



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA**

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 78**

**THIRD SESSION, FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE**

**PRAYER**

**10:00 O'CLOCK A.M.**

The House resumed the debate on the Proposed Motion of Mr. MOSES:

THAT Bill (No. 232) – The Emancipation Day Act/Loi sur le Jour de l'émancipation, be now read a Second Time and be referred to a Committee of this House.

And the debate continuing,

And Hon. Mr. LAGIMODIERE, Messrs. BRAR, LAGASSÉ, LAMONT and MICHALESKI, MLA ASAGWARA and Mr. WIEBE having spoken,

And the Question being put. It was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly read a Second Time and referred to a Committee of this House.

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Ms. NAYLOR moved:

Resolution No. 28: Immediately Address the Major Surgical and Diagnostic Backlogs in Manitoba

WHEREAS prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Manitoba had one of the longest wait times for hip, knee, and cataract surgery in Canada; and

WHEREAS the pandemic has exacerbated the pre-existing surgical backlog and wait times for thousands of Manitobans; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Institute for Health Information has confirmed a growing backlog of surgeries as a result of the pandemic response, including a 22% decrease in overall surgical procedures, an 11% decrease in cardiac surgeries, and an 8% decrease in cancer surgeries; and

WHEREAS Manitoba was the only province that experienced a significant decrease in surgical volumes during the second wave, including a 29% decrease in surgical volumes from October to December 2020; and

WHEREAS other provinces have taken decisive actions to address their surgical backlogs and made significant progress in eliminating their backlogs; and

WHEREAS Doctors Manitoba reported an estimated backlog of 39,000 surgeries as of May 2021, which has grown as a result of surgeries being postponed during the third wave of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS Doctors Manitoba also estimated a backlog of over 44,000 diagnostic imaging tests and 32,000 other procedures, such as endoscopies, allergy tests, and mammograms; and

WHEREAS delaying procedures and diagnostics prolongs the suffering of Manitobans and delays their life saving treatments; and

WHEREAS in situations where Manitobans have had benign tumours, due to the ongoing backlog in surgical and diagnostic procedures, some Manitobans have developed cancer and now must be subjected to much more invasive medical treatments; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has refused to invest in addressing the surgical backlog, since as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 only 3% of the dollars announced to address the backlog has been spent; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has failed to adequately address the ongoing surgical backlog by failing to fund and manage the provincial healthcare system.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to immediately begin reporting to the House monthly on the surgical and diagnostic backlogs and increase investments to eliminate the backlogs so Manitobans can have access to the healthcare they need.

And a debate arising,

And Ms. NAYLOR having spoken,

And Mr. TEITSMA, MLA ASAGWARA, Hon. Mr. GERRARD, Messrs. SMITH (Lagimodière) and NESBITT having questioned the Member,

And the debate continuing,

And Mr. GUENTER, MLA ASAGWARA and Mr. TEITSMA having spoken,

And Hon. Mr. GERRARD speaking at 11:46 a.m. The debate was allowed to remain in their name.

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1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

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

(No. 240) – The Recognition of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Act (Employment Standards Code and Interpretation Act Amended)/Loi sur la reconnaissance de la Journée nationale de la vérité et de la réconciliation (modification du Code des normes d'emploi et de la Loi d'interprétation)  
(Ms. LAMOUREUX)

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Madam Speaker presented:

Elections Manitoba Proposal to Modify the Voting Process – Vote by Mail – Byelection, dated October 2021.

(Sessional Paper No. 108)

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Hon. Mr. GOERTZEN, the First Minister, made a statement regarding Olympians and Paralympian's (Tokyo 2020).

Mr. KINEW and, by leave, Ms. LAMOUREUX commented on the statement.

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Hon. Ms. GORDON, the Minister for Mental Health, Wellness and Recovery, made a statement regarding Mental Health Day.

MLA ASAGWARA and, by leave, Hon. Mr. GERRARD commented on the statement.

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Pursuant to Rule 27(1), Mr. MICKLEFIELD, MLA ASAGWARA, Messrs. WISHART and SALA and Hon. Mr. GERRARD made Members' Statements.

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

Hon. Mr. GERRARD – To urge the Provincial Government to provide financing for upgrades to the cochlear implant covered under Medicare, or provide funding assistance through the Cochlear Implant Speech Processor Replacement Program, to assist with the replacement costs associated with a device upgrade.

Ms. FONTAINE– To urge the Provincial Government to immediately ensure effective and safe access to abortion services for individuals regardless of where they reside in Manitoba and to ensure that buffer zones are immediately legislated.

Mr. MALOWAY – To urge the Provincial Government to financially assist the City of Winnipeg on building this three-lane bridge in each direction to maintain this vital link between northeast Winnipeg and the downtown; to recommend that the City of Winnipeg keep the old bridge fully open to traffic while the new bridge is under construction and consider the feasibility of keeping it open for active transportation in the future; and to financially assist the City of Winnipeg in keeping the old bridge open for active transportation.

Mr. WIEBE – To urge the Minister of Health and Seniors Care to open a genuine four bed Epilepsy Unit, similar to the one recently opened in Saskatchewan, at the Health Sciences Centre with modern equipment and adequate epilepsy neurosurgeons, neurologists, nurses, clerks and technicians; and to formally establish an Epilepsy Program to ensure that all epilepsy staff can deliver care to patients in a coordinated fashion.

MLA ASAGWARA - To urge the Provincial Government to immediately ensure effective and safe access to abortion services for individuals regardless of where they reside in Manitoba and to ensure that buffer zones are immediately legislated.

Mr. BUSHIE – To urge the Minister of Health and Seniors Care to open a genuine four bed Epilepsy Unit, similar to the one recently opened in Saskatchewan, at the Health Sciences Centre with modern equipment and adequate epilepsy neurosurgeons, neurologists, nurses, clerks and technicians; and to formally establish an Epilepsy Program to ensure that all epilepsy staff can deliver care to patients in a coordinated fashion.

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In accordance with Rule 33(8), the Opposition House Leader announced that the Private Member's Resolution titled "Calling on the Provincial Government to Implement a Consistent Vaccine Mandate at the Manitoba Legislative Building" will be considered on the next Thursday of Private Members' Business.

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By unanimous consent, the sequence for consideration of estimates, as outlined in Sessional Paper No. 71 tabled on April 20, 2021, was further amended in order that the estimates of Economic Development and Jobs be considered before Conservation and Climate in the Chamber.

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By unanimous consent, it was agreed to allow the House to consider a Ministerial Statement during Orders of the Day this afternoon, with the following conditions:

1. The Statement will be on the passing of Mica Schellenberg.
  2. The Statement will take place immediately after the Question has been put and resolved on the Second Reading motion on Bill 72.
  3. The First Minister will make the Statement, with responses from the Leader of the Official Opposition and the Member for St. Boniface.
  4. Each Member will speak for no more than three minutes.
  5. The House will not see the clock until all three Members have spoken.
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**Thursday, October 7, 2021**

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The House resumed the debate on the Proposed Motion of Ms. SQUIRES:

THAT Bill (No. 72) – The Disability Support Act and Amendments to The Manitoba Assistance Act/Loi sur le soutien pour personne handicapée et modifiant la Loi sur les allocations d'aide du Manitoba, be now read a Second Time and be referred to a Committee of this House.

(Recommended by Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor)

And the debate continuing,

And Messrs. MOSES and TEITSMA, MLA MARCELINO, Messrs. LAMONT and MICKLEFIELD having spoken,

And the Question being put. It was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly read a Second Time and referred to a Committee of this House.

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As previously agreed to, Hon. Mr. GOERTZEN, the First Minister, made a statement regarding the passing of Mica Schellenberg.

Messrs. KINEW and LAMONT commented on the statement.

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The House then adjourned at 4:04 p.m. until 10:00 a.m. Friday, October 8, 2021.

Hon. Myrna DRIEDGER,  
Speaker.