

Monday, December 11, 2000



PRAYERS

SITTING AT 1:30 P.M.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Mrs. DRIEDGER

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Mrs. DRIEDGER

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Hon. Mr. SELINGER –

(No. 7) – The Manitoba Hydro Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Hydro-Manitoba
(Recommended by His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor)

Hon. Ms. MIHYCHUK –

(No. 8) – The Mines and Minerals Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les mines et les
minéraux
(Recommended by His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor)

Hon. Mr. LEMIEUX –

(No. 9) – The Vital Statistics Amendment and Consequential Amendments Act/Loi modifiant la
Loi sur les statistiques de l'état civil et modifications corrélatives

ORAL QUESTIONS

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Adjourned Debate (Fourth Day of Debate):

On the Proposed Motion of Mr. STRUTHERS –

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 Second Session of the Thirty-Seventh Legislature of Manitoba.

And the Proposed Motion of Mr. MURRAY in amendment thereto as follows:

THAT the Motion be amended by adding to it, after the word "Manitoba." the following words:

BUT this House regrets

(a) the government's inability to fulfill the promises outlined in its Throne Speech of November 25, 1999, including the following failures: not ending hallway medicine; not addressing the province-wide shortage of health professionals; not strengthening the home care system; not making math and reading skill assessments available to parents at the beginning of the Grade 3 year; not creating positive alternatives for youth who may be at risk of committing crimes; not ensuring a viable future for the family farm in Manitoba; and, not forging a new strategy for economic development; and

(b) the government's failure to address the challenges facing all Manitobans and their health care system; and

(c) the government's failure to guarantee to Manitobans that it will not raid Crown corporation surpluses, as was attempted with Manitoba Public Insurance; and

(d) the government's failure to release long-term strategies for economic growth which include meaningful tax reductions for families and business, thereby making Manitoba less able to compete in the national and global economy; and

(e) the government's failure to provide any meaningful measures to maintain economic growth and stimulate job creation, thereby making Manitoba a less attractive place in which to live, work, invest and raise families; and

(f) the government's failure to address Manitoba's participation in the national infrastructure program and how these projects will take shape around the province; and

(g) the government's failure to set forth a plan with clearly defined timelines to address flood protection needs for the Red River Valley and beyond; and

(h) the government's failure to address the issue of providing adequate and timely compensation to Manitobans affected by the flooding and excess soil moisture conditions in the spring of 1999 in southwestern Manitoba and the fall of 2000 in southeastern Manitoba; and

(i) the government's failure to arrive at a national farm safety net program that adequately addresses the needs of the province's farmers; and

(j) the government's failure to address the issues raised by its complete mismanagement of the expansion of gaming through the creation of five First Nations casinos; and

(k) the government's failure to provide a vision and a plan for the future of this province.

AND has thereby lost the trust and confidence of the people of Manitoba and this House.

(Mr. TWEED - 39 mins.)

NOTICE PAPER

NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR WEDNESDAY NEXT:

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. MAGUIRE –

1. WHEREAS 1999 saw severe and ongoing flood-related problems in parts of Manitoba that resulted in up to 10 per cent of total provincial farm land remaining unseeded; and

WHEREAS the difficulties experienced by the province's agricultural producers continue to have a ripple effect throughout the entire Manitoba economy, affecting not only farmers, but also the businesses and services that rely on the health of the agricultural economy; and

WHEREAS most members of the Manitoba Legislature, Keystone Agricultural Producers, the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association and local economic development boards have continuously expressed concern to the Provincial and Federal Governments about the very serious long-term consequences arising from the devastating flood of 1999; and

WHEREAS the former Progressive Conservative administration enhanced the Producer Recovery Program, offered a Custom Seeding Program and extended the crop insurance spring seeding deadline for full coverage, all in an effort to mitigate the disaster created by the flood of 1999; and

WHEREAS the previous Progressive Conservative administration pressed the Federal Government to join the province to enact a \$50 per acre unseeded acreage coverage package for affected producers; and

WHEREAS the current Provincial Government appears to be unwilling to participate in any joint aid program that would require the Provincial Government to assume more than 10 per cent of the costs of the program; and

WHEREAS the current Provincial Government has refused to tap into the Fiscal Stabilization Fund to finance a new aid program for victims of the 1999 flood and to be prepared to lobby the Federal Government to provide their share, as was done during past disasters such as the 1989 forest fires and the 1997 Red River Valley flood; and

WHEREAS the current Provincial Government's continued failure to negotiate a new aid package that would provide direct benefits to the victims of the 1999 flood continues to create needless uncertainty for the individuals and communities affected by the disaster.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider re-examining its unwillingness to come forward with any new financing to accompany its negotiations with the Federal Government to find solutions to the problems arising from the 1999 Manitoba flooding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider the creation of programs and services that will help ensure that the long-term economic impact of this devastating flooding is kept to a minimum.

Ms. KORZENIOWSKI –

2. WHEREAS the exemplary work of nurses is valued by the Provincial Government; and

WHEREAS there is a long term nursing shortage in Manitoba built by years of inaction from the previous government; and

WHEREAS this government has introduced a comprehensive plan to deal with this shortage by helping Manitoba's health sector to reinvest in the nursing profession by attracting new students, recruiting more nurses and looking at the use of existing staff resources within the workforce; and

WHEREAS this plan will increase the number of qualified nurses by establishing a 23-month diploma Registered Nurse program, by increasing enrolment in the Licensed Practical Nurse program and by actively and aggressively recruiting nurses; and

WHEREAS this plan will improve access to staff development in the regional health authorities; and

WHEREAS this plan will improve the use of available nursing resources; and

WHEREAS this plan will improve working conditions; and

WHEREAS this plan will establish a nursing advisory council in order to advise the health minister on issues and concerns related to the role of nursing in the health care system.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba commend the Provincial Government's actions.

Mr. DERKACH –

3. WHEREAS during the 1999 provincial elections, the current Provincial Government promised "more doctors, more nurses and more services for rural Manitoba" which have not been provided; and

WHEREAS since their election in 1999, the Provincial Government has put numerous rural health care initiatives on hold which had been approved by the previous Progressive Conservative Government; and

WHEREAS on August 22, 1999, the Honourable Member for Concordia stated: "Patients in hallways deserve better than health care projects that are 'paused'"; and

WHEREAS almost one year later, on August 10, 2000, the same Honourable Member said of the planned new hospital building in Emerson: "...we are deferring this project pending a further examination..."; and

WHEREAS the former Progressive Conservative Government, in keeping its commitment to make health care a priority, announced a twenty bed expansion to Tabor Home in Morden on April 16, 1999; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government put plans for the 20 bed expansion at Tabor Home on hold in September 2000; and

WHEREAS on October 12, 2000, the Provincial Government again shelved plans initiated by the former government, this time indefinitely delaying plans to provide a Community Health Centre and Assisted Living facility in St. Laurent; and

WHEREAS the Honourable Member for Kildonan in his capacity as Health Minister received the Regional Health Authority Template for the Determination of Minimal Standards for Acute Care Hospitals in January and has yet to respond to it, leaving rural hospitals to wonder whether or not they will be closed or converted to Personal Care Homes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider keeping its 1999 campaign promises to rural Manitobans and to consider providing more services and health care professionals to rural areas of Manitoba; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider keeping the commitments of the former Progressive Conservative Government regarding rural health care initiatives.

Mr. MARTINDALE –

4. WHEREAS problems of poor housing and homelessness, particularly in Winnipeg's inner city, have grown over the past decade into a significant issue for our province; and

WHEREAS community renewal, a top priority in Manitoba, requires that decent and affordable housing be available to all Manitobans; and

WHEREAS community groups determined to improve the housing in their neighbourhoods have used valuable time and resources approaching each level of government for funding, a process that can be both time-consuming and lengthy; and

WHEREAS single-window access streamlines the fund-raising activities of community groups by providing access to all levels of government funding through a single office; and

WHEREAS the current government pledged itself to the development of a new Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative which would provide community groups with single window-access to available funds for housing projects; and

WHEREAS the current government has kept its promise and over \$850,000 in combined funding from the three levels of government has already flowed into the initiative as of November 2000 and is available from the recently established Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative "single window" office.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba commend the Provincial Government for its efforts in improving housing in Manitoba, particularly through the development of single-window access to government funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly commend the Provincial Government for its support of community-based renewal projects that allow grass-roots organizations to decide what is best for their community and to access the necessary funding to make their vision a reality.

Mr. AGLUGUB –

5. WHEREAS the ability of individuals to reunite with their family members residing in Canada is an important part of our humanitarian heritage; and

WHEREAS the current criteria for family class sponsorship of immigrants lumps all cities with populations over 500,000 into one category; and

WHEREAS this criteria places Winnipeg in the same category as Toronto and Vancouver; and

WHEREAS the cost of living in Vancouver and Toronto is significantly higher than in Winnipeg; and

WHEREAS these federal criteria are putting Manitoba at a disadvantage in its ability to attract new immigrants and deprives Manitobans of their right to reunite with family members in Canada.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to guarantee family class sponsorships to Winnipeg be given special consideration due to its lower cost of living; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly be directed to send a copy of this resolution to all Members of Parliament from Manitoba.

Mrs. DRIEDGER –

6. WHEREAS children have the right to be protected from all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation; and

WHEREAS the use of children in pornographic material is in itself harmful to children; and

WHEREAS the possession of child pornography is deemed illegal under the Criminal Code of Canada; and

WHEREAS the British Columbia Appeal Court struck down the prohibition against the possession of child pornography; and

WHEREAS this action by the British Columbia Appeal Court significantly hinders the efforts of law enforcement officials to combat the spread of child pornography; and

WHEREAS the previous Progressive Conservative Government was committed to acquiring intervener status in the Supreme Court of Canada case considering the BC Appeal Court's decision allowing an individual to possess child pornography; and

WHEREAS laws protecting children from sexual exploitation must be paramount over an individual's desire to possess child pornography; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government stated in the Speech from the Throne on November 25, 1999: "The Manitoba Government will continue to urge the Federal Government to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that federal laws prohibiting the possession of child pornography remain enforceable – including, if there is absolutely no other alternative, resorting to the 'notwithstanding clause' in our constitution"; and

WHEREAS implementation of the Constitution Act, 1982, Section 33, the notwithstanding clause, for the standard five-year period would provide protection to a generation of children, wherever they reside in Canada, while providing the Federal Government with time to fully pursue the appeal in the Supreme Court of Canada and if necessary to make improvements to the Criminal Code ensuring that the possession of child pornography remains illegal.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to consider invoking Section 33 of the Constitution Act, 1982, the notwithstanding clause, if necessary, to ensure that the possession of child pornography remains illegal under the Criminal Code of Canada.

Mr. DYCK –

7. WHEREAS Manitoba parents recognize the importance of strong literacy skills for our children; and

WHEREAS the previous Progressive Conservative administration took numerous steps to strengthen and enhance Manitoba's public education system; and

WHEREAS one component of this strengthening was the introduction of standards testing that allowed for the early identification of students' strengths and weaknesses relative to outcomes and standards; and

WHEREAS standards testing allows teachers and parents to provide remedial support to students with a learning difficulty before they leave school; and

WHEREAS any delay for remedial support at this point may negatively impact the student's performance in the middle school years as well as later learning; and

WHEREAS during the 1999 Provincial General Election, the New Democratic Party guaranteed that all students will be reading and writing fluently in their Grade 3 year, calling this their Grade 3 Guarantee, and as well, all students would "demonstrate a high level of computer literacy" by Grade 8; and

WHEREAS the Minister of Education and Training during an interview with the *Winnipeg Sun* last fall pled ignorance when asked about the status of his government's Grade 3 Guarantee; and

WHEREAS teachers and parents have expressed concerns that the Grade 3 diagnostic assessments will take away from classroom contact time, considering that a study by the Interlake School Division determined that a teacher requires a minimum of 1.5 hours to assess one student.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider providing statistics as to the number of Grade 3 students not able to meet the Grade 3 Guarantee, and publicly release the results of the Grade 3 diagnostic assessments on a school by school basis thereby offering accountability to the taxpayers of this Province.

Mr. JENNISSEN –

8. WHEREAS VIA rail serves northern Manitoba and provides major links to Thompson, The Pas, Lynn Lake, Thicket Portage, Pukatawagan and Churchill among other northern communities; and

WHEREAS residents of many northern communities are reliant on the passenger rail service for functions as common as visiting a doctor and purchasing necessary supplies; and

WHEREAS the residents of northern rail line communities, including young children, should not be subjected to second and third rate travel conditions; and

WHEREAS the operation of an efficient and modern rail service is of benefit to the residents of northern Manitoba; and

WHEREAS rail transportation is vital for manufacturing and the promotion of tourism, both of which benefit all Manitobans; and

WHEREAS northern municipalities and northern organizations have advocated for better and safer service; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government, in April 2000, injected \$400 million into improvements at VIA rail, including a renewal of the fleet, improvements at rail stations among other initiatives.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider working with Transport Canada and VIA Rail to ensure that some of the \$400 million in new investment be used to improve rail facilities in Manitoba; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider ensuring continual support from the Federal Government for the development of rail transport in northern Manitoba where these services are so vital to the wellbeing of the population.

Mr. PENNER (Steinbach) –

9. WHEREAS the elimination of the Crow Rate by the Federal Government has been responded to with diversification of the rural economy and the growth of value-added activities; and

WHEREAS diversification of the rural economy leads to increased job creation, increased investment and export opportunities; and

WHEREAS the previous Provincial Government recognized the need and potential for rural diversification through its Rural Economic Strategy, a program which included accomplishments such as the creation of 97 community roundtables, the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI), youth entrepreneurship programs, the Working for Value Task Force, and a rejuvenation of community development corporations; and

WHEREAS rural diversification has been an important factor in both Manitoba's continued economic growth and in the province having maintained one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country; and

WHEREAS it is in the interest of all Manitobans for these trends to continue; and

WHEREAS the current Provincial Government has already taken a step backward on this important issue by eliminating the Department of Rural Development; and

WHEREAS the current Provincial Government has chosen to alter the Rural Development Bonds Act program so that the Grow Bonds Program is now open to businesses within the City of Winnipeg, thereby changing the original spirit and intent of the program, which was to foster rural development.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing the previous government's efforts to support ongoing diversification of the rural economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing the Rural Economic Strategy, and thereby ensure the continued growth and prosperity of the rural economy.

Mrs. STEFANSON –

10. WHEREAS the global economy is becoming more and more reliant on digital technology; and

WHEREAS the convergence of computing and communications technologies in the Internet and the resulting flow of information and technology that is stimulating all of electronic commerce and vast organizational change has come to be known as the digital economy; and

WHEREAS e-commerce and information technology has become a staple part of business on a world-wide scale; and

WHEREAS digital information is everywhere, in everyday content and communications, and as the logical infrastructure that drives the digital economy; and

WHEREAS digital information is clearly a prominent driver of economic and social change at present; and

WHEREAS the digital economy is a catalyst for attracting investment, reducing inflation, and increasing productivity; and

WHEREAS new technology is used not only for business but also for scientific research, health care, education, and government; and

WHEREAS technology is challenging traditional laws, policies, and institutions; and

WHEREAS government must look at adapting to meet the realities of the digital economy; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's business climate must also reflect the new realities of the digital economy; and

WHEREAS Manitoba businesses must be adequately prepared in order to compete and thrive in today's digital economy; and

WHEREAS a digital infrastructure is essential for businesses in rural Manitoba to have access to global markets and opportunities; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's young people must receive the adequate technological training they will need to work and compete in the digital economy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider providing Manitobans with a detailed plan and timeframe outlining their commitment to ensure that all Manitoba students will be prepared to meet the challenges of the digital economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider creating a more competitive business environment in the province that will create more opportunities for young people to stay and work in Manitoba.

Mr. MAGUIRE –

11. WHEREAS diversification and value-added activities are ensuring Manitoba's agricultural economy remains competitive in the new environment that has been created by the Federal Government's elimination of the Crow Rate; and

WHEREAS these activities place a heavy demand on the province's water supply and necessitate sustainable drainage practices; and

WHEREAS the conservation of the province's water supply is vital to Manitoba's economy and is therefore in every Manitobans interest; and

WHEREAS some Manitoba communities lie in flood prone areas that are periodically threatened by excessive water levels; and

WHEREAS some Manitoba communities have been the subject of prolonged droughts, thereby negatively affecting not only individuals, but also agricultural producers and the industrial and tourism sectors; and

WHEREAS Manitobans have repeatedly expressed a strong interest in issues related to drainage, water storage and flood mitigation and in examining an extended approach to dealing with drainage and water management; and

WHEREAS Manitobans are interested in establishing a process that could ultimately lead to the more effective use of our water resources, thereby ensuring the sustainability of this most important natural resource; and

WHEREAS in order to ensure future availability, high quality and proper drainage of water, the Provincial Government must come forward with a long-term strategy that addresses these important issues.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba encourage the Minister of Conservation to follow through on his commitment to review water management in Manitoba, including drainage, in a comprehensive way; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider entering into discussions with all involved parties to establish a strategy that ensures an adequate water supply to Manitoba communities for generations to come; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider ensuring long term flood protection to flood prone areas by proper upstream storage of excess water --water that would then be available for drought proofing in years of need.

Mr. SANTOS –

12. WHEREAS Canada is a nation of immigrants, where diverse racial and ethnic groups are welcomed and are acknowledged as equal; and

WHEREAS the various ethnic groups have made an enormous contribution to the Canadian economy and Canadian society throughout our history; and

WHEREAS the diversity of the Canadian population has been recognized in a variety of ways, including public funding of multicultural events, programs, and organizations; and

WHEREAS multiculturalism is a fundamental reality in Canada and should continue to be approached as such, through subsidised educational and cultural programs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing its support of multiculturalism in this province; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Federal Government to also maintain its support, both financially and through policy, of multiculturalism in Canada.

Mr. SCHULER –

13. WHEREAS the Federal Government announced that the parental leave covered by employment insurance would be increased in the 2000/2001 Federal Budget in February 2000; and

WHEREAS effective December 31, 2000, the Federal Government increased parental leave benefits available through Employment Insurance to 35 weeks from 10 weeks, thereby increasing available paid maternity and parental leave to 52 weeks; and

WHEREAS this parental leave increase is available to employees working for companies that are federally regulated under the *Canada Labour Code*; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government amended the *Canada Labour Code* to ensure job protection for an additional 25 weeks of parental leave; and

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba would have to adjust the *Manitoba Employment Standards Code* accordingly before Manitoba parents are entitled to extended parental leave; and

WHEREAS without changes to the *Manitoba Employment Standards Code*, under which approximately 90% of Manitoba employees are regulated, Manitoba parents will not be legally entitled to access the same level of parental leave as federally regulated employees; and

WHEREAS as of November 2000, Nova Scotia, Quebec and British Columbia have already incorporated the federal changes to parental benefits into their provincial labour codes; and

WHEREAS on June 13, 2000, the Minister of Labour stated that "we understand the Federal Government is making some changes to the employment insurance provisions, particularly dealing with maternity leave, et cetera, and once that legislation has been passed in the federal House of Commons, we will, of course, ensure that Manitoba legislation follows suit."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider amending the *Manitoba Employment Standards Code* as quickly as possible to ensure that Manitoba parents are entitled to access one year of combined maternity and parental leave as per the federal changes to Employment Insurance parental benefits.

Mr. LAURENDEAU –

14. WHEREAS the use of the telephone sales for a wide range of services or products can be an effective, legitimate marketing tool for Canadian businesses, but criminals use the same techniques, hiding behind the anonymity of the telephone and attempting to defraud thousands of Canadians annually; and

WHEREAS all citizens, regardless of age, sex, educational level, economic status or profession could easily be taken advantage of by a disreputable telemarketing firm; and

WHEREAS Phonebusters, a national organization that targets telemarketing fraud, estimates that in 1999 some 76 per cent of telemarketing fraud victims were 60 years of age or older; and

WHEREAS the methods of fraudulently enticing people are endless and include schemes such as offering loans for medical bills, money to purchase homes, investment schemes, charity and fund-raising schemes and prize pitches; and

WHEREAS by of March 1999 the Federal Government's Competition Bureau conservatively estimated the losses from telemarketing scams to be in the order of \$4 billion, including dollar losses attributable to victims of all telemarketing scams and consequential dollar losses to legitimate businesses who lose out on sales and who are affected by the bad reputation of deceptive telemarketing; and

WHEREAS organized crime such as telemarketing fraud does not respect provincial or national borders, so a proactive approach is necessary to keep one step ahead of the criminals.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to consider strengthening its legislation dealing with telemarketing fraud; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider working in conjunction with the Federal Government, other provinces and other countries to develop co-ordinated strategies to combat telemarketing fraud.

Hon. Mr. GERRARD –

15. WHEREAS new government appointments to various boards including those of Crown Corporations are critical to the success of the operations of these boards and the operations of Crown Corporations; and

WHEREAS Crown Corporations are intended to serve the public interest within separation from the politics of government management; and

WHEREAS governing parties have, in the past, used the power of appointment for political patronage rather than public interest; and

WHEREAS the public interest is best served by appointing community leaders and citizens with qualifications appropriate to the mandate of Crown Corporations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider all major Provincial Government appointments be fully screened by an all-party legislative committee before appointments are confirmed.

Mr. REID –

16. WHEREAS the regular review and consideration of Manitoba's minimum wage is an important part of maintaining stability for employees and employers alike; and

WHEREAS the previous system for adjusting this province's minimum wage was haphazard, resulting in long periods of a stagnant minimum wage followed by relatively large increases as occurred under the previous government; and

WHEREAS the annual review, through the Minimum Wage Board, of labour market and other economic conditions to establish changes to the minimum wage in Manitoba will provide for stability for future rate adjustments; and

WHEREAS the annual review of the minimum wage by the Minimum Wage Board is only a mechanism for review and recommendation, and does not mean that increases in the minimum wage will be required annually; and

WHEREAS the Minimum Wage Board will facilitate and stabilize the consultation process between labour, business and government to establish a fair minimum wage for Manitoba workers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly congratulate the Provincial Government on the provision of an annual review of Manitoba's minimum wage by the Minimum Wage Board.

Mr. NEVAKSHONOFF –

17. WHEREAS the weather and the economy continue to disrupt the future of the family farm within Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has introduced important changes to crop insurance to assist Manitoba farmers in these challenging times; and

WHEREAS Manitoba crop insurance now covers unseeded acres due to excess moisture in its basic program in response to uncertainty caused by excessive rainfall and flooding throughout Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the new program is a long-term solution which will give producers the flexibility, stability and protection they need to make important seeding decisions replacing the need for the ad hoc programs of the past which left farmers unsure of their future; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has offered the "high dollar value" option which will allow producers to choose coverage that will provide additional benefit if crop prices rise and they suffer production losses; and

WHEREAS crop insurance changes for 2000 will also include coverage for greenfeed crops for livestock, open pollinated corn and industrial hemp grain; and

WHEREAS crop insurance premium rates for farmers have dropped, on average, seven per cent this coverage year.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba commend the Provincial Government for its new initiatives in crop insurance which will be a significant boost to Manitoba's farm community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba commend the Provincial Government for its continued efforts to make crop insurance responsive to the needs of Manitoba farmers.

Ms. ALLAN –

18. WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has a commitment to its young people for the continued improvement and adequate funding of the public school system; and

WHEREAS preparing Manitoba's young people for the challenges of the new millennium requires more than just an investment in bricks and mortar, but a long term commitment to funding for new and existing programs; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has committed to giving an increase in funding of \$51.2 million for new capital expenditure at Manitoba's schools over the course of the 2000-2001 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has committed itself to funding public schools in line with economic growth to ensure stability for the future of Manitoba's schools; and

WHEREAS these new expenditures will be to the benefit of students and communities from all parts of the province, Winnipeg, the north and south of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the previous government had continually neglected the needs of Manitoba students by reducing funding to public schools during their tenure; and

WHEREAS the 2000 budget has increased operating budgets of Manitoba's public schools by \$30 million bringing new hope for this province's young people to achieve their dreams and success in the new global economy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislature congratulate the Provincial Government on keeping its commitment to Manitoba's young people through its investment in the public school system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Legislature urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing its commitment to maintaining a well funded and efficient system of public schools in Manitoba to help the leaders of tomorrow prepare for the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Mr. MARTINDALE –

19. WHEREAS thousands of homes in Manitoba, particularly in the inner city of Winnipeg, need renovations; and

WHEREAS many Manitobans, including children, are currently living in unfavourable conditions; and

WHEREAS good housing is a contributing factor to good health in that it eliminates overcrowding and unsanitary conditions which cause the spread of disease; and

WHEREAS Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization dedicated to building affordable housing in partnership with low income families and contributing to community renewal; and

WHEREAS the Winnipeg affiliate of Habitat for Humanity has built over 70 homes since 1987, thereby improving neighbourhoods and property values, enhancing the lives of Manitobans, and creating a larger tax base; and

WHEREAS in the year 2000, Habitat for Humanity's millennium project saw the construction of four homes on Manitoba Avenue, a successful contribution to inner-city revitalization; and

WHEREAS Habitat for Humanity's Ed Schreyer Work Project will result in ten new homes as well as other community improvements in the William Whyte area; and

WHEREAS Habitat for Humanity has also been active in Selkirk and Brandon and in 2000 helped provide homes for three families in those communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba commend Habitat for Humanity for its past projects and future endeavours and recognize its important contribution to the Winnipeg, Brandon and Selkirk communities.

Mr. DYCK –

20. WHEREAS midwifery is already recognized and regulated in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec and has long been a recognized and respected occupation in numerous industrialized countries; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's *Midwifery Act*, introduced by the Progressive Conservative Government in 1997 and proclaimed on June 12, 2000, was intended to regulate midwifery and create new options for expectant women and their families; and

WHEREAS midwives are now required to register with the College of Midwives of Manitoba, to update their skills by fulfilling minimum experience requirements, and to pass an exam and clinical assessment set by the North American Registry of Midwives; and

WHEREAS 50 spots were made available by the College of Midwives to enable those people wishing to practice midwifery in Manitoba to upgrade their skills; and

WHEREAS as of November 2, 2000, there were 18 midwives practicing in Manitoba, including 12 in Winnipeg and 6 in rural areas of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS women in areas of southwestern Manitoba, which fall under the responsibility of South Westman, Brandon and Marquette Regional Health Authorities, have expressed some concern over the poor access to midwifery services in recent months.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider enhancing the public education campaign to promote midwifery as an occupation and an alternative to traditional birthing methods in Manitoba.

Mrs. SMITH (Fort Garry) –

21. WHEREAS on June 30, 2000, in the *Winnipeg Free Press*, the Minister of Education and Training said that he wants fewer school divisions by the October 2002 municipal elections; and

WHEREAS the Minister of Education and Training has stated that school divisions have until June 30, 2001 to voluntarily amalgamate or he will take "stronger measures"; and

WHEREAS a July 5, 2000 article in the *Winnipeg Free Press* noted that the Minister of Education and Training "says he has no map of new boundaries on paper or in his head, hasn't figured out how few divisions he wants, and hasn't decided if the NDP government will use the five year-old recommendations of the Norrie Commission on amalgamations"; and

WHEREAS on September 15, 2000 in the *Winnipeg Free Press*, the Minister of Education and Training indicated that "unattractive" school divisions could be "piecemealed out;" and

WHEREAS on September 25, 2000 the Minister finally provided school divisions with limited guidelines and an offer of \$10,000 to divisions who study amalgamation; and

WHEREAS a number of school division administrators have expressed concern about the lack of clear guidelines for amalgamation, and the ambiguity surrounding the Minister of Education and Training's statement of "stronger measures" which will be taken for those school divisions which do not voluntarily amalgamate; and

WHEREAS the *Neepawa Press* on October 9, 2000 quoted the Minister of Education and Training as saying that "60 per cent of Manitoba's school divisions are too small."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Minister of Education and Training to consider publicly announcing his plans for those school divisions that do not meet his deadline of June 30, 2001 for voluntary amalgamation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Minister of Education and Training to consider providing clear and concise evidence that reducing the number of school divisions will have direct benefits for the students and educators of Manitoba.

Mr. DEWAR –

22. WHEREAS Aboriginal soldiers have served in the Canadian Forces since the eighteenth century, including the War of 1812, often without recognition for their years of service; and

WHEREAS this service often resulted in the loss of Aboriginal treaty rights, followed by alienation from the Aboriginal community; and

WHEREAS Aboriginal veteran Thomas George Prince voluntarily went beyond the required duties of a soldier to receive both the Military Medal and U.S. Silver Star for his efforts in the Second World War and war in Korea; and

WHEREAS Thomas George Prince went on to fulfill roles as an educator, lobbyist, leader, and entrepreneur in his life.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba honour and recognize Thomas George Prince for his contribution and sacrifice to both Canada and the Province of Manitoba; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly direct the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to send a copy of this resolution to the Prime Minister of Canada.

Mr. REIMER –

23. WHEREAS seniors in Manitoba have not been a priority of the Provincial Government; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government is in a position to take action that would provide immediate and long-term benefits to seniors and all Manitobans; and

WHEREAS removing the Education Support Levy would result in savings of approximately \$100 million for Manitoban residential property taxpayers; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has the financial resources to compensate school boards an amount equal to the Education Support Levy annually once it is removed from residential property taxes; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government appears more concerned about circumnavigating balanced budget legislation than offering taxpayers consistent and meaningful tax relief.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider providing seniors and all property taxpayers with meaningful relief through the elimination of the Education Support Levy off residential property; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider providing school divisions with an amount equal to the loss of the Educational Support Levy.

Mr. SANTOS –

24. WHEREAS human beings are any country's most important resource needed to achieve values of democratic equality, freedom, fairness and individual self-actualization and group progress; and

WHEREAS recent immigrants to Manitoba who have become citizens tend to possess education and skills that can contribute to the enrichment of diversity and human fulfillment; and

WHEREAS a number of these foreign trained immigrants have had a great deal of difficulty in being accredited in this province; and

WHEREAS the utilization of professional and technical education, skills and training of new Manitobans would, without much social and monetary costs, be immediately beneficial to Manitoba.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Government of Manitoba to consider exploring new methods of promoting accreditation of foreign trained individuals.

Mr. MALOWAY –

25. WHEREAS previous governments have balanced the provincial budget through declaring withdrawals from the Fiscal Stabilization Fund as revenue, a practice which met with the disapproval of the Provincial Auditor; and

WHEREAS this government has prohibited the use of revenues from the sale of crown corporations to be used in balancing the operating fund or building up the Fiscal Stabilization Fund; and

WHEREAS this government has taken great steps to alter the outdated accounting practices of the previous government and installed new accounting practices which provide for transparency in public accounts following the recommendations of the Provincial Auditor; and

WHEREAS this Provincial Government has withdrawn less than half the amount from the Fiscal Stabilization Fund that the previous government had, and the amount withdrawn in the 2000-2001 budget is to be used solely for debt repayment; and

WHEREAS this Provincial Government has committed itself to balanced budgets and fiscal responsibility to ensure the economic prosperity of all Manitobans through sound financial management.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge all MLAs to join in congratulating the Provincial Government on its balanced budget for the year 2000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Legislature congratulate the Provincial Government for its initiatives to change its accounting practices, providing much needed transparency to the budgetary process and protection for Manitoba's public corporations.

Mrs. DACQUAY –

26. WHEREAS elder abuse is a major concern to all Manitoba citizens; and

WHEREAS older adults can be victimized by spouses, caregivers, family members and strangers alike; and

WHEREAS elder abuse can take many different forms, whether it be the misuse of medication, neglect, emotional, physical, psychological, or financial abuse; and

WHEREAS the victims of elder abuse, for a number of reasons, often choose not to tell anyone about their problems; and

WHEREAS victims who are abused by members of their own family often suffer severe emotional stress in addition to the physical, psychological, or financial abuse; and

WHEREAS victims of elder abuse often feel that they would rather suffer with fear and pain than with the embarrassment or the guilt associated with acknowledging they have been abused; and

WHEREAS being silent or ignoring abuse will not stop it from happening again; and

WHEREAS community awareness and education about elder abuse is needed to allow elderly Manitobans who are suffering from abuse to feel safe in telling others that they are being abused.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider providing Manitobans with a comprehensive public awareness and educational program that will create better awareness about elder abuse, help identify how elder abuse can be prevented, and encourage older adults suffering abuse to seek assistance.

Mr. MURRAY –

27. WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has a population of approximately 628,000 people, or approximately 55% of Manitoba, giving it an essential role in the strength of Manitoba's economy; and

WHEREAS every region needs a vital capital city which encompasses and celebrates the energy, opportunity and rich cultural diversity its residents create and enjoy; and

WHEREAS such a city needs positive and accessible relationships between all levels of government and community leaders, and a climate conducive to doing business and attracting new investment to the city; and

WHEREAS a vibrant and economically diverse downtown means a strong Winnipeg which in turn results in a strong Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the current Provincial Government has merged the departments of Urban Affairs and Rural Development into Intergovernmental Affairs, thereby losing the specific attention and focus on both areas of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS a November 17, 2000 article in the *Winnipeg Free Press* noted that the Federal Government may consider moving 600 Agriculture Canada employees from their current workplaces downtown to the suburbs of the city which would have negative impacts on the current transit system and the city's efforts to rejuvenate the downtown area; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government announced the development of the Red River College campus in Winnipeg's exchange district in November of 2000, a full 13 months after coming into power; and

WHEREAS the decision to develop the new campus in the exchange district was originally discussed over a year ago and was supported by Red River College and the former Progressive Conservative administration; and

WHEREAS a November 21, 2000 article in the *Winnipeg Free Press* noted that Winnipeg's downtown region is to benefit by the development of a new Hampton Inn hotel, a new building to house Cambrian Credit Union headquarters and a new office building on Lombard Avenue; and

WHEREAS this kind of development and investment in downtown Winnipeg should continue to be encouraged by the Provincial Government.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider consulting with the business community, community leaders and the City of Winnipeg to develop and implement a strategy to create a vibrant and thriving downtown Winnipeg.

Mr. STRUTHERS –

28. WHEREAS rural residents and, in particular, farmers experience unique stresses, such as isolation issues, low commodity prices or natural disasters; and

WHEREAS without any consultation with farmers, the Farm and Rural Stress Line was discontinued in 1997 because of lack of sustained funding from the Progressive Conservative Government; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has recognized the pressures and stresses of those who work in the farm sector and is committed to provide a service that specifically geared to farmers and people living in rural communities; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has announced a Farm and Rural Stress Line that will provide counselling, support, information and referrals for people living in rural communities; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has also implemented new legislation such as the changes to the crop insurance program to provide a good measure of certainty to farmers in Manitoba and to help lessen the amount of stress and anxiety producers feel.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba commend the Provincial Government for reinstating the Farm and Rural Stress Line in support of our farmers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing this important service for as long as these services are needed in rural Manitoba.

Mr. PITURA –

29. WHEREAS the Port of Churchill is a vital transportation link for Manitoba, an economic generator for the community it serves and a gateway to international markets; and

WHEREAS the Port of Churchill is closer to 25 per cent of Canada's western grain production than any other port and offers lower shipping costs to markets in North Africa, the Middle East and Europe; and

WHEREAS the Port of Churchill is a vital link in the shipment of petroleum products and other goods to communities in the Hudson Bay Region; and

WHEREAS the Port of Churchill is well situated for shipping products to and from Europe, Russia, Africa and Latin America; and

WHEREAS utilization of the Port of Churchill eliminates time-consuming navigation, additional handling and high-cost transportation through the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway; and

WHEREAS the Port of Churchill provides unique opportunities for the export of manufactured, mining and forest products, as well as the import of ores, minerals, steels, building materials, fertilizer and petroleum products for distribution in Central and Western Canada; and

WHEREAS the types of products being shipped through the Port of Churchill are continually diversifying, as evidenced by the first ever shipment of feed peas and alfalfa pellets through the facility and by the shipment of diverse products ranging from wheat to copper concentrate; and

WHEREAS private investors such as OmniTRAX Canada have expressed their confidence in the viability of the Port of Churchill and have made investments towards ensuring the continued use of the port; and

WHEREAS the utilization of the Churchill rail line and the Port of Churchill as an important north-south transportation link must continue, as it plays an important link in not only the province's agricultural industry but the overall economy; and

WHEREAS the Churchill rail line and the Port of Churchill are expected to continue to demonstrate their value and potential for the movement of goods into and out of Manitoba.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing to offer its support to the Port of Churchill as it persists in its efforts to diversify the commodity base of freight handled through the port, thus ensuring the long-term viability of its operations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider encouraging private investment in the operations of the Port of Churchill, so as to ensure its longevity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider lobbying the Federal Government to ensure its continued support for the Port of Churchill.

Ms. KORZENIOWSKI –

30. WHEREAS the protection of Manitobans against abuse in hospitals and personal care homes is important for this government; and

WHEREAS Manitoba has adopted legislation to protect Manitobans in hospitals and personal care homes against physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse; and

WHEREAS this legislation will help protect adult patients from abuse and provide a safe and caring environment; and

WHEREAS this legislation strengthens individuals' rights by putting in place a formal process of reporting, investigating and resolving allegations and suspicions of abuse in hospitals and personal care homes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba commend the Provincial Government for its actions in establishing a reporting, investigating and resolving mechanism in order to reduce abuse and protect Manitobans in hospitals and personal care homes.

Mr. GILLESHAMMER –

31. WHEREAS Canada and the United States have a mutually beneficial exchange of agricultural and food products; and

WHEREAS the agricultural sector plays a vital role in the overall health not only of the Canadian economy, but also the Manitoba economy; and

WHEREAS many of Manitoba's agricultural producers rely on ready access to markets in the United States in which to sell their products and services; and

WHEREAS for several years the Canadian and United States governments have been involved in a series of disputes regarding the restrictive trade actions undertaken by individual American states, which included the obstruction of access of Canadian cattle, hogs and grain to the United States; and

WHEREAS Canada's Federal and Provincial Governments as well as members of the agri-food sector have long expressed their concern over the difficulty in developing coherent trade negotiating positions for agriculture; and

WHEREAS a strong two-way trading relationship between Canada and the United States is beneficial to both countries' economies; and

WHEREAS both Canada and the United States impose restrictions on agricultural goods crossing the border, each accusing the other of unfair subsidization and flooding the other's market; and

WHEREAS Canada's farmers will benefit from a strong and unified approach to bilateral trade discussions with the United States.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba encourage the Federal Government to forge a position that seeks to create a strong, universal rules-based international trading system and facilitate the unimpeded export of Canadian agricultural products to American markets.

Mrs. SMITH (Fort Garry) –

32. WHEREAS Bill 12, *The Public Schools Amendment Act*, imposes additional registration requirements and obligations on Manitoba home schooling families; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba Association of Christian Home Schools and other home schooling associations were publicly opposed to Bill 12 and found the additional information required of home schooling families to be unnecessary and intrusive in nature; and

WHEREAS several amendments to Bill 12 were suggested to the current government by home schooling parents and were rejected without consideration; and

WHEREAS the President of the Manitoba Association of Christian Home Schools repeatedly asked for greater and more meaningful dialogue between the Minister of Education and Training and home schooling families and was rebuffed; and

WHEREAS Manitoba parents should have the right to choose how their children will be educated; and

WHEREAS Manitoba home schooling parents should have the right to discuss changes to their education system of choice before such changes are implemented against their will.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Minister of Education and Training to consider taking part in meaningful and comprehensive dialogue with home schooling families before making any additional changes to the requirements or obligations imposed on home schooling families in Manitoba.

Mr. DEWAR –

33. WHEREAS maintaining and expanding Manitoba's infrastructure is a critical component of this province's future economic development; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government, with its burgeoning budgetary surplus, has the ability and an obligation to make investments in roads and highways; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government, with its projected surplus of \$95 billion over the next five years, and its commitment in the 2000 budget to invest \$400 million per year in municipal infrastructure and \$200 million in safety improvements, needs to make a commitment to Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government collects four billion dollars annually in fuel taxes; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government has returned none of this money back to Manitoba for highways since 1996; and

WHEREAS the transportation budget has borne an undue burden of the federal measures to balance the federal budget; and

WHEREAS the federal Transport Minister acknowledges that the current commitment of \$600 million over six years for highways is insufficient; and

WHEREAS the Government of Manitoba currently returns 97 percent of its fuel tax revenues to funding for highway projects in the province.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to advocate for new federal spending on highways and municipal roads improvements in Manitoba; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing its attempts to lobby Ottawa for increased funding for this province's infrastructure through the development of a National Transportation Investment Strategy to target crumbling highway infrastructure on a long-term basis.

Ms. CERILLI –

34. WHEREAS the Provincial Government has sent delegations lead by the Premier and the Conservation Minister to North Dakota and to Washington D.C. to voice Manitoba's concerns over the planned Devils Lake and Garrison projects; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government voiced Manitoba's concerns over the planned Devils Lake and Garrison projects during meetings with North Dakota Governor Ed Schafer both in Manitoba and in North Dakota; and

WHEREAS the Premier raised Manitoba's concerns over the planned Devils Lake and Garrison projects at a meeting of the Great Lakes Commission in Duluth, Minnesota and received support from the Great Lake States; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's opposition to both projects was reflected in the deliberations of the United States Senate; and

WHEREAS all Manitobans must work together in a vigilant way to oppose the transfer of water that could harm our waterways; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has expressed its concerns about the planned projects after close collaboration with the Manitoba Government.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba restate its continued opposition to these two projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba call upon the Federal Government to continue to oppose these two projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly direct the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to send a copy of this resolution to the State Government of North Dakota.

Mr. MALOWAY –

35. WHEREAS twenty-five years ago, Nobel Prize-winning economist James Tobin proposed a modest tax on speculative financial transactions; and

WHEREAS such a tax would be small enough (0.1%) in order not to have a significant effect on long-term investment while deterring short-term speculation by cutting into the yields of speculators; and

WHEREAS such a tax would provide exporters, importers and long-term investors with a more stable exchange rate by removing the often erratic fluctuations in exchange caused by short-term speculation; and

WHEREAS in March 1999, the House of Commons passed a private member's motion (M-239) calling on the Federal Government to enact a tax on international financial transactions in concert with the international community; and

WHEREAS in Canada, motion M-239 has the support of a broad coalition of community-based organizations, church groups and non-governmental organizations representing three million Canadians; and

WHEREAS Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin endorsed the principle of a Tobin Tax because the tax has the potential to generate \$54 billion dollars (US) for global development.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to strongly encourage the Federal Government to continue to promote the implementation of a Tobin Tax in concert with the international community.

Mrs. MITCHELSON –

36. WHEREAS during the provincial election campaign on August 27, 1999 the Honourable Member for Concordia stated that "We have a plan that will bring more nurses and doctors to rural Manitoba. ...It's an achievable plan and it's a credible plan."; and

WHEREAS the nursing shortage in Manitoba has grown from 600 in 1999 to more than 1,100 in 2000 under this Provincial Government; and

WHEREAS Manitoba is experiencing an increasing shortage of professional nurses including Baccalaureate Nurses, Registered Nurses, Registered Psychiatric Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government's nursing plan has failed to attract more nurses to Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has broken its promise to hire more full-time nurses as evidenced by the fact that only 34% of Manitoba nurses work full-time compared to the national average of 51%, leaving Manitoba with the lowest percentage of full-time nurses per capita in Canada; and

WHEREAS during the 1999 provincial election the New Democratic Party promised to guarantee adequate staffing levels to "provide the care people in rural Manitoba deserve"; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has broken its promise to provide an adequate level of nurses in rural Manitoba as evidenced by the closure of a number of rural health care facilities due to a shortage of nurses during the past summer season.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider seeking solutions to Manitoba's nursing shortage that are achieved through cooperation and consensus among nursing educators, nursing associations and the Department of Health; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider curtailing the growing shortage of nurses in Manitoba; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to apologize to Manitobans for misleading them during the 1999 provincial election campaign.

Mr. NEVAKSHONOFF –

37. WHEREAS the Canadian Wheat Board is an innovative world leader in marketing grain and serves to maximize returns to western Canadian grain producers; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Wheat Board has a world wide reputation for quality which enables it to attract, develop and retain markets; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Wheat Board provides the competitive advantage of single-desk selling of wheat and barley; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Wheat Board provides equitable opportunity for Prairie farmers to access world grain markets; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Wheat Board through its involvement in grain transportation provides producers with a voice in this system they might otherwise not have; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Wheat Board has brought many high paying jobs to the province and continues to be beneficial to the economy of Manitoba.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba affirm its support of the Canadian Wheat Board.

Mr. HELWER –

38. WHEREAS under the Employment Insurance Act the Government of Canada collects premiums from employers and employees in order to insure workers for periods of unemployment; and

WHEREAS the cumulative surplus in the Employment Insurance account is estimated to exceed \$40 billion by the end of the year 2001, a figure that clearly exceeds the funds necessary to ensure the stability of the Employment Insurance Program; and

WHEREAS the Federal Auditor General has called upon the Federal Government to make clear what it plans to do with this massive surplus in the Employment Insurance fund; and

WHEREAS this massive surplus fund is channeled away from workers to cover the costs of other Federal Government programs, some of which may be designed to ensure the re-election of the current federal administration; and

WHEREAS responsibility for setting Employment Insurance rates rested with the EI Commission, with equal representatives from government, employers and labour, until the Federal Government handed over authority to the federal cabinet; and

WHEREAS Employment Insurance premiums act as a tax on new job creation; and

WHEREAS significantly lowering Employment Insurance premiums to a level necessary to sustain the program would encourage job creation in Canada.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to lower Employment Insurance premiums to the level needed to sustain the program, without building up a massive and unnecessary surplus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to ensure the Employment Insurance program is used to assist those workers it was designed to help in the first place and that surplus funds be returned directly in the form of a premium reduction to those employers and employees who overpaid into the Employment Insurance fund.

Mr. JENNISSEN –

39. WHEREAS from time immemorial the Sayisi Dene lived on the land west of Hudson Bay; and

WHEREAS in 1910 the Sayisi Dene, then called the Fort Churchill Chipewyan Band, signed an adhesion to Treaty Five; and

WHEREAS despite the treaty signing, no reserve was created and the Sayisi Dene continued to live for the most part as they always had with little contact with the outside world; and

WHEREAS in 1956, without consultation or agreement, Government officials, concerned about the possible decline in Caribou herds, blamed the Sayisi Dene for over-hunting; and

WHEREAS the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development subsequently relocated the Sayisi Dene to Churchill; and

WHEREAS at Churchill, the Sayisi Dene were unable to hunt and maintain their traditional livelihood, their language or culture, and were forced into lives of extreme poverty and desperation; and

WHEREAS more than a third of the Sayisi Dene died during this period; and

WHEREAS the Sayisi Dene, on their own, moved to Tadoule Lake in 1973 to rebuild their community and deal with the horrendous problems caused by the forced relocation; and

WHEREAS the town of Churchill, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak and the MLA for Rupertsland held a healing ceremony with the Sayisi Dene at Churchill in 1999; and

WHEREAS a further healing ceremony was held again the next year at Churchill.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to consider offering its own apology for the forced relocation of the Sayisi Dene in 1956, as recommended by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly direct the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to send a copy of this resolution to each Manitoba Member of Parliament.

Mr. ENNS –

40. WHEREAS in 1996, the previous Progressive Conservative administration implemented a dual system of hog marketing – a more flexible marketing system that was one of a number of initiatives designed to maximize the economic potential of the hog industry; and

WHEREAS the implementation of the dual marketing system for hogs has provided the necessary flexibility to respond quickly and efficiently to changing needs in Manitoba's pork industry; and

WHEREAS a dual marketing approach has resulted in millions of dollars in new investment and the creation of hundreds of jobs in Manitoba's pork industry; and

WHEREAS dual marketing is the best way to ensure the future prosperity of the pork industry and has led to such initiatives as the construction of Brandon's Maple Leaf plant and the proposed expansion at Winnipeg's JM Schneider plant; and

WHEREAS during the New Democratic Party Convention 2000, Resolution 00-AG-05 addressed the need to return to the single desk system of marketing of hogs in Manitoba.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to recognize the merits of the current system of dual marketing of hogs and to consider maintaining this system that allows farmers to have a choice in how they choose to market their hogs; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to categorically reject Resolution 00-AG-05 from the New Democratic Party Convention 2000 that called for the reinstatement of the single desk selling of hogs.

Mr. PENNER (Emerson) –

41. WHEREAS according to the 1996 census, more than one third of Manitoba's farmers were over 55 years of age, compared with just 17 per cent of the farm population that is under 35 years of age; and

WHEREAS according to Statistics Canada, during 1999, the Prairie agricultural workforce declined by 22,100 people, an 11.1 per cent decline; and

WHEREAS according to Statistics Canada, between January and August 2000, the Prairie agricultural industry lost 15,200 workers, a drop of 8.7 per cent; and

WHEREAS according to Statistics Canada, Manitoba lost 6,000 agricultural workers over the past two years, dropping from 40,000 in August 1998 to 34,000 in August 2000; and,

WHEREAS 70 per cent of Manitoba farms are expected to change hands in the next 15 years; and

WHEREAS it is estimated that 120,000 Canadian farmers will be turning 65 over the next decade or so and that they control approximately \$50 billion worth of assets; and

WHEREAS having a sound succession plan is critical not only to helping young people enter the industry, but also to helping existing farmers retire; and

WHEREAS the health of Manitoba's rural communities is dependent on having a stable population; and

WHEREAS the health of the province's agricultural sector has a considerable impact on the overall health of Manitoba's economy; and

WHEREAS Manitobans are interested in finding ways to ensure that farming in this province remains an attractive option.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider undertaking a series of public consultations with agricultural producers, farm organizations and interested businesses and Manitobans to examine ways of ensuring the province's agricultural industry remains healthy and an integral sector of Manitoba's economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider lobbying the Federal Government to negotiate a fair and competitive agricultural assistance program that will place Manitoba farmers on par with their North American counterparts, therefore encouraging young Manitobans to enter the agricultural sector, to make it stronger and to in turn help regenerate our rural communities.

Mr. PITURA –

42. WHEREAS school trustees are democratically elected by their local constituents through free and open elections and are accountable for the decisions they make and the priorities they set; and

WHEREAS locally elected school trustees are in the best position to represent and reflect the values of their constituents; and

WHEREAS the digital economy and demands of emerging industries have emphasized the need for increased partnership and co-operation between the private and public sector in a mutually beneficial manner; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government is limiting the autonomy of school divisions through its unwillingness to allow for such private-public partnerships; and

WHEREAS without regard to the benefits for students, teachers and schools, the Provincial Government is attacking Youth News Network (YNN) solely for political purposes; and

WHEREAS YNN provides schools, teachers and students with tangible benefits including approximately \$200,000 of technological resources; and

WHEREAS the proposed commercial aspect of YNN has been replaced by social advocacy messages including messages sponsored by government agencies; and

WHEREAS there is no mandatory viewing requirement of YNN for teachers or students.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to recognize the elected autonomy of local school boards and their right to enter into private-public agreements such as those that offer YNN programming.

Mr. SCHULER –

43. WHEREAS Bill 44, *The Labour Relations Amendment Act (2)*, which received Royal Assent on August 18, 2000, was a highly publicized piece of legislation that received much criticism across the province; and

WHEREAS Bill 44 is widely believed to reflect negatively on Manitoba's economy, possibly even discouraging businesses from locating in Manitoba thereby inhibiting the province's future growth and prosperity; and

WHEREAS from October 18, 2000 to November 11, 2000 there were 14 applications to the Manitoba Labour Board for certification, almost triple the average number of applications for the 1997-98 and 1998-99 fiscal years; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government did not adequately consider public debate on Bill 44, invoking closure on the Standing Committee on Industrial Relations, prompting many delegations to leave rather than be forced to present in the middle of the night; and

WHEREAS *The Labour Relations Amendment Act (2)* denies workers of their democratic rights to a secret ballot vote for or against union certification, making certification automatic when 65% or more of affected employees support the union; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government appeared to condone acts of violence when it initially sought to include in its amendments to *The Labour Relations Act* the requirement that employers hire back employees who participated in violence during a strike; and

WHEREAS Bill 44 is a regressive piece of legislation that limits workers' rights to a free and democratic vote in their workplace.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider revoking Bill 44 to provide an environment which is more conducive to future business development in Manitoba; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to heed the words of the Minister of Labour when she stated on November 9, 2000 that: "In order to go into binding arbitration, both sides would have to agree to it...it would be very unfair if only one side agreed to binding arbitration and the other side didn't."

Mr. FAURSCHOU –

44. WHEREAS from 1981 to 1987 the NDP Government's poor record as economic managers was underscored by poor management and a lack of accountability; and

WHEREAS they understated annual deficits, avoided reporting crown corporation losses by changing their Reporting Period and managed a crown corporation debt of \$317 million in losses during the period of April 1, 1986 to March 31, 1988, all under the Honourable Member for Concordia's stewardship as Minister Responsible for Public Investments; and

WHEREAS during the above noted time period Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation lost \$125 million, including \$79 million in the Autopac division; and

WHEREAS during the above noted time period Manitoba Hydro lost \$60 million; and

WHEREAS during the above noted time period Manitoba Telephone System lost \$48 million, including \$27 million in the sands of Saudi Arabia over the MTX fiasco; and

WHEREAS during the above noted time period Manfor lost \$42 million; and

WHEREAS in November 2000, the Provincial Government attempted to transfer \$30 million of the Manitoba Public Insurance surplus to fund government operations; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba Society of Seniors, the Canadian Automobile Association of Manitoba, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, the Keystone Agricultural Producers, the Canadian Federation of Taxpayers and the rate paying public of MPI denounced this back-door tax and forced the Provincial Government to return the funds to ratepayers; and

WHEREAS the legacy of the former Progressive Conservative Government is one of strong financial management which has resulted in such actions as MPI's recent announcement of an almost uniform reduction in rates for Manitoba drivers, stable Workers Compensation rates and Manitoba Hydro's acquisition of Centra Gas.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to make a commitment to Manitobans that during their current mandate they will ensure our Crown Corporations remain accountable, are in a strong financial position and are run without political interference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Provincial Government to consider implementing a Ratepayer Protection Act that would ensure that no crown corporation pay a dividend to the Provincial Government and that any surplus not utilized by the crown corporation for the purposes of its mandate be returned to those ratepayers who created the surplus.

Mr. ENNS –

45. WHEREAS Canadian farmers are good stewards of the land; and

WHEREAS environmentalists, landowners and industry have worked hard in recent years to form a consensus for endangered species legislation that the majority could support; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has on a number of occasions proposed legislation to protect the country's endangered species; and

WHEREAS previously proposed federal endangered species legislation has posed a number of problems for Canadian agricultural producers in that if an endangered species resides on a parcel of land, it would be illegal to disrupt that habitat through farming; and

WHEREAS under endangered species legislation proposed in the past, farmers whose operations are disrupted by the presence of an endangered species would be compensated for the loss of the value or production; and

WHEREAS any property owner would face similar disruptions regarding the potential use of their property; and

WHEREAS Sarah Dover, campaign director for the Canadian Endangered Species Campaign, told a Parliament Hill news conference in September 1999 that when it comes to endangered species legislation, "We need a program that includes incentives, compensation and which facilitates landowners buying into this. Nobody objects to having producers compensated if they are hurt."; and

WHEREAS any future proposed federal endangered species legislation may contain substantial fines and criminal sanctions to ensure compliance with the legislation, thereby alienating those landowners whose very co-operation the Federal Government needs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to carefully examine any future endangered species legislation so that it will allow habitat protection on private land to be implemented on a voluntary basis, with compensation offered if landowners suffer financial loss; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to encourage that federal endangered species legislation respect fundamental democratic principles and that decisions on habitat protection be made with an awareness of its economic and social impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to encourage that any future federal endangered species legislation not include criminal sanctions, which may in fact act as a deterrent to co-operation with this type of legislation.

Mrs. STEFANSON –

46. WHEREAS there are over 2,500 Canadians waiting for a kidney transplant at any one time and approximately 500 more waiting for other vital organ transplants; and

WHEREAS in Manitoba alone, more than 60 people are waiting for a kidney transplant; and

WHEREAS 20-30% of people waiting for organs will die before an organ becomes available; and

WHEREAS each province has a different approach to maintaining organ donor registries and organ donor awareness programs; and

WHEREAS public awareness about the Manitoba Transplant Program could be increased; and

WHEREAS the issue of organ and tissue donation is a very personal decision that all Canadians must make for themselves and share with their families and loved ones; and

WHEREAS federal and Provincial Governments have a role to play in the development of a comprehensive system that enables Canadians to make their wishes known and ensures that those in need can benefit from organ or tissue donations that are made; and

WHEREAS on September 16, 1999, the federal, provincial and territorial health ministers agreed to establish a National Council on Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation with the goal of developing a co-ordinated, comprehensive and integrated donation and transplantation strategy across Canada; and

WHEREAS an important next step will be the establishment of a national transplant council and further work with the provinces and territories to develop a truly integrated and sustainable Canadian strategy for organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba strongly urge the Federal Government to create a comprehensive organ transplantation registry so that more Canadian lives will be saved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Minister of Health to consider providing Manitobans with more information about the Manitoba Transplant Program so they can make informed personal choices about organ donation and help save more lives in Manitoba.

Mrs. DRIEDGER –

47. WHEREAS the current Provincial Government, during the 1999 provincial election campaign made a great deal of health care promises; and

WHEREAS the current Provincial Government promised in the 1999 provincial election campaign that they would "rescue health care and end hallway medicine within six months of being elected"; and

WHEREAS the six month deadline has long since passed and hallway medicine is still being practiced in many Winnipeg hospitals; and

WHEREAS on September 13, 1999 the current Provincial Government promised to reduce prostate cancer radiation therapy waiting lists to 10 weeks within their first year of government; and

WHEREAS one year later in September 2000, the waiting list for prostate cancer treatment had not been reduced to 10 weeks as promised; and

WHEREAS also on September 13, 1999 the current Provincial Government promised to establish a prostate cancer screening program within their first year of government; and

WHEREAS this prostate cancer screening program has yet to be established; and

WHEREAS during the 1999 provincial election campaign, the current Provincial Government promised to hire new full-time nurses to reduce the shortage of health care professionals in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS over the past year, the shortage of full-time nurses has not been reduced, but has nearly doubled from 650 to 1,100; and

WHEREAS during the 1999 provincial election campaign, the current Provincial Government promised to open 138 new permanent beds by the end of April 2000; and

WHEREAS Minister of Health publicly admitted that he failed to keep his government's promise to open 138 new permanent beds; and

WHEREAS during the 1999 provincial election campaign, the current Provincial Government promised to establish a Physician Resource Plan; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has yet to announce its Physician Resource Plan even though Manitoba is facing the serious task of recruiting and retaining physicians; and

WHEREAS the continued practice of hallway medicine, the growing nursing and physician shortage and long waiting lists for some forms of cancer treatment create anxiety among many Manitobans.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to apologize to Manitobans for misleading them during the 1999 provincial election campaign.

Mr. PENNER (Steinbach) –

48. WHEREAS Manitoba is experiencing a shortage of skilled workers in a number of expanding industries as a result of the strong economic growth fostered by initiatives of the previous Progressive Conservative Government; and

WHEREAS Manitoba should receive the same proportion of immigrants to the province as its portion of the Canadian population, 3.8% or approximately 7,500 – 8,000 newcomers annually; and

WHEREAS in 1999 Manitoba only received 3,702 immigrants or 1.96% of the Canadian immigration levels; and

WHEREAS the majority of current immigrants to Canada are received by four provinces: Ontario, British Columbia, Quebec and Alberta; and

WHEREAS over the last decade, Manitoba has been at the forefront in initiating means to increase immigration to meet provincial growth sectors and emerging labour market needs; and

WHEREAS the previous Progressive Conservative administration signed the Provincial Nominee Program with the Federal Government in 1998 and initiated the Skilled Independent Immigrant Promotion and Recruitment Campaign in 1994; and

WHEREAS 1999 immigration levels to Manitoba have increased from 2,993 in 1998 to 3,702 in 1999 (or 23%) largely due to the aforementioned Provincial Nominee Program; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government is responsible for establishing the selection criteria and the number of immigrants that can move to Manitoba each year; and

WHEREAS before Parliament was dissolved on October 22, 2000, the Federal Government was considering changes to the current Immigration Act, namely Bill C-31, which would replace Canada's current immigration policies.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to continue the efforts of the previous Progressive Conservative administration and to consider lobbying the Federal Government to enhance the federal immigration policy to increase the annual quota of employable immigrants that can settle in Manitoba.

Mr. HELWER –

49. WHEREAS when it comes to agriculture and rural development in the Prairie provinces, a clear plan and vision is required; and

WHEREAS changes in federal agricultural policies have had a negative impact on the livelihood of individual farmers and in turn the rural communities that rely on them; and

WHEREAS, according to Statistics Canada figures from April 1999, between 1991 and 1996, Manitoba lost nearly 2,000 farm families; and

WHEREAS with strong support and a clear vision from all levels of government, there could be a very bright future for agriculture and for our rural communities; and

WHEREAS the Government has Alberta, working in co-operation with Albertans interested in agriculture, food and the rural community, undertook *Ag Summit 2000*, a series of consultations aimed at engaging Albertans in a forward-looking dialogue about the challenges and opportunities facing the agriculture and food sector that province; and

WHEREAS in 2000, the Government of Saskatchewan undertook *Partnership for Prosperity*, a series of public consultations that examined issues such as increasing the amount of value-added exports from Saskatchewan, lowering personal income taxes, increasing research and development and other initiatives aimed at creating more prosperous individuals, communities, businesses and co-operatives; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government in Manitoba seems indifferent to the fact that other provincial governments are examining long-term strategies for economic growth and for securing their provinces' futures.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider holding a series of province-wide public consultations in order to examine ways to enhance rural and agricultural development and to consider creating an economic environment that encourages Manitobans to stay at home, rather than pursuing opportunities in other provinces that are offering a more competitive business and taxation environment.

Mr. SMITH (Brandon West) –

50. WHEREAS there has been too many cases where child support payments have been delayed while children suffer serious economic hardship; and

WHEREAS one of the reasons for lengthy delays are the problems associated with collecting child support when one parent lives in another province or territory; and

WHEREAS of the \$40 million in support payments owed to the Manitoba children, \$20 million is due from parents who now live in other provinces or countries; and

WHEREAS Canada's ministers of justice have unanimously approved a Manitoba initiative to strengthen the enforcement of child support payments when the parents are living in different jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS out-of-province support orders will now be given priority equal to that given to in-province orders; and

WHEREAS the new initiative now commits the provinces to timely enforcement, co-operation in locating people and providing information, and developing uniform procedures.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba commend the Provincial Government for its initiative and thank the other Provincial Governments for their support in addressing this important national issue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing its leadership efforts to strengthen the enforcement of child support payments.

Mr. SCHELLENBERG –

51. WHEREAS the changing nature of the global economy requires Manitoba to diversify its economic activities; and

WHEREAS in the past decade Manitoba has shifted away from a reliance upon the agricultural and resource sectors of the economy to growth in new industries such as tourism, film and information technologies; and

WHEREAS these new sectors are producing the fastest growth in our economy as well as being engines of job creation for Manitobans; and

WHEREAS a partnership with the Federal Government through such agencies as Western Economic Diversification (WED) has been central to providing the requisite funding for the necessary training and investment loans that have allowed many of Manitoba's new industries to participate in a global marketplace.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing to work with federal agencies, such as WED to provide investment and other resources to promote the diversification of the Manitoba economy.

Mr. MURRAY –

52. WHEREAS in September 2000 the Government of Alberta announced the Business Tax Review Committee recommendations; and

WHEREAS recommendations of this committee include reducing general corporate income tax rate from 15.5% to 8%, reducing the small business tax rate from 6% to 3% and increasing the active business income eligible for small business deduction from \$200,000 to \$400,000 of taxable income; and

WHEREAS by 2001 businesses in Manitoba with profits between \$200,000 and \$400,000 will pay almost six times more in taxes than in Alberta; and

WHEREAS in September 2000 the Government of Saskatchewan released Partnership for Prosperity: A Strategy for Success in the new Economy; and

WHEREAS this draft framework for Saskatchewan's economic strategy for the 21st century suggests targets, in the form of real economic indicators to measure the province's economic performance; and

WHEREAS targets for success include reducing Provincial Income Tax by over 25% for an average family by 2005, making Saskatchewan the most cost competitive jurisdiction in which to do business among comparable provinces by 2005, and increasing access to high speed Internet to 250 additional communities; and

WHEREAS the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta as well as the previous Progressive Conservative Government of Manitoba recognize that lowering taxes is the best way of improving a province's competitiveness, expand the economy, encourage investment and ensure improved employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS the current Provincial Government within its first year in power has pursued an agenda that caters to special interest groups; and

WHEREAS this pursuit of a special interest agenda is typified with the Century Summit which brought together business, labour and government, and where the Provincial Government failed to mention its anti-worker, anti-business labour legislation known as Bill 44; and

WHEREAS while the current Provincial Government did follow through with the previous PC administration's schedule of small business tax reductions and a 1.5% reduction of Personal Income Taxes on January 1, 2000, they also withheld from Manitoban taxpayers approximately \$50 million of tax savings resulting from the February 2000 Federal Budget; and

WHEREAS the current Provincial Government has been provided with the 29 recommendations of the Lower Tax Commission and has failed to review the potential of a single idea put forward by Manitobans; and

WHEREAS the current Provincial Government ignores the fact that by not remaining competitive with neighbouring jurisdictions, the efforts of Manitobans to develop a strong and diversified economy will be threatened; and

WHEREAS with each step forward by neighbouring jurisdictions in terms of tax reductions and reduced government regulations, this Provincial Government has taken a step backwards thereby making catch-up increasingly difficult as each year passes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider immediately providing Manitobans with their economic plan, economic targets and implementation timetable to keep our province competitive; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Provincial Government to consider creating a business and tax environment that allows our province to thrive in the digital economy.

Mr. FAURSCHOU –

53. WHEREAS the success of Manitoba's agricultural sector will depend on increasing diversification and innovation; and

WHEREAS research and development in agriculture is essential for Manitoba farmers to more effectively compete in the global marketplace; and

WHEREAS Manitoba has been at the forefront of agricultural research and development in areas such as functional foods, nutraceuticals and bio-engineered crops; and

WHEREAS Manitoba has also been at the vanguard of technical innovation in agriculture; and

WHEREAS the former Progressive Conservative administration made agricultural research and development a priority of their government; and

WHEREAS the current provincial Minister of Agriculture and Food reduced agricultural research and development funding by almost \$1.5 million in the 2000/2001 budget; and

WHEREAS the current Minister of Agriculture and Food has clearly shown that the future of agriculture in Manitoba is not a priority area for this government.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Minister of Agriculture and Food to consider reinstating the \$1.5 million in funding that was removed from agricultural research and development in the 2000/2001 provincial budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider ensuring a stable level of funding to agricultural research and development in the Province of Manitoba; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to recognize that agricultural research and development plays an important role in the continued success of the agricultural industry in Manitoba.

Mr. REID –

54. WHEREAS the Port of Churchill represents an important means of diversification of the economies of both Manitoba and Churchill; and

WHEREAS the Port of Churchill has proved itself to be a national asset important to future development in Canada, supported by all levels of government and the Canadian Wheat Board; and

WHEREAS more and more prairie farmers are choosing the Port of Churchill as the most economical and convenient means of shipping their produce; and

WHEREAS grain shipments from the port have increased significantly, from 300,000 tonnes in 1998 to 412,000 tonnes in 1999, and has hit a record of more than 713,000 tonnes in 2000; and

WHEREAS twenty-seven ships loaded with export commodities left the Churchill port in 2000, compared to fourteen in 1999; and

WHEREAS the Port received its earliest shipment ever on July 11, 2000, an event that highlights both the aggressive nature of OmniTRAX marketing and the exceptional efforts made by the eighty local employees; and

WHEREAS several modernization initiatives, including a state-of-the-art dust control system, the upgrading of the car unloading system, the improvement of the marine fuel tank farm, the repairing and strengthening of the wharf and the revamping of the cleaning system for the 140,000 tonne capacity elevator will contribute further to the viability of Canada's only northern port; and

WHEREAS OmniTRAX, the privately owned company that purchased the port and the northern rail-line leading to it in 1997, has replaced the use of less efficient box cars with hopper cars, increasing the rail lines capacity for grain shipments to the northern port; and

WHEREAS OmniTRAX has made significant strides in improving the viability of the port, through the development of a long-term business plan that will make the Port of Churchill a profitable enterprise; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government, through the Department of Highways and Government Services, has undertaken discussions with Lloyd's of London to secure reduced insurance rates for the Port of Churchill that may further enhance the viability and sustainability of the Port.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba commend the Provincial Government for its support of initiatives at the Port of Churchill, which have resulted in the most successful year to date as well as its efforts toward extending the shipping season; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly also commend OmniTRAX for its efforts in revitalizing the Port of Churchill and making it a viable shipping option for Canadian producers in Manitoba and elsewhere.

Mr. RONDEAU –

55. WHEREAS Manitoba is a province built on the strength of immigrants from various countries; and

WHEREAS those immigrants who establish themselves in Manitoba make a significant economic contribution to the province's economy; and

WHEREAS increased immigration to Manitoba will assist greatly in the economic development and growth of the province; and

WHEREAS the national level of immigration has continued to drop over the past several years, from more than 216,000 in 1997 to less than 206,000 in 1999; and

WHEREAS the current Government of Manitoba has successfully lobbied the Federal Government for an expanded Provincial Nominee Program with a Business Immigration component, thereby increasing the allowable number of nominations of skilled workers to 500 and attracting immigrant entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS the number of immigrants entering Manitoba has increased to over 4000 in 1999-2000.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba commend the Provincial Government for its efforts to attract more immigrants to our province; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Federal Government to support Manitoba's efforts to attract immigrants through the adoption of new measures or the amendment of current immigration policy.

Mr. LOEWEN –

56. WHEREAS the growth of Manitoba's capital region has had a significant impact on the City of Winnipeg and the surrounding rural municipalities and as such requires prompt attention and immediate action; and

WHEREAS the previous Progressive Conservative Government appointed the Capital Region Review Panel in 1998 to review the effectiveness of the legislative, procedural and policy framework related to the planning and delivery of services in the capital region, as well as to provide its recommendations on changes; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government received the Capital Region Review Panel's report entitled *The Final Report of the Capital Region Review Panel* on December 20, 1999; and

WHEREAS the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs has yet to respond to the recommendations contained in the Review; and

WHEREAS on July 31, 2000 the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs said in the Legislative Assembly that "The Capital Region panel report has been received by government and circulated for comments. We now are reviewing these comments and expect that we will be announcing soon the steps that we will be taking"; and

WHEREAS on April 30, 1998 the Honourable Member for Wellington urged the previous Progressive Conservative Government "to prepare, approve and implement a comprehensive and long-term capital strategy as requested in Plan Winnipeg"; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has not implemented a comprehensive and long-term capital region strategy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider acting on the advice of the Honourable Member for Wellington and "prepare, approve and implement a comprehensive and long-term capital strategy"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider responding to the Capital Region Review Panel final report and provide Manitobans with its long-term vision for the capital region.

Hon. Mr. GERRARD –

57. WHEREAS there are still individuals who have been adversely affected by Provincial Government decisions surrounding the floods of 1997 and 1999.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider undertaking a full all-party committee investigation on the practices used to compensate those adversely affected by the floods of 1997 and 1999 to consider ensuring that in the future better, fairer and more consistent procedures are used.

Mr. RONDEAU –

58. WHEREAS a 1999 Statistics Canada report entitled "Body Mass Index and Health" estimates that Manitoba has one of the highest populations of overweight and obese persons; and

WHEREAS recreation contributes directly to the physical and mental health of individuals of all ages; and

WHEREAS recreation contributes to the social health, the overall quality of life and the standard of living of our communities; and

WHEREAS various community organizations offer after-school and evening activities for children who might otherwise not have access to healthy recreation alternatives; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government supports these organizations through funding, such as the \$305,000 grant given to the Winnipeg Boys and Girls Clubs in June of 2000; and

WHEREAS government-supported events such as the Indigenous Summer Games have highlighted the advantages of physical activity and promoted active life-styles by providing positive examples of successful athletes in Manitoba.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba recognise the value of recreation to all Manitobans and commend the work of the Provincial Government in encouraging active participation and for providing valuable recreational opportunities for Manitobans.

Mr. TWEED –

59. WHEREAS the Provincial Government has mismanaged the issue of First Nation casinos by imposing gag orders on proponents and ignoring its own selection criteria; and

WHEREAS on April 5, 2000, the Rural Municipality of Headingley held a vote on the Swan Lake casino proposal, and 85% of residents who voted rejected the idea of any casino in their community; and

WHEREAS page 4 of the Terms of Reference for the First Nations Casino Project Implementation Committee states that "Results of any plebiscite or public referendum will be respected by the Minister responsible for The Gaming Control Act and the Implementation Committee"; and

WHEREAS in a September 28, 2000 article in the *Winnipeg Free Press*, the Minister Responsible for Gaming was quoted as saying, "We respect [the plebiscite] as being an indication of the views of the people of Headingley," but then later said that he could not speculate on whether a second plebiscite would be considered or ignored by the province; and

WHEREAS an October 15, 2000 article in *The Drum* noted that "The biggest question mark in the entire process right now is the Provincial Government, who have been increasingly non-committal and vague about the project"; and

WHEREAS according to a *Winnipeg Free Press* editorial November 16, 2000, the Provincial "government and its muddled process that approved the Headingley casino business plan have done no favours for the Swan Lake people, who now face the prospect of scrapping their economic development plans at considerable costs and effort"; and

WHEREAS responsibility for the situation in which residents of the RM of Headingley and Swan Lake First Nation find themselves, rests with the Minister Responsible for Gaming and his immediate predecessor who ignored the situation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Minister Responsible for Gaming to consider apologizing to both the RM of Headingley and the Swan Lake First Nation for failing to adhere to the very criteria as laid out in the *Manitoba First Nation Casino Project Request for Proposals*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Minister Responsible for Gaming to consider publishing his apology in *The Manitoba Gazette*.

Mr. AGLUGUB –

60. WHEREAS the Federal Government imposes a Right of Landing Fee, more commonly known as a "head tax", on new immigrants to Canada who do not qualify as refugees; and

WHEREAS immigration to Canada is a fundamental component of the future economic development of our country; and

WHEREAS this head tax presents a financial barrier to the unification of family with members living abroad; and

WHEREAS the growing Manitoba economy requires skilled workers and those who possess these skills should not be presented with a financial barrier to immigration; and

WHEREAS new immigrants are an important part of the vibrant cultural communities that exist both in Winnipeg and throughout Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government has already eliminated the landing fee requirement for refugee class immigrants.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to eliminate the Right of Landing Fee or "head tax" from the immigration process in Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly direct the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to send a copy of this resolution to all Members of Parliament from Manitoba.

Mrs. DACQUAY –

61. WHEREAS Manitoba is a province that has a very proud history of immigration; and

WHEREAS the presence of immigrants provides significant economic, social and cultural benefits to the province and to Manitobans; and

WHEREAS the former Progressive Conservative administration lobbied Ottawa to receive its proportional share of immigrant arrivals to Canada; and

WHEREAS the former Progressive Conservative administration actively promoted policies and programs that supported the immigration of all classes to the province; and

WHEREAS successive Manitoba governments have been traditionally concerned about any actions that may negatively affect the province's ability to attract immigrants; and

WHEREAS fees such as the Federal Government's \$975 right of landing fee for family class immigrants have in some cases proven to be a direct impediment to immigration to provinces such as Manitoba; and

WHEREAS landing fees are but one of a number of federally-imposed charges and policies that can act as a factor in inhibiting family sponsorship of potential immigrants; and

WHEREAS any changes to the Federal Government's immigration policies must be considered in light of their potential implications for province such as Manitoba and its priorities and objectives.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in the interest of greater fairness and equity, the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to consider undertaking a comprehensive review of the fees it charges immigrants, such as the right of landing fee for family class immigrants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative of Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to recognize the important role the provinces play in recruitment, selection and integration matters related to immigration.

Mr. TWEED –

62. WHEREAS in the 1999 Manitoba Budget, Manitoba's Personal Income Tax rate for a single income family of four earning \$60,000 was comparable to the rate for similar families in other provinces, and lower than the rate in Saskatchewan, Quebec and Newfoundland; and

WHEREAS in the 2000 Manitoba Budget, this same family now pays more Provincial Income Tax than the same family in all of Canada; and

WHEREAS in a February 25, 2000 press release, the Minister of Finance stated that "Manitobans will receive the full benefit of any federal tax reductions announced in the February 28 Federal Budget"; and

WHEREAS the current Provincial Government proceeded to de-link federal-provincial income taxes one year earlier than scheduled; and

WHEREAS de-linking one year earlier than anticipated denied Manitobans approximately \$50 million in additional personal income tax relief, tax relief the Minister of Finance promised Manitobans would receive; and

WHEREAS the Government of Nova Scotia implemented a similar change to their tax structure; and

WHEREAS Nova Scotia New Democrat MLA and Finance Critic, John Holm said that the separation of provincial income tax from the federal tax amounted to a tax hike; and

WHEREAS New Democrat John Holm further noted that, "The net effect of the way that they [the Government] decoupled it was...a net increase in taxes over what Nova Scotians would have been paying otherwise"; and

WHEREAS the same situation occurred in the Province of Manitoba in which we saw in the 2000 Manitoba Budget a net increase in personal income taxes over what Manitobans would otherwise have been paying; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government's first budget is most notable for its lack of meaningful tax cuts and hidden tax increases.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Minister of Finance to apologize to Manitobans for denying them \$50 million worth of personal income tax relief and for misinforming Manitoban taxpayers in his February 25, 2000 news release; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Minister of Finance to consider publishing his apology in *The Manitoba Gazette*.

Mr. CUMMINGS –

63. WHEREAS *The Employment and Income Assistance Amendment Act* is an important piece of legislation that will assist Manitobans to reach their full potential and to become active participants in Manitoba's labour force; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's social assistance system must be reformed to help people make the transition from welfare to work at a time when Manitoba is experiencing a skilled labour shortage; and

WHEREAS social assistance was never intended to be a permanent income replacement program for able-bodied individuals; and

WHEREAS social assistance is intended to be a temporary arrangement for people who are faced with exceptional circumstances and require assistance; and

WHEREAS the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge has stated he "has yet to meet an able-bodied or a capable social-assistance recipient who doesn't want to work"; and

WHEREAS under the Pawley NDP government welfare caseloads went up by 170%; and

WHEREAS since 1996, under the Progressive Conservative administration, the number of people receiving social assistance was reduced by 21,000; and

WHEREAS encouraging able-bodied people to spend their lives on social assistance denies them the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider enacting *The Employment and Income Assistance Amendment Act* which was passed during the fifth sitting of the 36th Legislature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to build upon the work of the previous Progressive Conservative administration and consider continuing to offer recipients of social assistance opportunities to enter Manitoba's workforce.

Mr. SCHELLENBERG

64. WHEREAS all children need proper health care, sound nutrition, and a safe hygienic environment in order to develop into healthy, productive members of society; and

WHEREAS the early childhood years are vital, as the neural basis on which proper physical, mental and cognitive development depends is formed by the age of two and a half; and

WHEREAS poverty stands as one of the foremost factors preventing proper early childhood development; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada, the provinces and the territories committed themselves to child poverty reduction through the National Child Benefit Supplement; and

WHEREAS the previous Government reduced the Employment and Income Assistance payments to families receiving the National Child Benefit Supplement through a "claw back" policy which eroded the incomes of many Manitoban families; and

WHEREAS the previous Government cut the food budgets and school supply allowances for families on Income Assistance; and

WHEREAS the current Provincial Government made a commitment to phase back the National Child Benefit and has consequently ended the claw back of increases to the National Child Benefit Supplement, effective July 1st, 2000, thereby offering renewed hope to Manitoba families and children; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has also increased the Child Tax Reduction while at the same time removing approximately 15,000 low-income Manitobans from the tax rolls; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has also increased the basic benefit for children aged six and under and increased the school supply budgets for children.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge all Members of the Legislative Assembly commend the Provincial Government for its efforts in fighting child poverty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Federal Government to meet its own commitments on child poverty by increasing funding to provincial social services programs.

Ms. ASPER –

65. WHEREAS volunteer service has been part of virtually every civilization and society; and

WHEREAS volunteers have contributed significantly to the welfare and progress of this province; and

WHEREAS voluntary service is called on more than ever to address areas of priority concern in the social, economic and cultural fields; and

WHEREAS there is a need for greater recognition and facilitation of volunteer work and greater promotion of such service; and

WHEREAS the United Nations, through resolution 52/17, proclaimed the year 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to recognize and support the many volunteers of this province for their work and dedication in enhancing the quality of life of all Manitobans.

Ms. CERILLI –

66. WHEREAS Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and the related Fetal Alcohol Effect (FAE) are preventable neurological disorders which delay growth and result in intellectual and behavioural disabilities; and

WHEREAS FAS and FAE are caused by the consumption of alcohol during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS consuming alcohol during pregnancy can have a devastating impact on children, families and communities; and

WHEREAS early diagnosis of FAS and FAE often results in advantages for the child such as working with informed school staff and eventually moving as an adult into a supported-living employment program; and

WHEREAS Healthy Child Manitoba, initiated by the current Provincial Government, provides educational programs for FAS and FAE prevention as well as mentoring programs for "at risk" mothers; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has initiated a three-year pilot project in inner-city schools in Winnipeg School Division #1, which will both develop better practices for educating children suffering from alcohol-related disabilities and improve the school experience of their teachers and parents; and

WHEREAS the Government of Manitoba is extending programs to northern communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba commend the Provincial Government for its efforts in addressing issues related to the prevention of FAS and FAE as well as its efforts in improving the quality of life of children already suffering from alcohol-related disabilities.

Mr. STRUTHERS –

67. WHEREAS Manitoba farmers are in the midst of a farm income crisis that rivals that of the "Dirty Thirties" and threatens to destroy the family farm; and

WHEREAS farmers are facing the lowest world commodity prices in recent history; and

WHEREAS low commodity prices are due in part to the subsidy programs in place in the United States and the European Union which have been on the increase in recent times; and

WHEREAS Manitoba farmers are proven leaders in efficiency, the extremely high subsidy levels provided by our international competitors severely disadvantage our producers; and

WHEREAS Manitoba farmers cannot and should not have to compete directly with the United States and European Union treasuries; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba Minister of Agriculture has raised the issue of foreign subsidies with the Federal Government and government officials in the United States and European Union on many occasions including Federal Provincial meetings and trade missions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba encourage the Federal Government to provide greater support to Manitoba farmers while continuing to lobby foreign governments to lower their agricultural subsidies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba continue to inform the Federal Government on the needs of Manitoba farmers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly direct the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to send a copy of this resolution to all Manitoba Members of Parliament.

Mr. DERKACH –

68. WHEREAS a June 28, 2000 article in the *Manitoban* indicated that administrators at the University of Manitoba said a smaller than hoped for operating grant from the province would necessitate a \$5 million budget cut which would result in a three per cent cut in nearly every faculty and department; and

WHEREAS the same article confirmed that nearly \$2.5 million would be removed from the University's fiscal stabilization fund to address the lack of adequate operating grants from the Provincial Government; and

WHEREAS, in the same article, the President of the University of Manitoba Faculty Association said he is very disappointed with the size of the grant given to the University; and

WHEREAS in a May 31, 2000 article in the *Manitoban*, the Vice President of Administration at the University of Manitoba confirmed that, although the University will receive an additional \$1.3 million to compensate for its inability to raise tuition fees, it was not enough to cover what the university would have collected from students had a tuition hike been implemented; and

WHEREAS the same article quoted the Vice President of Administration as saying "it will be up to the Province in subsequent years to make good on their part of the commitment, which is to increase the grants to more adequately compensate for the inability to increase tuition"; and

WHEREAS in an August 23, 2000 article in the *Manitoban*, the Dean of Arts at the University of Manitoba stated that, had funding for his faculty remained the same as last year instead of being forced to make a three per cent cut, he could have hired 8 full time professors; and

WHEREAS University of Manitoba library subscriptions to more than 500 journals have been targeted for cancellation due to insufficient funding; and

WHEREAS, in a July 26, 2000 article in the *Manitoban*, the Dean of Arts at the University of Manitoba stated that the journal cancellations affect the quality of research academics can conduct, and are a potential deterrent to prospective students; and

WHEREAS according to a October 20th, 2000 *Winnipeg Free Press* article, "The province's tuition freeze is forcing colleges and universities to play catch-up with hefty tuition increases next year;" and

WHEREAS the same article notes that Red River College may be seeking a minimum 12 per cent increase in tuition and the University of Manitoba requires more than a five per cent increase in tuition; and

WHEREAS the Minister of Education and Training has failed in his commitment to post-secondary institutions that any tuition cut imposed would be offset with matching operating grants.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider providing a long-term funding plan for post-secondary institutions in our province which ensures that tuition policies do not further impair the quality of educational resources available to students.

Mr. LOEWEN –

69. WHEREAS Bill 4, *The Elections Finances Amendment Act*, restricts the ability of private citizens in Manitoba to express their opinions during an election campaign; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government is taking extreme measures to limit citizens' freedom of speech at the most critical point of the democratic process – an election; and

WHEREAS in March of 2000, the British Columbia Supreme Court struck down legislation restricting citizen group advertising, describing it as "an unjustified violation of free speech"; and

WHEREAS lawyers for the Federal Government have admitted that the *Canada Elections Act*, which also restricts campaign spending by third parties, violates freedom of expression as guaranteed in the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*; and

WHEREAS Madame Justice Conrad from the Alberta Court of Appeal has noted that the Federal gag law "is legislation which ironically alleges to protect the democratic process by means of infringing the very rights which are fundamental to a democracy"; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's Provincial Government has relied upon the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in *Libman v. Quebec* to support the constitutionality of Bill 4; and

WHEREAS the British Columbia Supreme Court found that the *Libman* case was not dispositive of the issue of the constitutionality of third party spending limits due to the unique circumstances of the *Libman* case, and the fact that evidence given during the *Libman* case regarding the effect of third party spending on election outcomes has now been recanted.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to recognize section 2(b) of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* which protects freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, and section 2(d) of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* which protects freedom of association, and that eliminating these two freedoms in order to further a political agenda is contrary to the beliefs and values of the citizens of Manitoba.

Mr. LAURENDEAU –

70. WHEREAS under the initiatives undertaken by the previous Progressive Conservative administration, the film and video industry is making important contributions to the Manitoba economy; and

WHEREAS the film industry creates employment opportunities for Manitobans and creates economic spin-offs for local businesses who supply film companies with needed goods and services; and

WHEREAS the investment programs administered by the Manitoba Film and Sound Recording Development Corporation have helped to support approximately \$17 million dollars of filming activity in Manitoba in 1997 and \$48 million dollars in 1998-1999; and

WHEREAS every dollar invested by the province of Manitoba in the film industry proved a return of \$28 million in gross economic activity in 1998-1999; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba film industry encountered setbacks in 2000 when the production of *Ogopogo*, what would have been the largest budget movie ever to be shot in the province, failed to materialize; and

WHEREAS the summer of 2000 proved a further disappointment when Richard Findlay, the Gemini Award winning Winnipeg producer, moved to Toronto due to lack of activity in the film industry in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the Progressive Conservative administration demonstrated a commitment to the film industry in this province through initiatives such as the Manitoba Film and Video Production Tax Credit and the provision of funding toward the construction of the Prairie Production Centre, Manitoba's first all-season film studio; and

WHEREAS the Progressive Conservative government worked within the provisions of the Winnipeg Development Agreement and the Manitoba Motion Picture Industry Association to train much needed technicians.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba encourage the Provincial Government to follow the example set by the previous Progressive Conservative administration and to consider continuing its dedicated efforts to promote and develop Manitoba's growing film industry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba encourage the Provincial Government to consider committing to an extension of the Manitoba Film and Video Production Tax Credit when it expires in March, 2002 to ensure that the blossoming film industry in Manitoba continues to prosper and grow.

Mrs. MITCHELSON –

71. WHEREAS *The Young Offenders Act* has serious omissions and limitations which severely restrict provincial efforts to fight and prevent youth crime; and

WHEREAS in the spring of 1999 the previous Government initiated a panel, chaired by the Honourable Member for Emerson, to carry out consultations throughout Manitoba on the Young Offenders Act; and

WHEREAS as a result of these consultations it was determined that many Manitobans believe that young offenders must take full responsibility for their actions and the youth justice system must provide significant consequences for youths who commit serious criminal offenses; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada considered replacing the *Young Offenders Act* with Bill C-3, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, which drew criticism from judges, victims of crime, youth workers, and Provincial Governments; and

WHEREAS the proposed *Youth Criminal Justice Act* died on the Order Papers when parliament was dissolved on October 22, 2000.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Government of Canada consider revisiting and strengthening *The Young Offenders Act* to ensure that young people are held accountable for their actions by providing more significant consequences for youth who break the law.

Mr. ROCAN –

72. WHEREAS the Federal Government has reduced the level of farm support dramatically; and

WHEREAS many farmers have experienced a sharp reduction in income this year and could face similar problems in the upcoming year; and

WHEREAS low world grain and oilseed prices are offset by generous government subsidies in the United States and European Union; and

WHEREAS Canadian farmers are facing the lowest grain and oilseed prices in two decades and Canadian grain and oilseed producers are among the lowest net income producers in the world; and

WHEREAS the United States government supports its grain and oilseed producers through tariffs, acreage payments, loan programs and transportation assistance; and

WHEREAS the European Union supports its agricultural sector at an even higher level through various actions and programs; and

WHEREAS Canadian farmers cannot survive on their own in an atmosphere of trade distorting actions by other countries; and

WHEREAS the Canadian government has decimated western Canadian agriculture by reducing or eliminating all farm income support and safety net programs; and

WHEREAS the Agriculture Income Disaster Assistance program has proven to be inadequate in addressing the farm income shortfall; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Farm Income Program is only in the developmental stages and may not adequately address Manitoba agricultural producers' needs; and

WHEREAS many young farmers are either leaving agriculture or are choosing not to enter agriculture as a profession because of the Federal Government's unwillingness to deal with the challenges facing the agricultural sector.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider taking strong action to ensure the survival of families in farming; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to impress upon the Federal Government its responsibility to bring a balance of support to western Canadian agricultural producers through equalization of tariffs and subsidies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to live up to its responsibility to ensure a competitive climate for agriculture in Manitoba; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Legislative Assembly of Manitoba direct the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to send a copy of this private members resolution to the Parliament of Canada, including the Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.

Mr. SMITH (Brandon West) –

73. WHEREAS Canadian Forces Base Shilo is of significant economic importance to Brandon and the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS the future of CFB Shilo is clearly uncertain due to the departure of German troops who have been stationed at the base for many years; and

WHEREAS viable solutions are available for the maintaining of Shilo; and

WHEREAS both the Provincial Government and several municipal governments have already shown their support for the maintenance of CFB Shilo as its closure would put undue hardship on the economy of Brandon and southwestern Manitoba.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to continue its advocacy for the maintenance of CFB Shilo and all Canadian troops stationed in Manitoba; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly direct the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to send a copy of this resolution to all Manitoba Members of Parliament.

Ms. ASPER –

74. WHEREAS the future of Manitoba's economic prosperity rests on the knowledge and creativity of our young people; and

WHEREAS access to an affordable post-secondary education must be a vital part of any province's strategy to encourage increased participation in post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS the creation of the Manitoba Bursaries Program, the first provincial bursaries program since 1993, will provide \$5.9 million in funding to more than 5000 post-secondary students annually; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba Bursary Program, when combined with the Canadian Millennium Scholarship, is projected to reduce student debt loads in this province by over 57%, \$17 million less student debt than under the previous government.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislature commend the Provincial Government in its initiative to provide debt relief and new hope for young people through the Manitoba Bursary Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Legislature urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing its efforts with other provinces to call for the restoration of federal funding to post-secondary education.

Mr. ROCAN –

75. WHEREAS in the year 2000, prostate cancer accounts for one quarter of all cancer diagnoses among Canadian men; and

WHEREAS one in nine Canadian men will develop prostate cancer during his lifetime and one in 27 will die from it; and

WHEREAS 5,000 Manitoba men currently suffer from prostate cancer; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Cancer Society predicts that there will be 710 new cases of prostate cancer diagnosed in Manitoba in the year 2000 alone; and

WHEREAS on September 13, 1999 the Provincial Government promised to establish a prostate cancer screening program within their first year in government and has thus far failed to do so; and

WHEREAS on July 18, 2000 the Minister of Health appeared to renege on his election promise when he stated: "With respect to prostate screening, prostate screening is available from physicians for individuals. The concept of an overall province-wide prostate screening program is still being reviewed."; and

WHEREAS the men affected by this devastating disease and their families deserve to be informed about the status of the proposed prostate cancer screening program.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider keeping the commitment made during the 1999 provincial election to establish a prostate cancer screening program.

Mr. CUMMINGS –

76. WHEREAS Winnipeg Police Athletic Clubs were established by the Progressive Conservative Government in 1998 to provide safe alternatives for Winnipeg youth; and

WHEREAS \$300,000 was provided through the Winnipeg Development Agreement to operate thirteen clubs for a two year term; and

WHEREAS these clubs provide a secure environment for youths to connect and enjoy themselves while simultaneously building a positive relationship between young people and the police; and

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg and the Federal Government withdrew their support for the Police Athletic Clubs, for a time casting doubt on the future of the program; and

WHEREAS youth and parents alike expressed concern over the future of the Police Athletic Clubs; and

WHEREAS during the first sitting of the 37th Legislature, several petitions were presented in which citizens requested the continuation of the Winnipeg Police Athletic Clubs; and

WHEREAS the said petitions appear to have had a positive impact upon the Provincial Government's decision to continue supporting the Winnipeg Police Athletic Clubs; and

WHEREAS during the 1999 provincial election campaign, the current Provincial Government asserted the importance of keeping school gymnasiums open community use after school hours; and

WHEREAS while in opposition, the NDP called on Government to strengthen the relationship between the government, communities, schools and law enforcement agencies, a principle objective of Police Athletic Clubs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to continue to recognize the importance of Police Athletic Clubs in the healthy development of Winnipeg's youth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider examining the success of the Winnipeg Police Athletic Clubs insofar as they may serve as a model to be replicated in other regions of Manitoba.

Mr. GILLESHAMMER –

77. WHEREAS the National Highway Study reports show that the national highway system has not improved since 1988; and

WHEREAS over the past 8 years, the Federal Government has collected \$1.06 billion in revenue from Manitoba road users through a federal excise tax on fuel, and has contributed only 3.4% of that, \$36 million, to the Manitoba highway system over that same period; and

WHEREAS roughly 90% of the fuel tax revenues collected by Ottawa are used to finance programs other than Canada's highway network; and

WHEREAS policy decisions made by the Federal Government, such as loss of the Western Grain Transportation Adjustment Fund subsidy, have resulted in more grain and other goods moving by truck, rather than via the railway system, thereby increasing costly wear and tear on the provincial highway system; and

WHEREAS Canada is one of very few developed countries without a national highway policy which includes significant Federal Government participation in support of national highway infrastructure; and

WHEREAS inferior roadways directly affect the competitiveness and productivity of businesses and the safety of the traveling public; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government spends millions of dollars each year on the construction and repair of the province's primary and secondary road system; and

WHEREAS the continued strength and growth of Manitoba's agribusiness and transportation industry is dependent on a strong transportation infrastructure.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to consider contributing its fair share to the development of the highway infrastructure in Manitoba and to consider dedicating the federal fuel tax to fund national highway improvements.

Mr. PRAZNIK –

78. WHEREAS grandparents can play an integral role in the lives of their grandchildren; and

WHEREAS custody disputes all too often lead to the alienation of a child from other family members, including grandparents; and

WHEREAS in many cases, a court may deem that the best interests of a child require that rights of access be granted to the child's grandparents; and

WHEREAS those grandparents who apply for, and are granted, access to their grandchildren may face challenges when trying to enforce their access rights; and

WHEREAS these challenges may become more pronounced when access rights have been granted in one province, but must be exercised and enforced in another; and

WHEREAS *The Child Custody Enforcement Act* states that one of its purposes is "to provide for the recognition and enforcement of custody and access orders made outside Manitoba"; and

WHEREAS provisions contained in *The Child Custody Enforcement Act* indeed provide for the enforcement of extra-provincial custody and access orders where an application is made before a Manitoba court to do so; and

WHEREAS such provisions, if enforced, would help to ensure that children residing in the Province of Manitoba continue to enjoy the benefits of access to their grandparents where an access order has been made in another province.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider ensuring that the provisions of *The Child Custody Enforcement Act* are adhered to and, if necessary, amended so as to easily facilitate the appropriate access of grandparents to their grandchildren in case of family break up.

Mr. PENNER (Emerson) –

79. WHEREAS subsidy supports for American farmers are four times higher than those offered to Canadian farmers and subsidy supports for European farmers are six times higher than those offered to Canadian farmers; and

WHEREAS this subsidy disparity, combined with low world prices for major crops, has resulted in serious and widespread farm income reductions for Canadian producers; and

WHEREAS the Agricultural Income Disaster Assistance (AIDA) program that was established by the Federal Government to support farmers who are facing drastically curtailed incomes because of circumstances beyond their control has proven to be less than responsive to producers' needs; and

WHEREAS on July 5, 2000, federal, provincial and territorial agriculture ministers finalized a new three-year National Safety Net framework agreement during their annual meeting in Fredericton, New Brunswick, known as the Canadian Farm Income Program; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's Minister of Agriculture and Food admitted in the July 13, 2000 edition of the *Western Producer*: "The money available in the new program is less than before and yes, I am concerned that it might not be enough."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to recognize that the negotiation of the Canadian Farm Income Program should by no means mark the end of discussions between the Federal and Provincial Governments on farm safety net programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government, in consultation with the Federal Government, to consider undertaking a careful and thorough re-examination of all farm safety net programs in order to develop more workable solutions to the challenges facing Canada's farm community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider discussing with the Federal Government the need to ensure that Canadian agricultural producers are on competing on a level playing field with their counterparts in the United States and Europe.

Ms. ALLAN –

80. WHEREAS tourism is vital to the overall health of the provincial economy; and

WHEREAS tourism has grown during the first half of 2000, with visitors spending over \$425.1 million dollars, a 2 percent increase over the same period in the previous year; and

WHEREAS tourism is one of Manitoba's most productive industries, providing over 57,000 jobs annually; and

WHEREAS more foreign visitors are choosing Manitoba as a vacation spot each year, with the number of American visitors increasing by 4.1 per cent in the first half of 2000; and

WHEREAS the current government continues to expand tourist opportunities in the north, particularly within the ecotourism industry, through the establishment of three new park reserves and twenty-one Wildlife Management Areas; and

WHEREAS the current government committed \$1 million to the Manitoba Arts Stabilization Program to support cultural organizations and local arts groups, key components in Manitoba's tourism industry; and

WHEREAS the current government actively supports culture and heritage groups across the province, including the Winnipeg Art Gallery, the Manitoba Museum, and the Art Gallery of South Western Manitoba.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba commend the Provincial Government for its commitment to promoting Manitoba as an excellent vacation destination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly also commend the Provincial Government for its efforts in fostering growth in the northern tourism industry, thereby strengthening the economies of our northern communities and the province as a whole.

NOTICE OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

The Standing Committee on LAW AMENDMENTS will meet in Room 254, Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba on Monday, December 11, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. to consider Bill No. 5.

The Standing Committee on INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS will meet in Room 255, Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba on Monday, December 11, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. to consider Bills referred.

The Standing Committee on PUBLIC UTILITIES AND NATURAL RESOURCES will meet in Room 255, Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba on Monday, January 22, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. to consider the Annual Report of the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation for the year ended February 29, 2000 and the Annual Reports of the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission for the years ended March 31, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000.