



PRAYER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

10:00 O'CLOCK A.M.

Hon. Mrs. GUILLEMARD presented:

Supplement to the Estimates of Expenditure 2022-2023 – Departmental Expenditure Estimates –
Mental Health and Community Wellness.

(Sessional Paper No. 37)

Hon. Mr. WHARTON, the Minister of Environment, Climate and Parks, made a statement regarding
Earth Day.

Ms. FONTAINE and, by leave, Mr. LAMONT commented on the statement.

Pursuant to Rule 27(1), Hon. Ms. SQUIRES, Mr. SALA, Hon. Mr. SMITH (Lagimodière) and Messrs.
WIEBE and NESBITT made Members' Statements.

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

THAT this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government.

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

THAT the motion be amended by deleting all of the words after "House" and substituting:

therefore regrets that this budget neglects the priorities of Manitobans by:

- a) continuing with Brian Pallister's plan and failed approach to health care, education, reconciliation and the economy; and
- b) taking Brian Pallister's failed plan for health care cuts from Winnipeg to rural Manitoba; and
- c) instituting a de facto cut to hospitals, emergency rooms and clinics across Winnipeg, Brandon, Swan River, Dauphin, Selkirk, Gimli, Thompson, Flin Flon, The Pas, Churchill and many other rural, Northern and remote communities across the province; and

- d) offering more empty promises to fix the extremely high surgical and diagnostic caseload backlog that has only grown larger because of the inaction and refusal to work with front line workers and invest in real solutions; and
- e) refusing to stop the practice of sending seniors hundreds of kilometres away from home for health care because the PC cuts have removed capacity from the system; and
- f) failing to increase the amount of personal care home beds as Manitoba now has fewer personal care home beds today than when the Progressive Conservatives took power in 2016; and
- g) refusing to offer a comprehensive workforce agenda for the health care sector or for reversing their cut to health care coverage for International Students in Manitoba; and
- h) failing to present a plan for adult education or other supports for Manitobans;
- i) rejecting evidence of the effectiveness of safe consumption sites to address the addictions and mental health crisis as the province experienced the highest number of overdose deaths last year in its history; and
- j) continuing to underfund, underspend and cut the K-12 education system leading to larger classes and fewer supports in the classroom for students; and
- k) offering no plan to create the spaces needed in the early learning and child care sector, no real capital program or a workforce strategy to staff the sector; and
- l) failing to implement a universal school breakfast program to ensure every child succeeds in the classroom; and
- m) refusing to provide products in schools, to make sure no student is subjected to period poverty; and
- n) failing to provide for regular families as the cost of everyday essentials including electricity and natural gas bills increase; and
- o) making permanent a renters tax hike in the midst of the highest inflation in decades; and
- p) making life more unaffordable by increasing tuition for colleges and universities by millions while continuing to freeze support for post-secondary institutions across the province; and
- q) refusing to help municipalities deliver their essential services by not increasing the funding for municipalities for a 6th consecutive year; and

- r) underspending last year's infrastructure budget by nearly \$60 million dollars and freezing the maintenance and repair budget for provincial roads and highways for at least the next three years while refusing to invest in important projects like repairs to Highway 6 or improvements to Chief Peguis Trail; and
- s) continuing to send hundreds of thousands of dollars of Manitobans' money to a Texas based company in order to access our provincial parks while failing to fix the technical failings of the booking system; and
- t) ignoring the climate crisis by not offering a real plan or targets to address it, underfunding programs meant to support cleaner energy and not adopting measures to support transition like updated Building Codes; and
- u) failing to offer leadership or a plan to grow Manitoba's economy for the next ten years; and
- v) refusing to offer a real plan to create good jobs in rural and Northern Manitoba or to invest in the mining sector; and
- w) jeopardizing access to rural broadband by pursuing privatization and failing to provide investments to ensure rural and northern communities can get connected to highspeed internet; and
- x) ignoring the needs of small businesses who have been left behind by this Provincial Government while it rewards its friends and other well connected insiders; and
- y) lacking any real action on reconciliation with Indigenous peoples; and
- z) refusing to engage in good faith negotiation with rights holders like the Manitoba Métis Federation; and
- aa) failing to offer a plan to build or repair social housing in Manitoba, housing for seniors or a comprehensive plan to address homelessness; and
- bb) refusing to offer real support for settlement services for people fleeing the War in Ukraine while at the same time cutting funding for programs such as 'Immigration pathways'; and
- cc) cutting funding to the Fair Registration Office after having failed to support Internationally Educated Nurses and other professionals in having their credentials recognized in Manitoba; and
- dd) failing to address the concerns of producers, including their concerns regarding increased lease costs, a failing crown lands program and closed Agriculture Offices across the province; and

- ee) rejecting the need to provide proper salaries for working people, failing to properly address the needs of workers in sectors like Community Living Disability Services or Home Care workers or other health care workers and refusing to address the challenges experienced by women, BIPOC and other marginalized groups to fully participate in a pandemic recovery; and
- ff) failing to learn the lessons of the pandemic by further cutting healthcare funding, refusing to release up to date data about the spread of COVID-19 and refusing to call for an independent investigation into the Provincial Government's pandemic response.

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

And the proposed sub-amendment moved by Mr. LAMONT as follows:

THAT the amendment be amended by adding after clause (ff) the following clauses:

- gg) failing to make new investments in improving the lives and abilities people of Manitoba, choosing instead to expand existing inequities and selecting the status quo over growth and innovation; and
- hh) failing to increase funding for the Emergency Measures Organization, despite two years of historic crises, including pandemics, fires and floods; and
- ii) failing to provide any sort of a plan for individuals seeking to escape wars in Ukraine and Afghanistan by partnering with local organizations to ensure a proper and smooth resettlement transition to Manitoba; and
- jj) failing to commit to equitable health and education funding for all Manitobans, choosing instead to continue concentrating services in Winnipeg; and
- kk) failing to provide adequate relief and support to smaller enterprises in Manitoba and mom and pop businesses who are struggling to survive after two years of pandemic struggles; and
- ll) failing to create an independent, non-political means of distributing \$50 million in venture capital, which is essential to establishing business confidence; and
- mm) failing to pursue fiscally sound measures, choosing to issue cheques with no lasting economic benefit that will have to be paid back by future generations, while shunning meaningful investments in growth and stability; and

- nn) failing to make desperately needed new investments in education, and in reducing barriers and obstacles that block Manitobans from meeting their full potential; and
- oo) failing to make proactive investments to avoid health concerns especially areas such as diabetes supplies and medications that can prevent death and disability; and
- pp) failing to provide a plan of relief for the thousands of Manitobans that have waited weeks, months, and sometimes years on a waiting list to have necessary medical needs addressed; and
- qq) failing to address the significant impact COVID-19 has had on the mental well being of Manitobans and the development of children by providing a plan that focuses on mental wellness and brain health to ensure that Manitobans are living healthy, fulfilled lives; and
- rr) failing to ensure children attending Manitoba schools receive a minimum of one meal or snack each day; and
- ss) failing to recognize that health care reforms to date have been a disaster, and choosing to build new hospitals across Manitoba while failing to recruit and hire enough hire doctors, nurses and other health professionals to staff existing facilities; and
- tt) failing to provide a seamless, integrated and effective approach to addictions where people can get the help they need at any time of day or night, instead of through RAAM clinics which have limited hours and therefore limited effectiveness; and
- uu) failing to close the wage gap to ensure that rural paramedics are given a wage incentive to live and work in rural Manitoba; and
- vv) failing to present a plan to address economic issues while at the same time making Manitoba more sustainable by making drastic reductions in net carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide emissions; and
- ww) failing to allow Manitobans to take steps to reducing their own carbon footprint by following the Federal Government's lead by providing rebates for the purchase of electric vehicles, major retrofits to existing buildings and adaptations of agriculture.

Friday, April 22, 2022

And the debate continuing on the sub-amendment,

And Messrs. SALA and PEDERSEN, Ms. FONTAINE, Hon. Mrs. GUILLEMARD, Mrs. SMITH (Point Douglas) and Hon. Mr. HELWER having spoken.

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

The House then adjourned at 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. Monday, April 25, 2022.

Hon. Myrna DRIEDGER,
Speaker.