing and certainly a lot more pleasing to the ear than some of the discord that you'll hear in the Chamber this—*[interjection]*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Kinew: *—[inaudible]* so, bravo—especially when they hear those PC talking points.

Manitobans now know that the PCs plan to privatize Manitoba Hydro. They're looking at the subsidiaries and, quote, they've directed Hydro to look at those subsidiaries, to consider them for sale or shut them down. Those are the government's own words.

We say that breaking up and selling off pieces of Hydro is wrong because it will cost you more money.

Will the Premier tell the House which parts of Hydro she plans to break up and sell off?

Hon. Heather Stefanson (Premier): I just want to thank Ms. Thiessen and the FRC chamber choir. All of you—is so wonderful to have you sing in the Chamber today.

That might be almost precedent-setting for a choir to be singing in this Chamber, and so that is so exciting. You can take that away with you. See, you're setting history right here in the province of Manitoba. So, thank you so much. You are amazing.

And as for the question from the Leader of the Opposition, we're not selling Manitoba Hydro; we're saving it from the NDP ruin.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition, on a follow-up question.

Mr. Kinew: Well, it seems that the Premier isn't singing from the same songbook as her Minister of Finance (Mr. Friesen) because, yesterday, he tabled a document that says that the PCs plan to break up Manitoba Hydro and sell it off.

We already know that they started their privatization plan when they sold off—*[interjection]*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Kinew: —Teshmont, so the question remains, which subsidiary are they looking to sell off now?

Perhaps they'll be looking at Manitoba Hydro International further. We don't know, for example, what will take place with Hydro's Power Systems Technology Centre. We also know that MHI owns valuable intellectual property like the PSCAD software. Are these valuable assets things that the PCs now want to sell off?

Will the Premier just tell the House today which part of Manitoba Hydro is she planning to sell off first?

Mrs. Stefanson: The fact of the matter is: the NDP ran Hydro into the ground and we are stabilizing the finances of Manitoba Hydro while also keeping rates low for Manitobans. That is what our plan is.

We just announced, and I want to thank the Minister of Finance and Manitoba Hydro, as well—the Minister of Finance and—we announced just the other day that we're reducing, by half, the fees the guarantee rate fees and the water rate fees in the province of Manitoba to Manitoba Hydro. That will go back into Manitoba Hydro which, again, stabilizes the finances of Manitoba Hydro while also keeps rates low.

That is the responsible approach. The NDP's approach? I'll let you know in a moment what others say about that.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Order.

The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition, on a final supplementary.

Mr. Kinew: Their plan is to keep raising hydro rates, as they've been doing for their whole time in office and, as they've now announced, they plan to do for the next 19 years.

On this side of the House, we want to freeze your hydro rate.

But the part that they, up 'til yesterday—*[interjection]*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Kinew: —weren't saying out loud is that they also want to privatize Manitoba Hydro.

I'll table the government document that they produced that says they want to look at Manitoba Hydro subsidiaries, and that they should be considered for sale or shutdown.

Privatization of Hydro assets is wrong because it's going to cost you more money.

Will the Premier just provide more detail on those plans and tell us which Manitoba Hydro asset she plans to sell off next?

Mrs. Stefanson: Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition and the NDP's plan is to destabilize the financial situation of Manitoba Hydro. We've seen that happen in the past, and we know what that—that that is their plan in the future, and that does not help Manitobans.

So, I want to quote Edward Kennedy, the chair of the board of Manitoba Hydro, who said about the Leader of the Opposition's plan, Mr. Deputy Speaker, he says, to say we're going to have zeros across the board, that doesn't reflect the reality of all the things that are going on in energy today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, their plan will not produce a stable Manitoba Hydro for the future generations of our province. Our plan will.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition, on a new question.

Health-Care System Reform Impact on Rural EMS Services

Mr. Wab Kinew (Leader of the Official Opposition): The Premier dodges the question and refuses to tell Manitobans which part of Hydro she plans to sell off next.

We do know, though, that she also has privatization ambitions—*[interjection]*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Kinew: —in the health-care system. In 2018, we warned that their cuts to emergency rooms was going to lead to fewer beds in our hospital system.

Of course, Brian Pallister, at the time, said you didn't need hospital beds in order to deliver quality care. Nobody quite understood what he meant by that—I'll table the transcript.

However, that notwithstanding, this Premier decided to implement that hospital plan full steam ahead.

Will she finally recognize that their cuts to health care have caused chaos in our health-care system and that they've been wrong the whole time?

Hon. Heather Stefanson (Premier): Wrong is putting ideology before patient care, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I can tell you we, on this side of the House, will not do that. We will always put patient care first.

* (14:10)

And that's why I want to thank our surgical and diagnostic past-task force for all the incredible work that they're doing, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The pandemic backlog for 'cataratic'—or, cataract surgery has now been fully eliminated, *[inaudible]* the pandemic backlog in half for ultrasounds, from almost 4,500 procedures to under 2,000 procedures and the backlog for orthopedic knee replacements has been reduced by 27 per cent.

That is putting patient care first.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition, on a follow-up.

Mr. Kinew: We know that privatizing health care leads to worse outcomes for patients. We're already seeing it when it comes to patient transport teams.

I'll table a brand new letter written by respiratory therapists and primary-care—*[interjection]*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Kinew: —paramedics who are responsible for transfers from ICUs, emergency rooms and urgent cares in our province. They say that the approach that this government is taking is wrong, that they feel as though they're left behind and they've never gotten a fair deal from this Premier or from the PCs.

Will the Premier simply tell the House why her government has for so long ignored the work of rural paramedics and medical transfer teams?

Mrs. Stefanson: Speaking of denying access to health care for Manitobans, 12,000 Manitobans received care—surgical care—in private facilities in Manitoba, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Those are 12,000 individuals in Manitoba over the last two years that the NDP would deny access to health care because of their ideology.

We will always put patient care first over ideology.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition, on a final supplementary.

Mr. Kinew: Their privatization ideology is what is responsible for long rural EMS wait times right now.

They're talking about press releases and imaginary programs in the future. We're talking about rural Manitobans who were waiting for ambulances right now in this province.

That letter was signed by 16 respiratory therapists and primary-care paramedics. They complain time and time again that this government has left them behind and never provided them with a fair deal.

We see the impact now with burnouts and long waits for ambulances across rural Manitoba.

Will the Premier finally stop ignoring allied health-care professions?

Mrs. Stefanson: Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the only party that would deny access to health-care services in the province of Manitoba is the Leader of the Opposition and the NDP—and maybe the Liberals, too.

But what I would say is that there's 13,000 individuals in Manitoba right now that have surgical procedures that are scheduled in the next six months in private delivery services here in Manitoba within that single-payer system, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And 13,000 Manitobans, those are individuals that are waiting for those surgical procedures that would be denied by the Leader of the Opposition and every member opposite, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

We will always put patient care first.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Order. Order. Order, please.

Manitoba Hydro Assets Sale of Subsidiaries

Mr. Adrien Sala (St. James): Mislead and hide: that's what Conservatives do when confronted with their plans for privatization. Yet, here it is in black and white.

Their response to the Brad Wall report outlines the PC government's plans for Manitoba Hydro. Quote: If these subsidiaries are not core to Manitoba Hydro's mission, then they should be considered for sale or shutdown. End of quote.

Why is the minister planning to sell off parts of Manitoba Hydro?

Hon. Cameron Friesen (Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro): I'm pleased to have a question from the member. He's been relegated so far to the back of the lineup, they had to summon him from the parking lot.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can see that the NDP misinformation and distortion campaign is in full gear, with the member for St. James cranking away on the machine.

The facts are this: Manitoba Hydro isn't for sale. We're stabilizing Hydro where the NDP threatened it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The honourable member for St. James, on a follow-up.

Mr. Sala: Mr. Deputy Speaker, here's the actual facts: Manitoba Hydro and its subsidiaries are profitable. They keep good jobs—*[interjection]*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Sala: —in Manitoba and they give us our Manitoba advantage.

Cutting up Manitoba Hydro and selling off its subsidiaries undermines Hydro, it hurts our future, it hurts our economy and it will reduce Hydro profitability, which means even higher hydro rates for Manitobans.

Why is the minister committed to breaking up and selling off pieces of Hydro?

Mr. Friesen: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it doesn't matter how many times he puts misinformation on the record, Manitoba Hydro is not for sale.

However, what the report yesterday did actually focus on—and what that member is trying to skirt and go around at a high speed—is the fact that this report responds to billions of dollars of overexpenditure by an NDP former government that mismanaged, that hid from Manitobans and that went around the very processes that were designed to protect the interests of ratepayers.

So, shame on them. And, of course, they want to avoid what's really in that report.

We will continue to stand up for lower rates for Manitobans and a strong and stable publicly owned Manitoba Hydro.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The honourable member for St. James, on a final supplementary.

Mr. Sala: The minister can spin it however he wants. The reality is, yesterday his government put out a report that said, in no uncertain terms, they plan on selling off Hydro subsidiaries.

The PC government's own response makes it clear for anyone to see. There's no denying it anymore. They want to break up Manitoba Hydro and sell off or shut down more of its subsidiaries.

This makes no sense. These subsidiaries bring good jobs to Manitoba and they've helped to grow our economy. They've generated significant profits for Manitoba Hydro, which have helped to keep our rates lower.

Why is this minister and this government so obsessed with privatization, and why is he so eager to sell off and shut down Manitoba Hydro subsidiaries?

Mr. Friesen: That member has lost all credibility when it comes to anything having to do with rates of Hydro—*[interjection]*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Friesen: He spent months and months and months telling all Manitobans that rates would go to 5 per cent, and this week Hydro has said their rate is 2 per cent.

So, how does it compare? Alberta, rates up 30 per cent; Saskatchewan, rates up 4 per cent; Ontario, 4 point through; New Brunswick, 8.9 per cent; and Manitoba Hydro, for the next 20 years, 2 per cent rates—among the lowest in all of Canada.

We stand for low rates and a strong and public Manitoba Hydro.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order.

The clock continues to run.

Manager at Grace Hospital Conflict of Interest Concerns

MLA Malaya Marcelino (Notre Dame): Mr. Deputy Speaker, earlier this year, we learned from the concerned citizen that a nursing manager at Grace Hospital has a personal connection with private health agency Elite Intellicare.

This agency does business with the region, providing private agency staff such as health-care aides and nurses. Of course, nurse managers in the public system recruit and hire staff. It's really concerning that such staff would have a potential conflict.

What is this minister doing to address the private conflicts of managers working at the Grace Hospital?

Hon. Audrey Gordon (Minister of Health): I'm disappointed that the member for Notre Dame is—has decided on a blame-and-shame narrative today, blaming and shaming health professionals and—at Grace Hospital, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I was so pleased to be able to be on-site at Grace Hospital this week, talking to front-line emergency department staff, having a tour of the emergency department. We were around the table of solutions, talking about how we can work together to address the issues, not just at the Grace but across our health system.

* (14:20)

Great ideas came forward about recruitment, retention and training. They were very pleased to hear about our \$200-million, 2,000-health-professionals action plan, and we'll continue to work—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The honourable minister's time has expired.

MLA Marcelino: Mr. Deputy Speaker, all of us members in this House have a fiduciary trust to our citizens of Manitoba, and we need to make sure that if there is conflict of interest happening, that we need to get to the bottom of that.

So, the minister has nurse managers currently working in the public system who have a personal connection with private health agencies. It's the job of these managers to recruit and retain health-care workers in the public system. Instead, some have a connection to private agencies. It's a potential conflict of interest with their duties.

Why is the minister allowing—*[interjection]*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order.

MLA Marcelino: —nurse managers to have even the appearance of conflict with private health agencies?

Ms. Gordon: The hiring of individuals in the health system does not occur here at the Manitoba Legislative Building.

If there is a specific incident or situation the member would like to have investigated, that can be done through the regional health authority responsible for that site, or through Shared Health, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But to bring it to the floor of the Legislature is not the appropriate setting.

Thank you.

MLA Marcelino: Mr. Deputy Speaker, \$40 million went to private nurse agencies last year, and this number is growing higher this year. Yet, rather than addressing this, this government has managers with connections to private health agencies.

It directly undermines public health care, and is just another example of this government's approach with private health.

Will the minister intervene and ensure health managers are serving the public interest?

Ms. Gordon: It's not the first time members opposite have tried to litigate situations on the floor of this Chamber.

This is not the appropriate forum. If there is a specific incident or a case the member is concerned about, the member needs to approach human resources for the regional health authority responsible. The hiring is not done here in the Manitoba Legislative Building by politicians—*[interjection]*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Ms. Gordon: —it is done in the regional health authorities, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

U of M Dietetics Program Status for 2023

Mr. Jamie Moses (St. Vital): The PCs have failed to approve University of Manitoba's dietitian program, despite having more than five months to review it.

Not only does this negatively affect students who may have to leave the province for education or change careers, it also negatively affects our health-care system. Dietitians do critical work to help counsel new diabetes diagnosis patients, tube feed and so many other things, and without their help this puts more pressure on already overworked nurses in our health-care system.

So, can the minister explain why he has failed to approve U of M's dietitian program, despite having more than five months to do so?

Hon. Jon Reyes (Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration): Good to see my critic back and feeling well. I say that sincerely.

Our government provides over \$1 billion in post-secondary funding to support our institutions in Manitoba. We respect the institution autonomy with each institution's academic oversight body, such as the senate at the University of Manitoba, to determine

academic programs, curriculums, development, human resources and operational needs.

We know interfering in post-secondary autonomy is the NDP way, not ours, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I'm obliged just to caution the minister and all members that we are not allowed, in this House, to reference the absence or presence of a member.

I'm sure it was an honest error, but the rules do stipulate that and it falls to me to enforce those rules.

Mr. Moses: Mr. Deputy Speaker, dietitian students are being forced to finish their education elsewhere, out of province, or change career paths because of this minister's foot-dragging. And it's entirely due to this—the minister's fault and it's having impacts not only for students but in our health-care systems, too.

There's—as of right now, there will be no more dietitian students in Manitoba as of this June, and they play a key role in our health-care system. We're putting more pressure on nurses without dietitians.

And what does this minister have to say for himself? Well, not very much. We call on the minister to actually approve the program—the new dietitian program—so we can have those students educated right here in Manitoba.

Will he do that and actually approve the program in a timely manner today?

Mr. Reyes: Mr. Deputy Speaker, \$200 million to retain, train and recruit health-care professionals, over \$30 million to establish 289 nursing seats, 12 and a half million dollars for the nursing simulation and training centre to add 150 more nursing seats.

Unlike the NDP, our government respects the institutions' autonomy and believe in collaborative relationship to strengthen our post-secondary institutions of Manitoba. That is why we are investing more than \$44 million in 400 additional nursing seats, \$20.3 million for adult learning, four—\$539,000 for additional veterinary seats, \$480,000 for additional respiratory therapist seats and many more invested on top of \$1 billion yearly investments in operating.

More to strengthen future needs, unlike the NDP who took an ideological approach.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The honourable member for St. Vital, on a final supplementary.

Post-Secondary Education Performance-Based Funding

Mr. Jamie Moses (St. Vital): I'd like to remind the minister we're talking about dietitian students who he's failing, if he forgot what we were actually talking about.

But it's not just them, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Across the province, they've made post-secondary less affordable and accessible. That's due to their slashing of funding and their jacking up of tuition.

Their plan to implement performance-based funding in post-secondary institutions has students and faculty alarmed, raising alarm bells. Their formula is going to mean more cuts and even worse outcomes.

Will the minister stand in the House today and confirm whether his government will implement performance-based funding? Yes or no?

Hon. Jon Reyes (Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration): Mr. Deputy Speaker, we know the NDP loves to interfere in our post-secondary institutions' autonomy. They neglected calls to expand the nursing and health-care professionals training seats during their 17 years in government, resulting in critical shortages in the health-care sector.

Manitobans know the NDP record when it comes to post-secondary institutions and health care. They don't want to go back to the dark days of the NDP.

Our 'gombent' is making record investments to fill the gaps left by the previous NDP administration. We are taking action, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

New Congenital Syphilis and HIV/AIDS Cases Request for Government Plan to Address

MLA Uzoma Asagwara (Union Station): Today is World AIDS Day and Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week. It's so important to cast a light on this issue in order for us to do our part to end the stigma for those living with HIV and AIDS.

Unfortunately, Manitoba has seen a very large increase in the number of new HIV cases. In the last four quarters, over 200 people were newly diagnosed with HIV. I hope everyone in this House can understand that that is an astronomically high number. That's double what it was just a few years ago.

What is the minister doing to immediately address this?

Hon. Audrey Gordon (Minister of Health): I do want to thank the member for Union Station for the

question. It gives me an opportunity to highlight what our government is doing.

And we're working very closely with Public Health to improve the prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS. I was pleased to sit down with our provincial chief Public Health officer, Dr. Roussin, who's monitoring the changes across the province, but mostly here in the city of Winnipeg.

And, based on discussions with him and the public health team, our government is investing \$632,000 to enhance HIV/AIDS services in areas impacted by high cases, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

MLA Asagwara: It is deeply concerning: the newly released data on blood-borne infection shows a rapid rise in HIV infections; as I stated, over 200 in the last four quarters, and that's double the number from just a few years ago.

Much more than what the minister just announced needs to be done to address this, including supervised consumption sites. That—we know, and experts are telling us time and time again, reduce the risk of blood-borne infections like HIV.

* (14:30)

When will the minister take appropriate action, provide supervised consumption sites and reduce the growing tide of HIV infections?

Ms. Gordon: Mr. Deputy Speaker, our government has also invested \$2.3 million to support the development of an Indigenous-led S-T-B-B-U testing and contact tracing strategy, enhancing treatment coverage for those with financial barriers, as well.

We are investing in programs to maximize treatment, prevention and expand harm reduction strategies for those living with HIV/AIDS, and those are evidenced-informed harm reduction strategies, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And we will continue to work with grassroots and local organizations, as well as Public Health.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The honourable member for Union Station, on a final supplementary.

MLA Asagwara: Deputy Speaker, the reporting I'm referring to also shows that in the last four quarters there were also 60 diagnoses of congenital syphilis. That's up from 47 last year.

Deputy Speaker, to be clear, there should be zero cases of congenital syphilis in Manitoba. This is an

entirely preventable disease with proper prenatal care provided.

This issue is not under control. We have raised this issue time and time and time again in this House. We have pleaded with this government to take action.

When will the minister take meaningful action to address congenital syphilis and the rising blood-borne infections here in Manitoba?

Ms. Gordon: I agree there has been an increase in STBBI cases, not just in Manitoba, but across Canada. It's not unique to our province, but Manitoba's government has taken steps.

We've increased syphilis testing in pregnant women in Manitoba. We've expanded harm reduction networks and peer advisory councils. Since 2019, we've provided over \$850,000 in increased annual funding to the Manitoba Harm Reduction Network. We have increased the distribution of harm reduction supplies, including \$650,000 in the WRHA alone.

The member for Union Station may have missed these investments; happy to table a report at a later date.

Thank you.

Potential Sale of Lions Place Seniors Residence Request for Government Intervention to Prevent

Mr. Dougald Lamont (St. Boniface): This morning, I attended a very emotional emergency meeting at Lions Place with staff and residents about the crisis unfolding there due to the threatened sale of the building.

People are angry, fearful and frustrated. We heard residents are facing a 10 per cent rate-rent hike in spring and Lions Club is being into—driven into deficit and debt.

Manitoba and Canada have a \$400-million-plus housing agreement for this very purpose. A letter from Minister Dan Vandal made it clear that the federal government is interested in helping the Lions and this emergency can end the moment this government steps up with a real commitment of funds, because the sale is not yet complete.

Will the government step up to help the seniors in their time of need?

Hon. Rochelle Squires (Minister of Families): Irrespective of that member's false assertions that he continues to put on the record each day he comes into

this House, our government is taking this—the issue very seriously. We are working very diligently.

It has been very difficult for the Province to come into this space when we were not informed before decisions were made about the future of Lions Place, but we are working very diligently to ensure that the residents at Lions Place receive no rent increases.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The honourable member for St. Boniface, on a follow-up.

Mr. Lamont: One resident said this is an emergency—an emergency for every single one of them.

This crisis was triggered when, in 2018, Manitoba Housing stopped supporting Lions Place. And the reason Lions Place is up for sale is because, as the largest building the Lions runs, it means they won't have to close or sell off other Lions facilities like their PCH, whose mortgage expires next year.

All of this was built with public money and it has always all required public support. This is a matter of political will, and if we can't provide for seniors properly, we should all ask what kind of society we're living in.

On this last day of session, on behalf of the seniors of Lions Place and others facing housing insecurity, will the government do the right thing and support our seniors and Lions Club into the future?

Ms. Squires: Our government is committed to affordability and affordable housing for all seniors in the province of Manitoba, and at this time of year—in this particular moment—especially those seniors living at Lions Place. And we recognize the uncertainty and the anxiety that they're feeling, but I can assure them that our government is working diligently to ensure that they have the longevity of their housing.

That is why we've brought in some pass measures. That is why we're going to continue working towards more affordable housing in the province of Manitoba. That is why we signed on to that national action strategy and why last year's budget included enhanced investments for housing.

And we quadrupled Rent Assist—something that member voted against each and every time. Shame on him.

Peter Nygård Assault Allegations Calls for Public Inquiry

Ms. Cindy Lamoureux (Tyndall Park): Peter Nygård has been an open secret in Winnipeg for decades and

is now being tried for his crimes in New York, Ontario and Quebec, but no charges have been laid in Manitoba.

Winnipeg is on the map of Nygård's sheltered training grounds, where he sexually assaulted many victims and began his human trafficking ring.

Earlier this week, Manitoba Liberals held a press conference with victims of and advocates against Nygård. We called for this government to consider the very serious damage that the lack of charges are causing to many victims.

Will this government reopen the investigation and call a public inquiry into the charges against Peter Nygård?

Hon. Kelvin Goertzen (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): I want to thank the member for the question.

Of course, we—and, I think, all Manitobans—are very concerned and disturbed by the allegations against Peter Nygård, and hearing the stories from those who've come forward to share them.

I want to remind the member, of course, that prosecutions is independent. But I do believe that it's important to have a second opinion, and I've instructed the department to seek a second opinion from Crown attorneys outside the province of Manitoba and to look to see whether or not that second opinion results in a different result on charging.

Northern Commercial Fishery Eco-Certification

Mr. Rick Wowchuk (Swan River): Mr. Deputy Speaker, commercial fishing is a vital source of employment for northern and Indigenous communities, generating over \$100 million annually and employing over 2,000 Manitobans.

Can the Minister of Natural Resources and Northern Development explain what the government is doing to ensure Manitoba's fishing industry continues to grow?

Hon. Greg Nesbitt (Minister of Natural Resources and Northern Development): I'd like to thank the member for Swan River for that question.

Our government recognizes the value and importance this industry is to northern 'indigenous'—and Indigenous communities, which is why we have invested \$2.5 million into eco-certifying our lakes and fisheries to ensure the industry can supply the growing demand for sustainably sourced fish for international markets.

Through these efforts, I had the 'pleasunt' to announce that Cedar Lake Fisheries on the Chemawawin First Nation has joined Waterhen Lake as Manitoba's second eco-certified fishery. This is an outstanding accomplishment, and it is why we will continue to work with partners to achieve eco-certification and sustainability so that fishers have world markets available to them for generations to come.

Employment Leave for Miscarriage or Stillbirth Request for Support for Bill 210

Ms. Amanda Lathlin (The Pas-Kameesak): On Monday, I reintroduced bill two-one-10, which would allow employees to take paid leave if their pregnancy or their partner's pregnancy ends in a miscarriage or a stillbirth.

This was a bittersweet moment, as we are proud to bring forward this important legislation again, but I'm also disappointed that I had to reintroduce as-reintroduce this bill, as the PCs did not support it last session.

Thankfully, they have another chance to do the right thing and support bill two-one-10 so that Manitobans have enough time to grieve.

Will the PCs commit to do so today?

Hon. Reg Helwer (Minister of Labour, Consumer Protection and Government Services): Having gone through a miscarriage with my lovely wife, it is a very traumatic and trying time. We recognize the impact that it has on families.

And currently, under the code, Manitoba does offer various leaves an employee may avail themselves of as they—if they are affected by a miscarriage or stillbirth.

* (14:40)

Ms. Lathlin: Miscarriages and stillbirths can be very traumatizing events for hopeful parents, and having to go back to work the day immediately after only adds to this trauma.

Many people can't afford to take unpaid days off work, meaning that they have—they're having to choose between their health and their income.

Bill 210 would solve this issue by ensuring all Manitobans have access to paid days off work in the event of a miscarriage or a stillbirth.

The PCs should support Bill 210 so Manitobans can take the time off they need to grieve and recover: will they do so today?

Ekosi.

Mr. Helwer: Well, in Manitoba, individuals may be entitled to three unpaid days of job-protected leave under the code's family-related-leave provisions. And if a stillbirth or miscarriage occurred after the 19th week of pregnancy, the employee is entitled to maternity leave.

This also aligns with federal legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Ms. Lathlin: No one should have to choose between their health and their income. Yet, without paid leave from work in the event of a miscarriage or stillbirth, that's exactly what many Manitobans are having to do.

A lack of time to grieve and recover can compound the trauma people experience.

The PCs can help solve this problem by supporting Bill 210, which would provide all Manitobans with paid leave in case of a miscarriage or stillbirth.

Will they do the right thing and support bill 21 today—210 today?

Mr. Helwer: It does bring up a traumatic time in our family, questioning of this nature.

But I do recognize that it is traumatic for all families that face these particular circumstances, and we know that, in Manitoba, our definition of family members is among the broadest of all provinces and that we continue to review the legislation.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Reduction in Beef Herds Request for Restocking Plan

Mr. Diljeet Brar (Burrows): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Manitoba Agriculture estimates that Manitoba lost 12,000 beef cows between January 2021 and January 2022. The department found that these losses can't be reversed without aggressive rebuilding. They found that, on normal, replacement herds won't be rebuilt within 10 years. Long term, it means lower herd numbers. It means a declining industry.

What is the minister doing to address any of this?

Hon. Heather Stefanson (Premier): I thank the member opposite for, finally, a question in the Chamber about agriculture. That's wonderful.

But it does remind me, Mr. Deputy Speaker, how out of retouch-of—with reality that members opposite are. Manitobans should be very wary of their hidden agenda, their hidden agenda to jack up taxes and fees to drive Manitoba Hydro into the ground, to make life less affordable for Manitobans.

We've been listening to Manitobans. We've been hearing loud and clear the things that they want, and that's what we put in our Throne Speech: making communities safer, life more affordable, putting patients first, putting—building stronger communities and making Manitoba more competitive.

We'll continue to work with all Manitobans,
Mr. Deputy Speaker—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The honourable minister's time has expired.

And I have a ruling for the House.

The time has expired for oral questions.

Speaker's Ruling

Mr. Deputy Speaker: And I have a ruling for the House.

Following the land acknowledgement on November 23rd, 2022, the honourable member for Point Douglas (Mrs. Smith) raised a matter of privilege alleging that, at the end of oral questions on November 22nd, 2022, the honourable member for Midland (Mr. Pedersen) struck her chair with force with the intent of stopping her from speaking in the Chamber. The honourable member for Point Douglas noted that obstructing a member from performing their duties is a violation of parliamentary privilege.

The member concluded her remarks by moving: That this House compel the MLA for Midland to apologize for his—for this action, refer this matter to a committee of the House to examine whether any further sanctions are necessary for the MLA for Midland and to examine the question of how to ensure no MLA engages in any physical acts of aggression or any other act which prevents MLAs from performing their duties.

The honourable member for Midland spoke to the matter and apologized to the member for his actions. The honourable Government House Leader (Mr. Goertzen) also spoke to the matter before I took it under advisement.

As members know, there are two conditions that must be satisfied in order for a matter raised to be ruled in order as a prima facie case of privilege: Was the issue raised at the earliest opportunity, and was sufficient evidence provided to support the member's claim that their privileges or the privileges of the House were breached?

In her submission on this matter, the honourable member for Point Douglas indicated that this was her

earliest opportunity to raise this matter, and I accept the member's word on that point.

On the second condition of whether the member provided sufficient evidence to support a prima facie case of privilege, there are several factors to consider.

Before I proceed, I must remind members that when a presiding officer considers the merits of a matter of privilege, they must be guided only by procedural considerations. Often, there are other factors and circumstances at play in these cases, but those must be set aside when considering such a matter on its procedural merits. In this case, there are certainly other circumstances related to the current matter to consider, and I'll address them later in this ruling.

Clearly, the obstruction of a member from their parliamentary duties would be a violation of parliamentary privilege. All of the procedural authorities confirm this sentiment, including Bosc and Gagnon who state on page 110 of the third edition of *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*: In circumstances where members claim to be physically obstructed, impeded, interfered with or intimidated in the performance of their parliamentary functions, the Speaker is apt to find that a prima facie breach of privilege has occurred.

This reference begs the question of what constitutes parliamentary functions. While there is no codified list to guide us here, based on practical experience, it's reasonable to conclude that parliamentary functions would include activities in the House or in a committee, such as speaking in debate and voting. But I am not convinced that heckling should be considered a parliamentary function. It is certainly the duty and responsibility of all MLAs to represent their constituents and advocate for the issues and causes they believe in, but the most effective way to do that is by actually speaking in debate, as opposed to heckling while other members have the floor.

* (14:50)

I must also reference the apology offered by the honourable member for Midland. I appreciate that the member rose to apologize immediately after the privilege submission by the honourable member for Point Douglas and I was satisfied that his apology was sincere and genuine.

I am aware that the honourable member for Point Douglas sought more than an apology in her motion, but I must remind members that, historically in this House and in all other Canadian jurisdictions, such an

apology would be considered enough to conclude the matter.

On page 267 of Parliamentary Privilege in Canada, second edition, in the section, where a member is the subject of a question of privilege, Maingot states: An apology by the offending member will invariably close the matter without the necessity of putting the motion to a vote. This has been the practice in this House for generations and there are many such examples in our records.

In consideration of all of these factors, I must rule that the honourable member for Point Douglas (Mrs. Smith) did not provide sufficient evidence to prove a prima facie case of privilege, and, from a procedural perspective, I would rule this matter concluded.

From the perspective of this House and this Chamber as a workplace, I do have more to say.

Members will know and understand that presiding officers do their best to improve and maintain decorum in the House. Because we all care so much about why we are here, sometimes our rhetoric becomes more intense and the level of tension in the room rises. All of this is understandable and usually manageable. On occasion however, the tone in the room goes too far, and strong words are shouted across the Chamber. Far worse than that, sometimes physical actions can escalate the tension in the room.

I appreciate the apology offered by the honourable member for Midland (Mr. Pedersen); however, the member should be aware that his action was received as a violation of personal space, and it was clearly offensive and upsetting for the honourable member for Point Douglas. I would strongly advise all members to bear in mind how your actions in this place might be received by others, and govern yourselves accordingly.

We can disagree with each other in this place, but we must do that respectfully, as respect should be the basis for our parliamentary democracy. There is nothing wrong with us being adversaries in this Assembly. I believe that it is, in fact, quite healthy for our democracy. The problems arise when we start considering each other as enemies.

I would add to this ruling that I am aware that Madam Speaker has been considering developing a code of conduct for members of this Assembly. Given recent events in the House, I am going to recommend to her that she initiate that project as soon as possible by convening an all-party working group to prepare a

draft document for consideration by our Legislative Assembly Management Commission.

I will conclude with some simple advice for all members. People watch what we do here, and what we do here matters. So, while we are doing this important work, let's remember to be kind to each other. We can disagree, debate, criticize and advocate, but, if we cannot be kind in this place, how can we expect our constituents to respect us and support us?

Thank you for your attention to this ruling.

Mr. Wab Kinew (Leader of the Official Opposition): I must respectfully disagree with a lot of what you said. This is a bad decision which sets a precedent that it's okay to strike another member's chair if they are heckling. I—*[interjection]*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Kinew: —thereby challenge your—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The ruling can be challenged, not debated.

The ruling of the Chair has been challenged.

The question before the House is, shall the ruling of the Chair be sustained?

Some Honourable Members: Agreed.

Some Honourable Members: No.

Voice Vote

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those in favour, please say yea.

Some Honourable Members: Yea.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: All those opposed, please say nay.

Some Honourable Members: Nay.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: In my opinion, the Yeas have it.

Recorded Vote

MLA Nahanni Fontaine (Official Opposition House Leader): A recorded vote, Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: A recorded vote having been called, call in the members.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. *[interjection]* Order, please. *[interjection]* I am calling order.

This is a serious matter and I will not have members chirping at each other during the vote.

Division

A RECORDED VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

Yeas

Clarke, Cox, Cullen, Ewasko, Friesen, Goertzen, Gordon, Guenter, Guillemard, Helwer, Isleifson, Johnston, Khan, Lagassé, Lagimodiere, Martin, Michaleski, Morley-Lecomte, Nesbitt, Pedersen, Pivniuk, Reyes, Schuler, Smith (Lagimodière), Smook, Squires, Stefanson, Teitsma, Wharton, Wishart, Wowchuk.

Nays

Altomare, Asagwara, Brar, Bushie, Fontaine, Kinew, Lathlin, Lindsey, Maloway, Marcelino, Moses, Naylor, Redhead, Sala, Sandhu, Smith (Point Douglas), Wasyliw, Wiebe.

Clerk (Ms. Patricia Chaychuk): Yeas 31, Nays 18.

* (15:00)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Ruling of the Chair has been sustained.

Speaker's Statement

Mr. Deputy Speaker: As the House is expected to adjourn later today for our winter break, and as Youth Parliament will be using the Chamber later this month, I would encourage all honourable members to remove the contents of their desks today.

I would further encourage members to recycle as much of the material as possible. The blue bins here in the Chamber are designated for recycling of Hansard only. Any other material you would like to recycle can be placed in the larger recycling containers in the message rooms located just outside the Chamber. Thank you.

* * *

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Petitions?

Seeing no petitions, grievances?

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Continued)

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. Kelvin Goertzen (Government House Leader): I have a leave request.

In accordance with section 34 of the Sessional Order passed by this House on October 7th, 2020, and subsequently amended, I'm seeking leave of the

House to further amend that same Sessional Order so that (1) in the first paragraph, December 1, 2022, is replaced by June 1st, 2023; and (2) section 31 is deleted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there leave to further amend the Sessional Order passed by this House on October 7th, 2020, and subsequently amend, so that (1) in the first paragraph, December 1, 2022, is replaced by June 1, 2023; and (2) section 31 is deleted.

Is there leave? [Agreed]

Mr. Goertzen: I have two leave requests related to today's House business.

First, could you please canvass the House for leave to allow the following bills to be considered for concurrence and third reading this afternoon: Bill 3, The Vital Statistics Amendment Act (Name Registration); Bill 5, The Demise of the Crown Act (Various Acts Amended); and Bill 213, The Animal Care Amendment Act.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there leave to allow the following bills to be considered for concurrence and third reading this afternoon: Bill 3, The Vital Statistics Amendment Act (Name Registration); Bill 5, The Demise of the Crown Act (Various Acts Amended); Bill 213, The Animal Care Amendment Act.

Is there leave? [Agreed]

Mr. Goertzen: Could you please canvass the House for leave to schedule the following items of business today at the times noted, with the understanding that the Deputy Speaker or Chairperson will be empowered to interrupt debate if necessary to put the questions without further debate at these appointed times:

(1) Committee of the Whole on Bill 200 will begin immediately following this request, with the questions put by 3:15;

(2) Concurrence and third reading of Bill 3 will begin at 3:15, with the questions to be put by 3:35 p.m.;

(3) Concurrence and third reading of Bill 5 will begin at 3:35 p.m., with the questions to be put at 3:45 p.m.;

(4) Concurrence and third reading of Bill 213 will begin at two—sorry, at 3:45 p.m., with the questions to be put by 4:05 p.m.;

Concurrence and third reading of Bill 200 will begin at 4:05 p.m., with the questions to be put by 4:20 p.m.;

Royal assent of bills 3, 4, 5, 200 and 213 will occur at 4:20 p.m.

If any of this business concludes before the noted deadline time, the House may proceed to the next item on the list, with the end times remaining the same.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there leave to schedule the following items of business today at the times noted, with the understanding that the Deputy Speaker or Chairperson will be empowered to interrupt debate if necessary to put the questions without further debate at these appointed times:

(1) Committee of the Whole on Bill 200 will begin immediately following this request, with the questions to be put at 3:15;

(2) Concurrence and third reading of Bill 3 will begin at 3:15, with the question to be put at 3:35;

(3) Concurrence and third reading of Bill 5 will begin at 3:35, with the question to be put at 3:45;

(4) Concurrence and third reading of Bill 213 will begin at 3:45; with the question to be put at 4:05;

(5) Concurrence and third reading of Bill 200 will begin at 4:05, with the question to be put at 4:20;

(6) Royal assent of bills 3, 4, 5, 200 and 213 will occur at 4:20 p.m.

If any of this business concludes before the noted deadline time, the House may proceed to the next item on the list, with the end times to remain the same.

Is there leave? *[Agreed]*

The honourable Government House Leader, on House business.

House Business

Mr. Goertzen: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'd like to announce the Standing Committee on Legislative Affairs will meet on Monday, December 19th, 2022, at 10 a.m. to consider the following: the Annual Report of Elections Manitoba for the year ending December 31st, 2021.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It has been announced by the honourable Government House Leader that the Standing Committee on Legislative Affairs will meet on Monday, December 19th, 2022, at 10 a.m. to consider the annual report of Elections Manitoba for the year ending December 31st, 2021.

* * *

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The—okay. I'm just going to get my papers in order here.

* (15:10)

As previously agreed, we will begin Committee of the Whole to consider Bill 200.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, please take the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Mr. Deputy Chairperson (Dennis Smook): Will the Committee of the Whole please come to order.

Bill 200—The Black History Month Act (Commemoration of Days, Weeks and Months Act Amended)

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: As announced, this committee will now consider the following: Bill 200, The Black History Month Act (Commemoration of Days, Weeks and Months Act Amended).

Does the sponsor of the bill, the honourable member for St. Vital (Mr. Moses), have an opening statement?

Mr. Jamie Moses (St. Vital): I just want to make a brief statement to say I encourage all members who are going to be voting for the Black History Month bill to actually come to a Black History Month event this February. There are many events to participate in across the province, especially here in Winnipeg.

I would encourage all members and all those who are watching at home, participate in Black History Month. It's a wonderful time. Lots of events, lots of learning, lots of celebration. So come and celebrate Black History Month in February.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: We thank the member for that statement.

Do any other members wish to make an opening statement?

Seeing none, during the consideration of a bill, the enacting clause and the title are postponed until all other clauses have been considered in their proper order.

Clause 1—pass; clause 2—pass; clause 3—pass; enacting clause—pass; title—pass. Bill be reported.

Committee rise. That concludes the business before the committee.

The hour being 3:13, what is the will of the committee?

Some Honourable Members: Committee rise.

Mr. Deputy Chairperson: Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION

Committee Report

Mr. Dennis Smook (Deputy Chairperson): The Committee of the Whole has considered the following: Bill 200, The Black History Month Act (Commemoration of Days, Weeks, and Months Act Amended), and reports the same without amendment.

I move, seconded by the honourable member for Swan River (Mr. Wowchuk), that the report of the committee be received.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I need to indicate that the mover and seconder must be in their own chair.

Mr. Dennis Smook (Deputy Chairperson): The member for Seine River—I move, seconded by the honourable member for Seine River (Ms. Morley-Lecomte), that the report of the committee be received.

Motion agreed to.

CONCURRENCE AND THIRD READINGS

Bill 3—The Vital Statistics Amendment Act (Name Registration)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: As previously announced, we will now move to concurrence and third reading of Bill 3, The Vital Statistics Amendment Act (Name Registration).

Hon. Reg Helwer (Minister of Labour, Consumer Protection and Government Services): I move, seconded by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Friesen), that Bill 3, The Vital Statistics Amendment Act (Name Registration), reported from the Standing Committee on Social and Economic Development, be concurred in and now read for a third time and passed.

Motion presented.

Mr. Helwer: Really pleased to stand here at third reading and talk about this, The Vital Statistics Act amendment, which will modernize The Vital Statistics Act to expand the parameters of name registration to include a wider range of characters and names in recognition of traditional Indigenous languages, as well as many other languages and cultures, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And this has been a request we've been working on, on some time.

It's very critical that we move this ahead so we can done quickly and move on to the next step, which is communing with federal government and agencies that we know have to change how they accept as well as other provinces.

And looking back on how people can reclaim their traditional names or, as you probably know, we follow a common practice in our government, as opposed to previous governments that didn't go to Treasury Board. In order to change fees to forgive going back to the traditional names, we have to go to Treasury Board. And we—once this act is passed, we will be able to take that step, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are there any other speakers?

Mr. Ian Bushie (Keewatinook): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for a chance to share a few words on the—Bill 3, The Vital Statistics Amendment Act. And, again, as been mentioned in previous opportunities to speak to this piece of legislation, is that it's still incomplete; it is still not enough.

The minister had shared that these attempts and this change to this act is going to be effective basically here in Manitoba, and that he is going to, quote unquote, reach out and advocate to the federal government to change their systems to also allow this to happen.

And time and time again we've asked that question, exactly how is that going to be. And specifically towards Indigenous communities, Indigenous people here in Manitoba, that primarily a lot of their identification is actually federal identification, whether it be their passport or whether it be this—their treaty status cards, which this legislation and this changes that are going to be made here will not allow that to happen here.

So, potentially, there'll be lot of confusion that will go on, then, to actually have them potentially have two pieces of identification with differentiating names, which will ultimately cause a lot more confusion.

So we did call upon this government to make those changes and to say what that advocacy was going to be on a federal level, and we didn't hear any of that in this legislation.

And don't get me wrong, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a start, but at the same time we cannot always be at the starting stage of being—making positive changes towards Indigenous reconciliation here in Manitoba. We have to be able to see it through to the end result, and this piece of legislation does not do that, but it does do a start.

So we are in support of this legislation for the intent that it is, but it is still not complete and we want to share those words on the record.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

* (15:20)

Ms. Cindy Lamoureux (Tyndall Park): I'm happy to rise and just have the opportunity to share a few more words on the record with respect to Bill 3.

Want to take this opportunity to just remind the government of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action No. 17 that would enable survivors and their families to reclaim names changed by the residential school system, as well as waiving administrative costs. And I think that this is a opportunity that the government does have to take in respect the calls for truth and reconciliation, and I hope that they do make these changes and ensure that it is part of the legislation and how it is, in fact, practised.

I also want to just encourage the government to work with Vital Stats Manitoba as much as possible to ensure that there aren't any backlogs and ensure that those who want to have access and to utilize this legislation and change their names, that they have the ability to do so.

I know many people who may want to use this legislation may not have easy access, for example, to a phone line or they might not have a permanent address and we just want to make sure that we're doing whatever we can as provincial legislatures to ensure that anyone who perhaps has even in the past tried to change their names are made aware of this legislation and that we're removing as many barriers as possible for that.

And lastly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think it's just very important that those using this new change to Vital Statistics Manitoba understand that it is new legislation and there are some potential limitations, whether that be through technology or just other parts of the world having to catch up.

We want to make sure people understand that, for example, if they change their name for having a first and last name to just one name, that, at this point in time, they cannot have a valid passport. That was something that the minister shared with us, and we just—we want to make sure that people are fully aware of the changes being made and of potential limitations, and that this government is working interjurisdictionally with other provinces and territories and even other parts of the world to make sure that these limitations and barriers are removed.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are there any other speakers?

Seeing none, the question before the House is third-concurrence and third reading of Bill 3, The Vital Statistics Amendment Act (Name Registration).

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

Bill 5—The Demise of the Crown Act (Various Acts Amended)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: We will now move, as previously announced, to concurrence and third reading on Bill 5, The Demise of the Crown Act (Various Acts Amended).

Hon. Kelvin Goertzen (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): I move, seconded by the Minister of Labour, Consumer Protection and Government Services (Mr. Helwer), that Bill 5, The Demise of the Crown Act (Various Acts Amended), reported from the Standing Committee on Social and Economic Development, be concurred in and be now read for a third time and passed.

Motion presented.

Mr. Goertzen: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I spoke to the contents of this bill at second reading. There were questions that arose during the question-and-answer period. I answered them at committee last night. There were no presenters, so there's nothing further that I need to expound on in third reading.

Mr. Matt Wiebe (Concordia): As much as I'd like to add to the—you know, many words that have been put on the record with regards to this bill—I know we had a robust debate at second reading—I think I'll keep my comments short. I know I have important business that needs to be done today.

I did have an opportunity to pop on and listen to committee last night. Appreciate that the minister's brought back some of that information and appreciate that this is largely administrative.

And so we look forward to seeing this passed and moving on to the rest of the business for the afternoon.

Hon. Jon Gerrard (River Heights): Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this bill is pretty straightforward. As a result of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and ascension to the throne of King Charles III, we need to make some changes and we're able to make, in this bill, changes which also would allow these changes to be made without necessarily having legislation in the future.

So we are in full agreement with this. I would say also, very briefly, that we are thankful to

Queen Elizabeth II for her tremendous contribution over so many years and we look forward to working with King Charles III and his particular interest in the environment, I think, is very encouraging because it's an extraordinarily important topic for the planet at the moment.

Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are there any other speakers?

Seeing no further speakers, the question before the House is concurrence and third reading of Bill 5, The Demise of the Crown Act (Various Acts Amended).

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

CONCURRENCE AND THIRD READINGS— PUBLIC BILLS

Bill 213—The Animal Care Amendment Act

Mr. Deputy Speaker: We will now move, as previously announced, to concurrence and third reading of Bill 213, The Animal Care Amendment Act.

Mr. Obby Khan (Fort Whyte): I move, seconded by member for Radisson (Mr. Teitsma), that Bill 213, The Animal Care Amendment Act, reported from the Standing Committee on Social and Economic Development, be concurred and now be read for a third time and passed.

Motion presented.

Mr. Khan: It is an honour for me to rise today and have my first bill passed unanimously with the support of everyone in this House. I think that it shows that we can work together when we have to and the animals thank us. I know all the animals throughout this House, that—but not the members sitting in here, but all the animals throughout Manitoba really thank us for this.

This is a step—progressive step forward in protecting animals across Manitoba and I look forward to bringing more bills forward to—for further protections of animals here in Manitoba.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I thank everyone for their support.

Mr. Matt Wiebe (Concordia): Wow, Mr. Deputy Speaker, getting in twice in one week to stand up and talk about animals. This is a real pleasure and a real treat.

I want to commend the member for Fort Whyte. I think this bill is an important one and certainly speaks

to the importance of looking after pets and animals in our city and our province. And I think it really does help strengthen—again, we have some of these rules in place here in the city of Winnipeg, but expands that throughout the province, and I think that's a commendable goal.

I also, while I have the opportunity, wanted to make sure that I shouted out my colleague from St. Johns, who's been an absolute pioneer and leader with regards to animal welfare in our province, and I think she's done a great job of ensuring that this issue remains at the forefront.

And, you know, I hear the member for Fort Whyte talking about, you know, bipartisan support for this. I think it is a good model. I'm hoping that we can continue this model, and the next time we bring a great piece of legislation forward by the member for St. Johns (MLA Fontaine), maybe he, you know, he won't listen to other voices in his caucus that say, oh, you know, it's got to be the orange team versus the blue team. Sometimes we're here for the pets and for the animals. So, hopefully, this will continue on this issue and others.

I also would be remiss if I don't, one more time, thank Mr. Brady Oliveira for coming down to the Legislature and most importantly, allowing me to spend some time with his dogs, but, in all seriousness, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for the great work that he does for animals across our province. And I know that that shows his commitment to our community. And he is just one of so many people. As I mentioned, even in my own constituency, folks who give, you know, so much of themselves to rescue animals and to put those pets first.

It really is commendable, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and when we can, as legislators, stand behind those people, in their work with animals, I think that's a very good step in the right direction.

* (15:30)

So, as I said, I hope this is just one step of many and that we can continue to work on these kinds of issues and others in lockstep to make sure that we can get some things done for animal welfare in this province.

Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Ms. Cindy Lamoureux (Tyndall Park): Again, I rise just to put a few more thoughts on the record here about Bill 213.

And it is an excellent piece of legislation, and I really want to commend the member for Fort Whyte (Mr. Khan) for doing the amount of consultation in—which he did and bringing to the Manitoba Legislature not only those he consulted with, but also a bunch of dogs, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It really did make for a fun and enjoyable morning here at the Leg. just yesterday, and it was a nice change of pace for once here in these Chambers. So I want to thank the member for doing that.

I'm excited to be able to work with the member and the department responsible for the animal protection act, actually, on another piece of legislation protecting cats here in the province of Manitoba. And it's actually based off an idea that someone came and shared with me at McDonald's on Saturday. And I've already spoken with the member from Fort Whyte about it a little bit, and we're hoping to be able to work together on this piece of legislation moving forward.

And, lastly, just to congratulate him—I believe this is his first piece of legislation and that's always a very exciting time here in the Chamber—and just say thank you to all of those who have been lobbying the government over the years, both past NDP and current Conservative government, and just all the work that you're doing to protect animals here in our province.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are there any further speakers?

Seeing none, the question before the House is concurrence and third reading of Bill 213, The Animal Care Amendment Act.

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

**Bill 200—The Black History Month Act
(Commemoration of Days, Weeks
and Months Act Amended)**

Mr. Deputy Speaker: We will now move, as previously announced and agreed, to concurrence and third reading of Bill 200, The Black History Month Act (Commemoration of Days, Weeks and Months Act Amended).

Mr. Jamie Moses (St. Vital): I move, seconded by the member for Union Station (MLA Asagwara), that Bill 200, The Black History Month Act (Commemoration of Days, Weeks and Months Act Amended), reported from the Committee of the Whole, be concurred in and be now read for a third time and passed.

Motion presented.

Mr. Moses: I'm happy that we've reached this stage of the bill. I'm excited that many members have showed support for this piece of legislation that will recognize, officially, February as Black History Month in Manitoba.

And I think that, as a sign that it's going to be a unanimous vote—I hope—sure hope it is—that it shows that Black history is more than just people—for the Black community. It's really all of our history is Black history, and Black history is part of entire Canadian history. And I think that's one of the points of Black history, is to make that acknowledgement that—the importance of Black history as part of everything that happens in Canada.

So, we're very happy to bring this forward, to have it supported, to now acknowledge and lift up the people who've been doing the work, the heavy lifting, over many decades. To—and make sure many Manitobans know about Black history, open—hopefully open up more doors for this history to be told to more Manitobans.

And that will, Mr. Deputy Speaker, be our goal, to ensure that future generations are enlightened and empowered by what we do here today in the knowledge that all of us are supporting Black history here in Manitoba.

So, thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Obby Khan (Fort Whyte): Now, I rise with a tremendous amount of honour to support this bill.

As I spoke this morning, earlier, as a person of—a visible minority, that supporting bills like this is important, but it's also that everyone around here supported this bill.

And what I would say—I mean, I'm new here, but I thought my bill being passed in four days from Monday to today, Bill 213, is actually trumped by the member from St. Vital with his being—bill passed today. And it just shows the power of what we can do when we work together to accomplish such great bills and progressive thinking and forward movement to bring Manitoba together.

So I'm really honoured that that was—I was able to support this and stand and say a few words on the record.

The recognition of this month further takes steps toward equality, and that's what we're all here working towards. When our kids are out there, when our community members are out there and they see people from all backgrounds, all faiths, sexual orientations, that we

are working towards equality, and this Legislative Assembly is representative of that.

Black History Month gives Manitobans an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate further generations about the contributions of Black people and people of African descent to Manitoba's economic, social, political and cultural life.

So, it is with a tremendous amount of honour that I'm happy this bill is being passed. Congratulations to the member from St. Vital, and thank you for your time, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Jon Gerrard (River Heights): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm pleased to support this legislation, and thank the member for bringing this forward.

It is time that we do this. Black History Month has long been a month of celebration and awareness here in Manitoba, which there are many events organized by the Black community and in support of the Black community.

We have an increasing population of people who are Black in Manitoba, with many new immigrants who've come from various countries in Africa in particular, but certainly, not exclusively from Africa; from the Caribbean and, indeed, many people who've come from other countries on the way.

Here, Willard Reaves was a long-time history of being in the United States, and he came here more recently, as an example.

So, it is fitting that we do this, and it's going to be an important contribution to Manitoba and to Manitobans in the years ahead to have this recognized as Black History Month and to be able to celebrate the achievements of individuals in the Black community who've contributed so much to our province.

Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are there any other speakers? *[interjection]*

I'm sorry, the honourable member for Union Station.

MLA Uzoma Asagwara (Union Station): I'm grateful for another opportunity to put some words on the record in regards to this bill.

Again, I'm proud to have seconded this bill, and I'm really proud of my colleague, the MLA for St. Vital, for bringing this bill forward. It is—it's really important that, wherever we can formally, by way of

law, recognize, you know, a month like Black History Month, I think that it's important that we do so.

And I'll share a little bit about my own background. So, I'm a—many people know, I'm a first-generation Canadian. I'm a Nigerian person. I'm Ibo, more specifically; that's the tribe that I belong to and that my people belong to.

And being a first-gen Canadian, growing up here in Winnipeg, in a community, at the time, back in the day—back in the '80s and '90s—which was predominantly white at that time, St. Norbert. Very diverse now, but back when I was growing up, not so much.

My parents worked really, really hard as newcomers, as immigrants, to organize within Black communities, within the African community, within the Nigerian community, to make sure that their kids and other people's kids felt really proud to be Black, and proud to be African.

And it is the efforts of our elders, it is the efforts of people who have come before us, that have given folks like myself and like my colleague, the MLA for St. Vital, to be able to be in this House, to be a member of this esteemed place and bring forward legislation that really uplifts and celebrates the efforts of our elders, that celebrates the efforts of those that came before us and paved the way for us to even be members in this Chamber.

* (15:40)

Earlier today, when I had a moment to speak on the importance of this bill, I mentioned really briefly the importance of recognizing Black youth. And I want to reiterate those words again. Black youth across our province and across our country are doing incredible things to celebrate and amplify the Black community, and are advancing us in a way that reimagines what the futures of Black people in Canada and in Manitoba, in the Prairies can look like. And I think that's really important.

Not only is Black History Month about celebrating the past and how far we've come and making sure that we have a written discourse around history that is accurate—because so much of the history we learn here, unfortunately, is history that has erased the contributions of Black communities, it's important that we are writing a narrative and sharing stories that accurately reflect the contributions of Black people—but that we also recognize that the youth have a vision for their own futures, for the futures of Black people across the Prairies, across our country and globally,

that needs to be heard and should—deserves to be supported.

And so, I want to highlight incredible youth. I think about the youth, for example, who organized the Justice 4 Black Lives rally, the biggest rally surrounding Black rights and injustices against Black communities and the injustices of violence perpetrated against Black communities by the police and by the state. That rally was organized by Black youth. It was led by queer Black youth, by Black mothers, by Black folks who so often lead our movements.

And so, to those folks and to the young people who are visioning and reimagining what Black futures—and, quite frankly, the future for all of us—can and should look like here in Manitoba, I thank you and we celebrate you, and that's what my colleague's bill is really all about. It's also about lifting up folks who are thinking about Black futures.

And I want to be clear that the language of Black futures is language that was genesised from Black artists, which, I think, is a really important thing we don't talk about enough: that art and artists are in and of themselves activists, and they are the folks who, you know, through their creative talents, really illustrate for us the opportunities that exist to create the world that we want to see. And so, I want to thank Black artists and creatives who do a ton of heavy lifting and who—many of which are activists within their art, within their—whatever their respective talents are and their focuses are.

You know, we have to make sure that we recognize artists as revolutionaries. And there are folks like Syrus Marcus Ware that I think of. Rodney Diverlus. I think of, you know, many folks come to mind who we need to celebrate.

I think of also, you know, Black politicians that we need to high—like Andrea Jenkins and other folks who have paved the way for us.

And I want to make sure that when we have this conversation about Black History Month that we talk about the diversity that exists within Black communities, which is why I do think it is fundamentally important we talk about the creatives that, quite literally, sometimes illustrate the possibilities for us that exist for all Manitobans in respect of Black communities.

Here in Manitoba, we have some pretty well-known and renowned artists. I think of one, Yisa, who's a Nigerian artist. Absolutely incredible. Recently established alongside other folks, a Canadian artist initiative that highlights Canadian Black artists across

the country, an effort that launched at the Canadian museum of human rights. And, you know, Yisa's work is internationally renowned, but this particular effort, where he was able to also highlight many other local artists, speaks to the value that Black creatives hold in our communities.

And, you know, something that my colleague, the MLA for St. Vital, and I have discussed, and other folks, is that's it's one thing to have this law passed, but we need to make sure that we are advocating for there to be intentional efforts made at the government level to support the very diverse and dynamic Black communities here in Manitoba. We need to make sure that, as legislators, we are doing our part to ensure that Black organizations, that Black initiatives, be them formal, like, non-profits and charities, or maybe even informal, if that's the needs of the communities, like collectives, et cetera, are being met, that their voices are being heard.

And for too long in Manitoba, Black communities, organizations and initiatives have gone without equitable access to funding. They've gone without equitable access to resources and relationships, which would see their efforts really be able to be maximized to the benefit of all Manitobans.

Now, you've highlighted organizations like Black History Month Manitoba; they're outstanding. Those folks have done so much, so much for our communities; again, quite frankly, without the resources they deserve.

And so, with this bill in mind, I sincerely hope that all of us take it upon ourselves to advocate so that Black communities also see equity in all spaces, all places, and that we're advocating on behalf and alongside those who have, quite frankly, helped advance human rights in Manitoba to the benefit of everybody.

Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Diljeet Brar (Burrows): It's an honour to stand today and speak about Bill 200, The Black History Month Act (Commemoration of Days, Weeks and Months Act Amended).

First of all, I want to say thank you to my colleague, the member from St. Vital, for bringing this bill forward. It's very important for us—[interjection]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Brar: —to embrace diversity—[interjection]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Just going to ask if the numerous conversations could be a little quieter, if possible. One or two is perhaps a little quieter than multiple ones. So if members could bear that in mind so that the member for Burrows can speak clearly and I can hear as well.

Mr. Brar: I was talking about diversity and—which I'm very proud of. And being the first turbaned member in this Legislature, I feel—how it feels like representing the minorities, and I'm very happy to see people of colour in this Chamber.

And when we talk about, particularly this bill, The Black History Month Act, I'm so happy to see three members representing all other Manitobans, including the people from the Black communities and the African communities, but sometimes I wonder that—why it took so long for these discussions and debates and these words to be heard in this Chamber.

Why didn't this happen 20 years back? Why didn't we hear about the Black History Month at 10 years back? We had to wait for somebody from that community to get elected and sit in this Chamber, think about what's the right thing to do and then bring in this legislation.

But it's never too late. I'm happy that all the elected representatives in this Chamber, they are in favour of this act, this bill, and we are working together to embrace that diversity.

Still, we need to think that there is a lot that is unknown about the ethnic communities. Sometimes, we share things within our own community. Sometimes, we fail to bridge the gaps; I mean to say, the communication gaps between various ethnic groups.

So it's very important when we discuss about this particular bill today here, that all of us should make efforts to know more about the contributions, the sacrifices and the hard work that Black Manitobans have done to build our province and to build our beautiful country, Canada.

* (15:50)

During the process, I'm pretty sure that this member has worked with so many organizations that all the members don't know about, are not aware about. So, I would think that we must make connections. We must identify the organizations that represent the African communities and connect with them to know much more about the subject.

I can also proudly say that we all worked together to bring in other such bills and support them to become the law. For example, Filipino Heritage Month.

I represent so many members—so many constituents whose roots connect to Filipino heritage; similarly, Hindu and Sikh heritage. So those are the people I represent in this Chamber.

So it's always, always good to work together. It's always good to respect this diversity and it's always good to talk about various ethnic groups. Because, why it's important is that there are so many prejudices about the people who don't look like us because of the lack of knowledge, because of the lack of awareness about those religions, about those cultures, about what they wear, about how they talk, about what their language is. So we should be knowing each other better at formal platforms and informal platforms, because this country, this province, is known for its diversity.

And when we talk about diversity, we feel so good about it because, you know, this nature is diverse. I have said this in my remarks in the past in this Chamber that, just imagine—just imagine—a garden with flowers of single colour. It won't even look like a garden. So, the nature is diverse; there are different colours, different religions, different ethnicities.

So I would conclude here that I am so happy to speak about this bill and happy that it's going to be law soon.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of—sorry, let me ask a few other ones.

Are there any other speakers?

Is the House ready for the question?

An Honourable Member: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question before the House is concurrence and third reading of Bill 200, The Black History Month Act (Commemoration of Days, Weeks and Months Act Amended).

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

I declare the motion carried.

Hon. Kelvin Goertzen (Government House Leader): I believe the House is ready to prepare for royal assent.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Okay.

I am advised that Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor, is about to arrive to grant royal assent to the bills, so I am therefore interrupting the proceedings of the House for the royal assent.

ROYAL ASSENT

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

Her Honour Anita R. Neville, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Manitoba, having entered the House and being seated on the throne, Mr. Deputy Speaker addressed Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor in the following words:

* (16:00)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Your Honour:

At this sitting, the Legislative Assembly has passed certain bills that I ask Your Honour to give assent to:

Clerk Assistant (Ms. Vanessa Gregg):

Bill 3 – The Vital Statistics Amendment Act (Name Registration); Loi modifiant la Loi sur les statistiques de l'état civil (forme du nom)

Bill 4 – The Minimum Wage Adjustment Act, 2022 (Employment Standards Code Amended); Loi de 2022 sur le rajustement du salaire minimum (modification du Code des normes d'emploi)

Bill 5 – The Demise of the Crown Act (Various Acts Amended); Loi sur la dévolution de la Couronne (modification de diverses lois)

Bill 200 – The Black History Month Act (Commemoration of Days, Weeks and Months Act Amended); Loi sur le Mois de l'histoire des Noirs (modification de la Loi sur les journées, les semaines et les mois commémoratifs)

Bill 213 – The Animal Care Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur le soin des animaux

Clerk (Ms. Patricia Chaychuk): In her majesty's name, Her Honour assents to these bills.

Her Honour was then pleased to retire.

* * *

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Please be seated.

An Honourable Member: Point of order.

Point of Order

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition, on a point of order.

Mr. Wab Kinew (Leader of the Official Opposition): This being the last sitting day before the holiday season, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everybody a merry Christmas, a happy holiday, a safe

holiday with their families; to thank the clerks, the Hansard staff, the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Legislative Building security, as well as the Legislative pages and clerks, as well as yourself for your hard work this session.

And I would be remiss if I did not thank our wonderful House leader for all of her work shepherding us through. And since we are in the spirit of giving, why not also thank the Government House Leader (Mr. Goertzen), as well.

Merry Christmas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: On the same point of order, the honourable First Minister.

Hon. Heather Stefanson (Premier): On the same point of order.

I'm not sure that it is a point of order, but it is a point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and the point that we want to say is merry Christmas, happy holidays to everyone, as well. We wish you all the best and all your families the very best in this holiday season.

I also want to extend that to all of our—the clerks and table staff, to our pages, to Hansard, to everyone that helps—translation services, to everyone that helps us on a daily basis throughout session and beyond that in the Manitoba Legislature. And to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And we also just want to pass on our very best to Madam Speaker, as well, and we look forward to seeing her soon, as well.

And also to our Government House Leader, thank you to Minister Goertzen, as well—oh, sorry, sorry—Minister of Justice (Mr. Goertzen), as well as the Opposition House Leader, and to all of the—the Liberal House leader, as well, and to the Liberal members of the Chamber, as well.

Merry Christmas, happy holidays to all.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: On the same point of order?

Mr. Dougald Lamont (St. Boniface): Same point of order.

I could pull a Frank Costanza and have an airing of grievances for Festivus, but I won't. I'll say thank you very much, instead. I'll put a litany of gratitude and congratulations and best wishes for everybody for a safe and a healthy holiday season, and to have some really wonderful time with your family and friends over the next few weeks.

So, thank you so very, very much. Merci.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Probably everybody knows it's not a point of order, but it is a good point to make.

And I wish to take this opportunity, other than to remind everyone to empty their desks, to say a sincere thank you to the clerks. The whole team have been very gracious to me as I found myself in this role these last few weeks.

And to thank all members, as well. I know that you've had to bear with my rookie errors and mistakes here and there. I do say, sincerely, thank you.

And wish you all a very merry Christmas, happy new year, happy holidays and trust we will all be back here safely in due time.

* * *

Hon. Kelvin Goertzen (Government House Leader): Can you canvass the House to see if it's the will of the members to call it 5 p.m., Mr. Deputy Speaker?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the will of members to call it 5 p.m.? [*Agreed*]

The hour being 5 p.m., this House is adjourned and stands adjourned until the call of the Speaker, I believe.

That's it? [*interjection*] Call in—at the call of the Speaker.

Merry Christmas, everybody. Empty your desks. Have a wonderful holiday and see you all next year, if not before.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, December 1, 2022

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