

Thursday, June 4, 1998



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 59

FOURTH SESSION, THIRTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

PRAYERS

10:00 O'CLOCK A.M.

Mr. ROBINSON moved:

Resolution No. 37 - Aboriginal Housing

WHEREAS the condition of existing housing and shortages of proper housing in First Nations communities has reached crisis proportions; and

WHEREAS the number of people afflicted with diseases, such as tuberculosis and pneumonia, amongst others is increasing in many of these communities due to overcrowding and the poor condition of many of these houses; and

WHEREAS overcrowded conditions routinely force two or more families to live in two bedroom houses, often without running water or sewage facilities; and

WHEREAS at the Mathias Colomb First Nation, for example, over sixteen hundred people were living in less than two hundred homes; and

WHEREAS similarly, fewer than half of the houses in Shamattawa have indoor plumbing; and

WHEREAS housing shortages in most reserves and in Northern Affairs communities force many residents to live in third world conditions; and

WHEREAS the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, in documenting such conditions, has called upon the Federal and Provincial Governments to work in partnership with Aboriginal governments to develop innovative housing projects that are suitable to the local climate and workforce.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Premier to consider establishing a Cabinet Committee to coordinate a housing strategy with the Federal Government and Aboriginal governments to greatly increase the quantity and quality of housing in Aboriginal communities; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Federal Minister of Indian Affairs.

And a debate arising,

And Mr. ROBINSON, Hon. Mr. NEWMAN, Mr. HICKES and Mrs. DRIEDGER having spoken,

And Mr. LAMOUREUX speaking at 11:00 a.m.,

The debate was allowed to remain in his name.

Mr. DOER moved:

Resolution No. 38: Flood of 1997

WHEREAS the Flood of 1997 was Manitoba's biggest flood on record affecting 28,000 Manitoba residents; and

WHEREAS the volunteer efforts of Manitobans, the support from the Canadian Army, the dedication of service agencies and the generosity of Canadians from coast to coast exemplified the principles of cooperation and good will throughout the flood crisis; and

WHEREAS since April of 1997 the Provincial Government has been called upon to waive the deductible, prepare advance payments, look at replacement costs for essential items such as furnaces, deal with Crop Insurance and livestock issues and do everything possible to ensure that flood victims would get timely assistance to rebuild their lives; and

WHEREAS the Premier responded that residents of the Red River Valley had to take some responsibility for living on a flood plain; and

WHEREAS on three occasions since June of 1997, flood victims came to the Legislature asking to meet with the Premier to address issues including water management, assessment errors, delays in claim settlement, lost files, the costs of depreciation and deductibles, lack of information on flood proofing, and the general frustration and stress they were experiencing following the flood; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government waited until late October to change policies on deductibility and depreciation; and

WHEREAS 200 flood victims will be out of their homes for the winter unlike the 1950 flood where timely compensation packages saw flood victims back in their homes by October of that same year; and

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WHEREAS farmers continue to lose income because of delays in assistance.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider immediately settling all flood claims including reviewing affordability of the flood proofing program for individuals and families in the Red River Valley; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly condemn the Premier for his statement that residents of the Red River Valley had to take responsibility for living on a flood plain as not in keeping with the community spirit shown by Manitobans during the 1997 flood crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Premier to meet directly with flood victims to hear and learn from their experiences; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Provincial Government to consider presenting to this Assembly a comprehensive water management plan and Disaster Assistance package that would mitigate the plight experienced by this year's flood victims in the event of future flooding.

And a debate arising,

And Mr. DOER, Hon. Mr. PITURA, Ms. WOWCHUK, Hon. Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. LAURENDEAU having spoken,

And Mr. SVEINSON speaking at 12:00 p.m.,

The debate was allowed to remain in his name.

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

The following petition was presented:

Ms. WOWCHUK - Estey Grain Transportation Review Report (R. Griffith, B. Watts, C. Cook and others)

The following petition was read and received:

Ms. WOWCHUK - Estey Grain Transportation Review Report (K. Edwards, M. Hall, J. Marchuk and others)

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Mr. LAURENDEAU, Chairperson of the Committee of Supply presented the Report of the Proceedings of the Committee of June 3, 1998, as follows:

IN THE COMMITTEE

The following Resolutions were adopted:

10.1 RESOLVED that there be granted to HER MAJESTY a sum not exceeding THREE MILLION, SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS for INDUSTRY, TRADE AND TOURISM:

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE \$3,670,200.00

for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1999.

10.4 RESOLVED that there be granted to HER MAJESTY a sum not exceeding TWO MILLION, NINE HUNDRED SIXTY-NINE THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS for INDUSTRY, TRADE AND TOURISM:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT \$2,969,400.00

for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1999.

Resolutions were reported.

Report was received and the Committee of Supply obtained leave to sit again.

Hon. Mr. DERKACH presented:

Annual Report of The Surface Rights Board for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1998.
(Sessional Paper No. 203)

By leave, following Oral Questions, the House reverted to "Introduction of Bills".

By leave, Mr. EVANS (Brandon East) introduced Bill (No. 303) - The Brandon Area Foundation Incorporation Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi constituant en corporation «The Brandon Area Foundation», which was read a First Time.

Pursuant to Rule 20(1), Mr. DYCK, Ms. MIHYCHUK, Mr. PENNER, Ms. CERILLI and Mr. LAMOUREUX made Members' Statements.

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By unanimous consent, the sequence for consideration of estimates, as outlined in Sessional Paper No. 142 tabled on March 24, 1998, and subsequently amended, was further amended in order that following completion of the consideration of the estimates of Sport in Room 255, consideration of the estimates of the Department of Housing take place. This change is to apply until further notice.

Madam Speaker having left the Chair and the House resolving itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty;

And the House continuing in Committee, the Proceedings were interrupted at 5:00 p.m. for Private Members' Business.

Ms. CERILLI moved:

Resolution No. 39 - Health Education

WHEREAS in 1994, the Provincial Government eliminated health education as a required course from Kindergarten to Grade 8 and proposed to eliminate physical education as required course in high school; and

WHEREAS since 1994, the Provincial Government has backtracked with directives to split the time between health and physical education as a new curriculum is developed; and

WHEREAS this has resulted in chaos, confusion and inconsistency in the curriculum taught and time allotted to both health and physical education in our school system; and

WHEREAS both of these courses are recommended as compulsory from Kindergarten to Grade 12 by a number of studies including most recently the Surgeon General's Report; and

WHEREAS quality health education and physical education taught in the school system, by professional teachers trained in these areas, should be viewed as a preventative health measure to address various problems from teen pregnancy to obesity, suicide and depression, increased smoking, dating violence, alcohol and drug use.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider re-instituting health and physical education as two required courses from Kindergarten to Grade 12; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Minister of Education to consider immediately implementing curriculum and teacher training to ensure these programs are available to Manitoba children and youth.

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And a debate arising,

And Ms. CERILLI, Hon. Mrs. McINTOSH and Mr. McALPINE having spoken,

And Mr. DYCK speaking at 6:00 p.m.,

The debate was allowed to remain in his name.

On motion of Mr. HELWER:

ORDERED that the composition of the Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources be amended as follows:

Mrs. DRIEDGER for Mr. LAURENDEAU,
Hon. Mr. McCRAE for Hon. Mr. NEWMAN.

The House then adjourned at 6:00 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. Monday next.

Hon. Louise Dacquay,
Speaker.