



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 6

FIRST SESSION, FORTIETH LEGISLATURE

PRAYER

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

The following petitions were presented and read:

Mrs. ROWAT – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Minister of Healthy Living, Youth and Seniors to consider implementing a universal hearing screening program accessible to parents of all newborns in Manitoba. (W. Yamamoto, M. Ruck, S. Ruck and others)

Mr. BRIESE – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request the appropriate ministers of the Provincial Government to consider outlining to Parks Canada the importance that a viable recreational facility in the Mount Agassiz area would play in the local and provincial economies and to consider working with all stakeholders, including Parks Canada, to help develop a plan for a viable, multi-season recreation facility in the Mount Agassiz area. (R. Zastre, T. Casavant, S. Bouchard and others)

Mr. MAGUIRE – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation to recognize the serious safety concerns and adverse socioeconomic impact caused by the loss of the Coulter Bridge and to consider making it an urgent priority to restore traffic across the Souris River, either via a temporary or a permanent bridge. (T. Currie, B. Bird, P. Spencer and others)

Mr. SMOOK – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the appropriate Provincial Government departments to consider working with all stakeholders to develop a strategy to swiftly address the serious challenges posed by limited cellular phone service in southeastern Manitoba in order to ensure that people and property can be better protected in the future. (M. Goertzen, B. Faskerti, E. Jasket and others)

Hon. Mr. CHOMIAK presented:

Annual Report of the Department of Innovation, Energy and Mines for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2011.

(Sessional Paper No. 4)

Pursuant to Rule 26(1), Messrs. SARAN, CULLEN, ALLUM, PEDERSEN and CHIEF made Members' Statements.

The House resumed the Interrupted Debate on the Proposed Motion of Ms. CROTHERS:

THAT the following address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor:

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

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

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

But this House regrets:

- (a) That the Throne Speech failed to acknowledge the Provincial Government's inability to pay for its commitments without raising taxes on Manitoba families or to acknowledge that adding to our debt at a rate of 10% each year and relying on equalization is not sustainable; and
- (b) That these are uncertain economic times, and yet the Throne Speech failed to lay out an economic strategy for the Province of Manitoba or to eliminate wasteful spending; and
- (c) That the Throne Speech did not mention the importance of trade to our economy, or make any references to entering into trade agreements to spur our economy; and
- (d) That the Throne Speech did not demonstrate a commitment to protecting Manitoba Hydro from political interference that is forcing Hydro to cut back and delay critical capital expenditures; and
- (e) That the Throne Speech failed to acknowledge the catastrophic mistake of following the far western route for Manitoba's next high voltage direct current transmission line; and
- (f) That the Throne Speech failed to demonstrate what steps the Provincial Government will take to shed Manitoba's title as the violent crime capital of Canada which was reinforced by a summer punctuated by arsons, stabbings and homicides putting Winnipeg on course to have a record number of homicides in 2011; and
- (g) That the Throne Speech failed to acknowledge the ongoing socioeconomic hardship and disruption caused by the 2011 flood and failed to commit the Provincial Government to undertake a comprehensive independent review of provincial actions and resources in the 2011 flood, as well as a review of provincial flood compensation to ensure all Manitobans are being fairly compensated; and
- (h) That the Throne Speech reinforced the Provincial Government's ongoing indifference to the needs of Manitoba's farm families and rural communities whose economic well being is so important to the health of the provincial economy; and

- (i) That the Throne Speech failed to outline a plan to reverse the inter-provincial loss of more than 1,800 doctors over the last decade, meaning thousands of Manitobans will remain without a family doctor; and
- (j) That this Provincial Government, after 12 years, has not restrained the growth of health care bureaucracy, which fails to make front line patient care a priority; and
- (k) That the Throne Speech did not provide a plan for improving access to Manitoba's post-secondary institutions, nor did it lay out a plan to tackle truancy or improve grade school students' test scores which have dropped to among the lowest in Canada; and
- (l) That the Throne Speech failed to address the circumstances that have led to Manitoba again being the child poverty capital of Canada, that have not improved food security for the thousands of Manitobans who rely on food banks annually or that have not curbed the growth in the number of Manitobans who rely upon employment and income assistance to survive.

And as a consequence, the Provincial Government has thereby lost the trust and confidence of the people of Manitoba and this House.

And the debate continuing on the amendment,

And Hon. Messrs. STRUTHERS and GERRARD, Messrs. MARCELINO (Tyndall Park), CULLEN, MALOWAY and BRIESE having spoken.

The debate was allowed to remain open.

Mrs. ROWAT asked Written Questions (Nos. 1 to 5) for reply to the following:

- 1. Could the Minister of Healthy Living, Youth and Seniors explain what the delay is in implementing and mandating a province-wide universal newborn hearing screening program?
 - 2. Will the Minister of Healthy Living, Youth and Seniors provide details of the great deal of empirical research that identifies the outcomes of early intervention for children with hearing loss and attests to the benefits of early intervention?
 - 3. Could the Minister of Healthy Living, Youth and Seniors provide evidence to dispute the contention that early identification of hearing loss will result in fewer requirements for services as the child enters school? For example, signing interpreters, deaf and Hard of Hearing consultants, Ministry involvement, school classroom modifications to reduce sound levels, etc.
 - 4. Could the Minister of Healthy Living, Youth and Seniors provide a detailed explanation if he does not agree that universal newborn hearing screening can be performed by any audiologist or public health nurse provided they are properly trained?
 - 5. Could the Minister of Healthy Living, Youth and Seniors explain what steps would have to be taken to implement universal screening programs in Winnipeg similar to those in rural Manitoba?
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Mr. PEDERSEN asked Written Questions (Nos. 6 to 10) for reply to the following:

6. In choosing a route for Bipole III, will private landowners be offered an easement or outright purchase of land for the right of way and how will land values for either an easement or purchase be determined?
7. Manitoba Hydro has stated publicly it is not able to use expropriation as a tool for determining right of ways. Will the Government of Manitoba expropriate privately held land on behalf of Manitoba Hydro for Bipole III if landowners are unable to reach suitable terms with Manitoba Hydro?
8. What will be the minimum separation distance between Bipole III and residences, yard sites, and livestock operations?
9. What are Manitoba Hydro's criteria for determining effects on livestock from Bipole III?
10. What is the effect on cellular phone service, GPS guidance systems, and other electronic equipment in the proximity to Bipole III?

The House then adjourned at 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 a.m. Friday, October 28, 2011.

Hon. Daryl REID,
Speaker.