



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 19

FIRST SESSION, FORTIETH LEGISLATURE

PRAYER

10:00 O'CLOCK A.M.

The following Bills were respectively read a First Time and had their purposes outlined:

(No. 5) – The Highway Traffic Amendment Act (Inter-City Bus Service)/Loi modifiant le Code de la route (service d'autobus interurbain)

(Hon. Mr. ASHTON)

(No. 6) – The Regional Health Authorities Amendment Act (Improved Fiscal Responsibility and Community Involvement)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les offices régionaux de la santé (accroissement de la responsabilité financière et de la participation communautaire)

(Hon. Ms. OSWALD)

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. (L. Williams, B. Flynn, C. Stevens 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. (R. James, A. Guillas, B. Pearson and others)

Hon. Ms. OSWALD presented:

Reply to Written Questions (Nos. 1 to 5), asked by Mrs. ROWAT, on October 27, 2011:

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?
(Sessional Paper No. 21)

Pursuant to Rule 26(1), Messrs. GAUDREAU, MAGUIRE, JHA, GOERTZEN and SARAN made Members' Statements.

The House resumed the Interrupted Debate on the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. STRUTHERS:

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 of the words after "House" and substituting:

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

- a) breaking the Premier's promise not to increase taxes; and
- b) imposing \$184 million in new taxes on hard pressed Manitoba families, who are also facing higher hydro rates and property taxes, increased child care fees and a range of other hidden taxes; and
- c) driving gas prices higher at a time when gas prices in Manitoba have already increased 12% so far this year, further increasing the burden on Manitoba families, while cutting spending on Manitoba's crumbling infrastructure; and
- d) failing to take action to build safe communities as Manitoba has become the violent crime capital of Canada with Winnipeg's murder rate reaching an all time high in 2011; and
- e) failing to recognize the importance of agriculture, food production and rural communities; and
- f) failing to take action to protect Manitobans from future floods and failing to adequately compensate families for past damages; and

- g) failing Manitoba students who scored among the lowest in Canada on national and international reading, math and science tests; and
- h) creating an even bigger sinkhole of debt, now at \$27.6 billion and rising, which as a result will force Manitoba families to pay higher taxes in the years ahead; and
- i) failing to encourage greater trade opportunities with Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan by refusing to join the New West Partnership; and
- j) failing to undertake a review of program spending across all government services; and
- k) failing to tackle the red tape burden that is hurting business and private investment in Manitoba; and
- l) failing to comply with recommendations of the Public Utilities Board to carry out an independent review of Manitoba Hydro's capital program; and
- m) mismanaging \$35 billion in federal transfer payments received since 2000; and
- n) failing to offer a plan to encourage private investment to create opportunity and wealth so Manitobans can feel hope that our province will one day emerge from the hole of debt and dependency and see a brighter future.

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

And the debate continuing on the amendment,

And Hon. Mr. CHOMIAK, Mrs. MITCHELSON and Hon. Mr. ASHTON having spoken.

And Mr. FRIESEN speaking at 12:30 p.m. The debate was allowed to remain in his name.

The House then adjourned at 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. Monday, April 23, 2012.

Hon. Daryl REID,
Speaker.