



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 24

FOURTH SESSION, THIRTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

PRAYER

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

On motion of Hon. Mr. CHOMIAK, Bill (No. 17) – The Biofuels Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les biocarburants, was read a First Time and had its purposes outlined.

The following petitions were presented and read:

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

Mr. SCHULER – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request that the Minister of Transportation consider the immediate twinning of the PTH #15 Floodway Bridge for the safety of the citizens of Manitoba. (G. Desautels, K. Zacharias, G. Nolin and others)

Mrs. DRIEDGER – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Minister of Health to consider rethinking her refusal to allow an ophthalmologist to practice in Swan River and to consider working with the community to provide this service without further delay. (K. Genoway, C. Sparkman, D. Gray and others)

Mr. GRAYDON – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request the Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth to consider removing education funding by school tax or education levies from all property in Manitoba, including commercial property and to consider finding a more equitable method of funding education such as general revenue following the Constitutional funding of education by the Province of Manitoba. (J. Lysak, R. Nielsen, R. Tylok and others)

Mr. LAMOUREUX – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Provincial Government to consider how important it is to have a medical clinic located in the Weston/Brooklands area. (K. Cunningham, M. Hall, D. Hall and others)

Mrs. ROWAT – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Provincial Government to consider proceeding with the cheaper, shorter and more logical east side route, subject to necessary regulatory approvals, to save ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars during these challenging economic times. (G. Pederson, S. Osborne, R. E. Pedersen and others)

Mr. BRIESE – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request the Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation to consider making the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of PTH 16 and PTH 5 North a priority project in order to help protect the safety of the motorists and pedestrians who use it. (A. Van Der Busch, K. Lapointe, C. McKee and others)

Mr. EICHLER –Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request the Minister of Conservation to consider immediately placing the recent changes to the Onsite Wastewater Management System (OWMS) Regulation under The Environment Act on hold until such time that a review can take place to ensure that they are based on sound science and to consider implementing the prohibition on wastewater ejector systems on a case-by-case basis as determined by environmental need in ecologically sensitive areas and to consider offering financial incentives to help affected Manitoba property owners adapt to these regulatory changes. (E. J. Sigurdson, F. Burdett, B. Patterson and others)

Mr. PEDERSEN – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Provincial Government to consider proceeding with the cheaper, shorter and more logical east side route, subject to necessary regulatory approvals, to save ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars during these challenging economic times. (C. Morison, G. Lefloch, A. McIntosh and others)

Pursuant to Rule 26(1), Ms. KORZENIOWSKI, Mr. SCHULER, Ms. BRICK, Mrs. TAILLIEU and Hon. Ms. OSWALD made Members' Statements.

In accordance with Rule 31(9), the Opposition House Leader announced that the Denouncing “Israeli Apartheid Week” will be considered next Thursday, April 15, 2010.

The House resumed the Adjourned Debate on the Proposed Motion of Hon. Ms. WOWCHUK:

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

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

That the Motion be amended by deleting all the words after "House" and substituting:

therefore regrets that this budget fails to address the priorities of Manitobans by:

- (a) forcing Manitoba families to pay higher hydro rates, higher water bills, and a range of other hidden taxes in order to pay for three wasteful NDP pet projects which are:
 - i. forcing Manitoba Hydro, against its advice, to build Bipole III on the west side route, costing Manitobans an extra \$640 million, and damaging the environment; and
 - ii. forcing the City of Winnipeg to remove nitrogen from its wastewater, a decision that is expected to cost ratepayers an additional \$350 million, and which respected scientists say could be harmful to the health of Lake Winnipeg; and
 - iii. forcing unwanted enhanced drivers' licenses on Manitobans, costing \$14 million; and

- (b) creating a sinkhole of debt, now at \$23.4 billion and rising. As a result, Manitoba families will be forced to work longer hours at lower pay to pay off this bill in the years ahead; and
- (c) scrapping balanced budget laws in order to allow the NDP to accrue massive deficits totalling \$2.039 billion over the next half decade, putting social programs such as healthcare and education at risk; and
- (d) failing to preserve front line health care services with innovative service delivery, emphasizing preventative care, and reducing bloated bureaucracy; and
- (e) failing to recognize the importance of agriculture and rural communities to our economy; and
- (f) failing to offer a plan to encourage private investment to create opportunity and wealth, so Manitobans can feel hope that we will one day emerge from the hole of debt and dependency and see a brighter future.

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

And the proposed sub-amendment moved by Hon. Mr. GERRARD as follows:

THAT the amendment be amended by adding thereto the following words:

And further regrets that this budget fails to address the priorities of Manitobans by:

- (g) failing to properly manage the finances of Manitoba and as a result building up a huge structural deficit which will hurt Manitobans for many years to come; and
- (h) failing to acknowledge the damage the payroll tax has on economic growth; and
- (i) failing to set high goals for our provincial education system; and
- (j) failing to create an adequate action plan and funding for early childhood education in Manitoba, and
- (k) failing to increase student aid support to post-secondary education students and increasing tuition for university students by 5% which is above the cost of living.
- (l) failing to recognize the need for, and address the establishment of, a Manitoba Science, Engineering and Humanities Research Council; and
- (m) failing to reduce wait times for post-secondary institutions; and
- (n) failing to put patients first by continuing to base RHA spending on global budgets, rather than services delivered; and

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- (o) failing to adequately address the diabetes epidemic facing Manitoba and to set a target for reduction of the incidence of diabetes in our province; and
- (p) failing to ensure local community access to health care as has happened with the Westbrook Medical Clinic closure; and
- (q) failing to develop a Manitoba policy on what services community hospitals should provide; and
- (r) failing to implement a plan to reduce child poverty rates in Manitoba; and
- (s) continuing to ignore the need to set targets and hire sufficient enforcement officers to ensure progress on cleaning up Lake Winnipeg and other Manitoba lakes suffering from toxic algae blooms; and
- (t) failing to support the agricultural sector by refusing to fund eco-friendly farming practices, such as a province-wide ALUS program; and
- (u) failing to address climate change and not running a carbon-neutral government; and
- (v) failing to address Northern Manitoba housing issues; and
- (w) failing to act on economic development for First Nations and rural Manitobans; and
- (x) failing to reduce waiting times to a reasonable level in issuing nominee certificates.

And the debate continuing on the sub-amendment,

And Hon. Mr. SWAN, Messrs. GRAYDON, WHITEHEAD, PEDERSEN, NEVAKSHONOFF and EICHLER having spoken.

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

The House then adjourned at 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 a.m. Friday, April 9, 2010.

Hon. George HICKES,
Speaker.