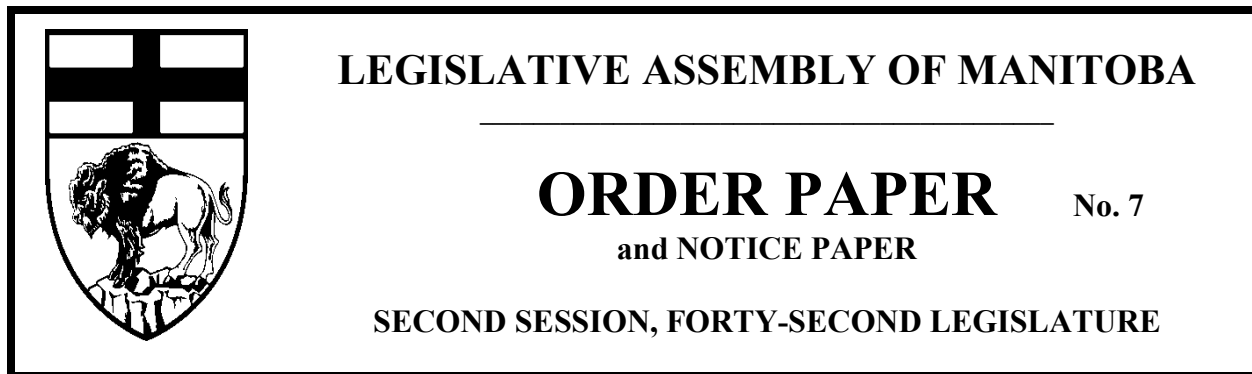


Wednesday, November 27, 2019



PRAYER

SITTING AT 1:30 P.M.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Hon. Mr. FIELDING –

(No. 8) – The Pension Benefits Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les prestations de pension

Hon. Mr. HELWER –

(No. 9) – The Public Services Sustainability Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la viabilité des services publics

Hon. Mr. FRIESEN –

(No. 10) – The Regional Health Authorities Amendment Act (Health System Governance and Accountability)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les offices régionaux de la santé (gouvernance et obligation redditionnelle au sein du système de santé)

Hon. Mr. GOERTZEN –

(No. 11) – The Minor Amendments and Corrections Act, 2019/Loi corrective de 2019

Hon. Mr. FIELDING –

(No. 12) – The Workplace Safety and Health Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la sécurité et l'hygiène du travail

Hon. Mr. HELWER –

(No. 13) – The Crown Land Dispositions Act (Various Acts Amended)/Loi sur les aliénations de terres domaniales (modification de diverses dispositions législatives)

Hon. Mr. SCHULER –

(No. 14) – The Public Sector Construction Projects (Tendering) Act/Loi sur les projets de construction dans le secteur public (appels d'offres)

Hon. Mr. WHARTON –

(No. 15) – The Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Control Amendment and Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Corporation Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la réglementation des alcools, des jeux et du cannabis et la Loi sur la Société manitobaine des alcools et des loteries

Hon. Mr. FIELDING –

(No. 16) – The Labour Relations Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les relations du travail

Hon. Mr. WHARTON –

(No. 17) – The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation Amendment Act (Claim Dispute Tribunal)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Société d'assurance publique du Manitoba (tribunal de règlement des différends en matière de demandes d'indemnisation)

Hon. Mr. FIELDING –

(No. 18) – The Summary Budgeting Act (Various Acts Amended and Public Sector Executive Compensation Act Enacted)/Loi sur l'établissement du budget sommaire (modification de diverses dispositions législatives et édicition de la Loi sur la rémunération des cadres dans le secteur public)

Hon. Mr. HELWER –

(No. 19) – The Public Service Act/Loi sur la fonction publique

Hon. Mr. SCHULER –

(No. 20) – The Drivers and Vehicles Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les conducteurs et les véhicules

Hon. Mr. FIELDING –

(No. 21) – The Workers Compensation Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les accidents du travail

Mr. REYES –

(No. 200) – The Municipal Assessment Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'évaluation municipale

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TABLING OF REPORTS

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

ORAL QUESTIONS

PETITIONS

Hon. Mr. GERRARD

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ADJOURNED DEBATE (Sixth Day of Debate):

Ms. GORDON –

THAT the following address be presented to His Honour the Administrator:

We, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, thank your Honour for the gracious speech addressed to us at this Second Session of the Forty-Second Legislature of Manitoba.

And the Proposed Motion of Mr. KINEW in amendment as follows:

THAT the motion be amended by adding the following words at the end:

But this House regrets that the Provincial Government has:

- a) continued to freeze funding for municipalities, forcing large communities like Winnipeg, Brandon, Thompson, Dauphin, and Selkirk and smaller communities like Gimli and St. Lazare to make difficult decisions on cuts to public services and programming that keep communities safe and welcoming; and
- b) broken the healthcare system that Manitoba families and seniors rely on by closing emergency rooms, firing hundreds of nurses, privatizing lifesaving services for rural and northern communities, eliminating more than 130 hospital beds in Winnipeg, ending obstetrics services in Flin Flon and failing to build a single personal care home bed in its first term; and
- c) failed to acknowledge cuts that have caused numerous cancellations of cardiac surgeries and exacerbated emergency room, hip, knee and cataract surgery wait times; and

- d) continued to ignore Manitobans by proceeding with its healthcare overhaul which will cut critical services and close facilities relied on by rural and northern families; and
- e) refused to address the public health crisis by failing to provide long-term investments to community organizations and harm reduction initiatives which help Manitobans dealing with mental health and addictions get the help they need and reduce blood borne diseases; and
- f) presented no comprehensive plan to help reduce and end poverty, which in turn fails to address the root causes of crime; and
- g) failed again to present any commitments to build new social or affordable housing despite having promised to do so in its first term, and made the situation worse by selling government housing units, even though a “housing first” strategy has been proven to move people out of poverty; and
- h) continued to put the long-term success of Manitoba students at risk by laying the groundwork for cuts with an internal mandate review as well as education commissions report, having already eliminated small class sizes, slashed support services, cut education funding and frozen teachers wages; and
- i) continued to increase tuition for post-secondary education, while interfering on the academic freedom of post-secondary institutions by tying operating grants to student outcomes; and
- j) interfered with Crown Corporations numerous times, specifically: agreements signed by Manitoba Hydro; offering online service delivery with Manitoba Public Insurance; projects with Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries; and the delivery of Efficiency Manitoba’s strategic plan; all of which caused Chairs and full Boards to resign; and
- k) failed to listen to Manitoba producers who have overwhelmingly said that their approach to leasing Crown lands will cause irreparable harm to family farms in Manitoba that are already dealing with serious challenges due to climate change while also failing to provide them with insurance supports during a time of need; and
- l) broken its commitment to budget over \$500 million per year on highways annually and underspent highways infrastructure by hundreds of millions of dollars while also continuing to pursue the privatization of infrastructure services; and
- m) failed to make any clear commitments to address the Manitoba Human Rights Commission order for a no-sex designation option on all government identification; and
- n) cut supports for French language services at the Université de Saint-Boniface, Santé en Français, and translation services, and eliminated the Assistant Deputy Minister for the Bureau de l’éducation française; and

- o) failed to meaningfully consult with Indigenous leaderships regarding the Lake St. Martin outlet channel and other initiatives that affect Indigenous rights; and
- p) failed to implement a living wage and instead made it more difficult for employees to unionize, and instituted an unconstitutional wage freeze law that is now being legally challenged; and
- q) ignored the needs of the northern communities who have lost hundreds of mining jobs, by putting families into poverty and contributing to a rise in crime, by the failure to release funds in the Mining Community Reserve Fund; and
- r) failed to make any clear commitments to evaluate the challenges in the northern justice system, particularly those in Thompson that have negatively impacted individuals from all northern communities; and
- s) failed to take any meaningful action on climate change by not making any commitments to put a price on carbon, substantively reduce Manitobans greenhouse gas emissions, grow the clean energy sector of Manitoba Hydro, or invest in infrastructure projects such as the North End Treatment Plant that would benefit all Canadians by helping to curb emissions and reduce pollution; and
- t) continued to freeze operating funding for public child care centers, making it difficult for facilities to offer day to day programming during children's most critical years and to attract and retain quality Early Learning and Childcare workers, while also failing to address the growing waitlist for public non-profit centers and instead focusing on moving towards a private operating model; and
- u) failed to offer any supports to newcomers in this diverse and inclusive province.

As a consequence of these and many other failings, the Provincial Government has thereby lost the trust and confidence of the people of Manitoba and this House.

And the Proposed Motion of Mr. LAMONT in further amendment as follows:

THAT the motion be amended by adding after clause (u) the following clauses:

- v) failed to commit to community and employee input and evidence based outcomes for healthcare changes and placing insulin pumps, hearing aids and life-saving drugs and devices under Medicare; and
- w) failed to commit to implement the Diabetes 360° strategy developed by Diabetes Canada to help treat and prevent further diabetes in the province; and

- x) failed to implement a mental health and addictions strategy covering mental healthcare under Medicare to address the needs of vulnerable Manitobans; and
- y) failed to adequately assist children with learning disabilities in the K-to-12 education system to do well; and
- z) failed to commit to ending the practice of clawing back the children's special allowances from kids in Child and Family Services, particularly those who are in unpaid care; and
- aa) failed to commit to addressing the urgent need for First Nations housing or developing emergency management protocols for northern and remote communities; and
- bb) failed to mention the importance of immigration to Manitoba's economic and social fabric, which can be largely attributed to the Provincial Nominee Program; and
- cc) failed to adequately address the issue of contaminated sites and lead exposure in St. Boniface and Weston in Winnipeg after years of reports which were not disclosed; and
- dd) failed to commit to reversing the decisions to dismantle collaborative healthcare teams and increase senior management positions in health by expanding another bureaucratic arm of the government with Shared Health Services; and
- ee) failed to commit to improving issues relating to independent living, hospice and personal care homes or reversing the decision to raise costs on senior care programs; and
- ff) failed to commit to raising standards for ethics, integrity and conflict of interest; and
- gg) failed to commit to investing in prevention to help keep Manitobans healthy and independent; and
- hh) failed to commit to create an addictions strategy to address to the methamphetamine and opioid crises; and
- ii) failed to commit to enhancing the protection of children under the care of Child and Family Services; and
- jj) failed to provide the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth with expansive investigative powers needed to properly advocate for children and youth; and
- kk) failed to implement plans to reduce poverty by replacing Employment and Income Assistance with a jobs and basic income program to help those in greatest need; and
- ll) failed to commit to ending the extraction of natural resources (mining) in provincial parks; and

- mm) failed to update and implement the “duty-to-consult” framework for Indigenous communities resulting in the delay of major projects such as improving the capacity of flow from Lake Manitoba to Lake Winnipeg; and
- nn) failed to respond to states of emergency declared in Rural Municipalities after significant drought conditions have hindered farmers’ abilities to operate successfully; and
- oo) failed to address the unacceptably long delays for northern Manitobans to get bail in the criminal justice system; and
- pp) failed to work with the Federal Government on the development of a national pharmacare program to address the high cost of pharmaceuticals, especially for seniors and vulnerable Manitobans; and
- qq) failed to commit to not dismantling Manitoba's school divisions and keeping community input in education systems; and
- rr) failed to commit to stop charging Manitoba Hydro exorbitant fees which increases the debt level and prevents the corporation from returning to financial health; and
- ss) failed to commit to strengthen government revenues and develop a credible plan to balance the budget based on growth and investment instead of cuts; and
- tt) failed to commit to spending locally and stop hiring consultants from outside the province; and
- uu) failed to commit to developing strategies to work with the Federal Government, Métis and First Nations peoples to ensure that all Manitoba First Nation communities have better access to improved nursing stations, health care initiatives such as the NUKA program, clean running water, Internet and phone connectivity, teachers and land and air transportation; and
- vv) failed to commit to fulfilling the Provincial Government's election promises of raising the personal tax exemption to the national average; fast-tracking the construction of 1,200 personal care home beds; and to work positively and respectfully with Indigenous people and communities; and
- ww) failed to commit to implementing the eco-certification of the fisheries of Lake Winnipeg, Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipegosis and to ensuring sustainable fisheries of walleye, sauger, whitefish, tullibee and perch for these lakes; and
- xx) failed to cooperate with the City of Winnipeg and Rural Municipalities to implement an accelerated process to address sewage discharge into the Assiniboine and Red rivers in order to improve the health of Lake Winnipeg; and
- yy) failed to commit to ensuring that full fire prevention and community protection plans are in place for all First Nations communities, including firebreaks where needed; and

zz) failed to commit to improving the outdated technology systems utilized in government departments.

(Mr. SANDHU – 17 minutes)

SECOND READINGS:

Hon. Mr. FIELDING –

(No. 2) – The Retail Business Hours of Operation Act (Various Acts Amended or Repealed)/Loi sur les heures d'ouverture des commerces de détail (modification ou abrogation de diverses lois)

Hon. Mr. CULLEN –

(No. 3) – The Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Control Amendment Act (Cannabis Social Responsibility Fee)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la réglementation des alcools, des jeux et du cannabis (taxe de responsabilité sociale en matière de cannabis)

(Recommended by Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor)

Hon. Mr. WHARTON –

(No. 4) – The Manitoba Hydro Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Hydro-Manitoba
(Recommended by Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor)

Hon. Mr. CULLEN –

(No. 5) – The Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Control Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la réglementation des alcools, des jeux et du cannabis

Hon. Ms. SQUIRES –

(No. 6) – The Planning Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'aménagement du territoire

Hon. Mrs. COX –

(No. 7) – The Employment Standards Code Amendment Act (Leave for Victims of Interpersonal Violence)/Loi modifiant le Code des normes d'emploi (congé pour les victimes de violence interpersonnelle)

GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION:

Hon. Mr. PALLISTER – Religious Freedom of Citizens

WHEREAS diversity, inclusion and the protection of minorities are fundamental values in a free and democratic society; and

WHEREAS the promotion and protection of the rights of all persons, including public servants, to exercise their freedom of religion, conscience and expression, in accordance with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, are essential to human dignity and individual flourishing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba strongly oppose passing any law that seeks to unjustifiably limit the religious freedoms of citizens, including passing a law that unjustifiably denies an individual's right to wear religious clothing or symbols of one's choice.

NOTICE PAPER

NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR THURSDAY:

Ms NAYLOR –

(No. 203) – The Climate and Green Plan Amendment Act (Improved Climate Change Targets and Enhanced Ministerial Accountability)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur le Plan vert et climatique (objectifs en matière de changements climatiques revus à la hausse et responsabilité ministérielle accrue)

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR THE NEXT TUESDAY OF PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS:

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

Mr. MICHALESKI – Removing Education Tax from Property

2. WHEREAS quality education is of the highest importance for all Manitobans; and

WHEREAS in January 2019, the Provincial Government announced a comprehensive review on the kindergarten to grade 12 (K-12) education system in Manitoba which had not occurred in decades; and

WHEREAS the review will make recommendations to improve educational outcomes for students, ensure long term stability of the system, and increase public confidence in the education system; and

WHEREAS the recommendations can be expected to transform the K-12 system in Manitoba to effectively serve the next generations of Manitobans; and

WHEREAS Manitoba has one of the most complicated and uneven education property tax regimes in the country which has resulted in Manitobans paying thousands of dollars on their property tax bills to fund education; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's property tax system can be an impediment to future private sector growth and investment in the Province of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government needs to take immediate steps to encourage and promote private sector investment in Manitoba to ensure prosperity for all Manitobans; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government is committed to providing further tax relief for all Manitobans and will phase out the education portion on property taxes once the budget is balanced; and

WHEREAS balancing the budget will free up dollars allocated to debt servicing, allowing more investment in priority areas like health care, education, infrastructure and tax relief; and

WHEREAS the phase out of the education portion from taxes on property will be completed over a maximum of ten years.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba congratulate the current Provincial Government for its plan to remove the education portion from property taxes.

NOTICE OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

The Standing Committee on LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS will meet in Room 255, Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba on Wednesday, November 27, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. to consider the Annual Report of Elections Manitoba for the year ending December 31, 2018 including the conduct of the St. Boniface by-election dated July 17, 2018.

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The Standing Committee on PUBLIC ACCOUNTS will meet in Room 255, Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba on Thursday, November 28, 2019 at 5:15 p.m. to consider the Election of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson.
