



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 72

THIRD SESSION, FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

PRAYER

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

The Clerk formally advised the Assembly that the Speaker was unavoidably absent and called upon the Deputy Speaker to take the Chair pursuant to the Statutes. The Deputy Speaker took the Chair at 1:30 p.m.

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

(No. 237) – The Elections Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi électorale

(Mr. ISLEIFSON)

(No. 235) – The Scrap Metal Recyclers Act/Loi sur les récupérateurs de ferraille

(Mr. MALOWAY)

Hon. Mr. FIELDING presented:

Annual Report of the Supplementary Loans and Guarantee Authority for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021.

(Sessional Paper No. 103)

Hon. Ms. CLARKE, the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Relations, made a statement regarding the recent discovery of the remains of 215 children at a Kamloops Residential School.

Mr. BUSHIE and, by leave, Mr. LAMONT commented on the statement.

Hon. Ms. SQUIRES, the Minister responsible for Accessibility, made a statement regarding Manitoba Access Awareness Week.

Ms. ADAMS and, by leave, Hon. Mr. GERRARD commented on the statement.

Hon. Mrs. COX, the Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage, made a statement regarding Special Olympics Awareness Week.

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

Pursuant to Rule 27(1), Hon. Ms. SQUIRES, Ms. ADAMS, Hon. Mr. EICHLER, Messrs. MALOWAY and REYES made Members' Statements.

The following petition was presented and read to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba:

Ms. MARCELINO – To urge the Provincial Government to immediately provide comprehensive and free healthcare coverage to all residents of Manitoba regardless of immigration status, including refugee claimants, migrant workers, international students, dependent children of temporary residents, and undocumented residents; to urge the Minister of Health and Seniors Care to undertake a multilingual communication campaign to provide information on expanded coverage to all affected residents; To urge the Minister of Health and Seniors Care to inform all healthcare institutions and providers of expanded coverage for those without health insurance and the details on how necessary policy and protocol changes will be implemented; and to urge the Minister of Health and Seniors Care to create and enforce strict confidentiality policies and provide staff with training to protect the safety of residents with precarious immigration status and ensure they can access health care without jeopardizing their ability to remain in Canada.

Following Petitions, Ms. FONTAINE rose on a Matter of Urgent Public Importance and moved:

THAT in accordance with rule 38(1), the ordinary business of the House be set aside to discuss a matter of urgent public importance; namely the devastating discovery of a mass grave of 215 children on Tk'emlups te Secwepemc First Nation who died at the hands of the Kamloops Indian Residential School and the need for the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to call on all levels of Governments to immediately implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission 94 Calls to Action including searching all former Residential School grounds to investigate whether similar mass graves exist.

And Ms. FONTAINE, Hon. Mr. GOERTZEN and, by leave, Hon. Mr. GERRARD having spoken to the urgency of the motion,

WHEREUPON the Deputy Speaker ruled as follows:

I thank the Honourable Members for their advice to the Chair on the motion proposed by the Honourable Member for St. Johns. The 90 minute notice required prior to the start of Routine Proceedings under Rule 38(1) was provided, and I thank the Honourable Member for that. Under our rules and practices, the subject matter requiring urgent consideration must be so pressing that the public interest will suffer if the matter is not given immediate attention. There must also be no other reasonable opportunities to raise the matter.

Monday, May 31, 2021

I have listened very carefully to the arguments put forward. As Members will know, under Manitoba practice there are very few matters that fit the criteria as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance as there are other opportunities that can be used to raise the issue, including Oral Questions, Members' Statements, Petitions and Grievances.

Despite having been addressed as a Ministerial Statement, this issue is of historic and cultural significance to our country. I feel it is my duty as Deputy Speaker to let the House decide if this matter should be debated.

Therefore, I am satisfied that the matter is so pressing that public interest will suffer if this debate does not proceed. I rule that the Member's motion is in order and of urgent public importance.

The Deputy Speaker then put the Question, "Shall the debate proceed?" It was agreed to.

And a debate arising,

And Ms. FONTAINE, Mr. KINEW, Mrs. SMITH (Point Douglas), Mr. BUSHIE, Hon. Ms. CLARKE, Hon. Mr. GOERTZEN, Mr. LAMONT and Hon. Mr. GERRARD having spoken.

The debate was terminated in accordance with Rule 38(6).

By leave, prior to the debate, the following provisions were agreed to by the House regarding the debate on the Matter of Urgent Public Importance for Monday, May 31, 2021:

1. The debate shall be no more than one hour.
2. The first 25 minutes shall be allotted for Members of the Official Opposition caucus to speak.
3. The next 25 minutes shall be allotted for Members of the Government caucus to speak.
4. The last 10 minutes shall be allotted for Independent Liberal members to speak.

With the understanding that within each speaking block as many Members of each group may speak as they wish.

The House resolving into Committee of Supply.

The House then adjourned at 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 1, 2021.

Doyle PIWNIUK,
Deputy Speaker.