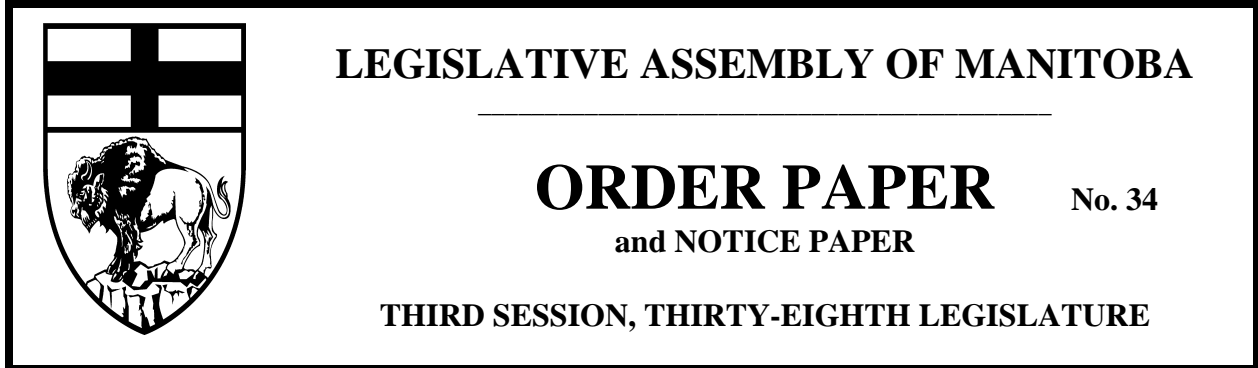


Thursday, April 21, 2005



**PRAYER**

**SITTING AT 10:00 A.M.**

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

**DEBATE ON SECOND READINGS – PUBLIC BILLS:**

On the Proposed Motion of Mr. LAMOUREUX –

(No. 201) – The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Assemblée législative

(Mr. DYCK) (Stands)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. GERRARD –

(No. 202) – The Health Services Amendment and Health Services Insurance Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les services de santé et la Loi sur l'assurance-maladie

(Mr. LAMOUREUX – 6 mins.) (Stands)

On the Proposed Motion of Mr. DERKACH –

(No. 207) – The Medical Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi médicale

(Ms. KORZENIOWSKI)

On the Proposed Motion of Mr. SCHULER –

(No. 212) – The Pension Freedom Act (Pension Benefits Act Amended)/Loi sur la liberté de choix en matière de pension (modification de la Loi sur les prestations de pension)

(Mr. CULLEN – 9 mins.) (Stands)

**SECOND READINGS – PUBLIC BILLS:**

Mrs. MITCHELSON –

(No. 203) – The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Société d'assurance publique du Manitoba

(Printed)

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**RESOLUTIONS – COMMITTEE SELECTION:**

2. Ms. KORZENIOWSKI – Celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE-Day
  3. Mr. DERKACH – Democracy in Ukraine
  4. Mr. MARTINDALE – Redress of Canadian Wartime and Immigration Measures
  5. Mrs. TAILLIEU – Government and Community Newspaper Partnership
  6. Ms. BRICK – Transcanada Trail
- 

**DEBATE ON MOTIONS:**

On the Proposed Motion of Mr. LOEWEN –

THAT the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 38<sup>th</sup> Legislature, presented to this House on November 23, 2004, be concurred in.

(Hon. Mr. GERRARD) (Stands)

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**SITTING AT 1:30 P.M.**

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**PETITIONS**

Mrs. DRIEDGER  
Mrs. ROWAT  
Mr. LOEWEN  
Mr. SCHULER  
Mr. LAMOUREUX  
Hon. Mr. GERRARD

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**TABLING OF REPORTS**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

## **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

Hon. Mr. SELINGER –

(No. 31) – The Condominium Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les condominiums

Hon. Mr. SMITH –

(No. 33) – The Planning Act/Loi sur l'aménagement du territoire

Mr. MAGUIRE –

(No. 204) – The Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists Act/Loi sur les audiologistes et les orthophonistes

Mr. CUMMINGS –

(No. 205) – The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act (Set Date Elections)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Assemblée législative (tenue d'élections à date fixe)

Mrs. TAILLIEU –

(No. 206) – The Vulnerable Persons Living with a Mental Disability Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les personnes vulnérables ayant une déficience mentale

## **ORAL QUESTIONS**

## **MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

## **GRIEVANCES**

## **ORDERS OF THE DAY (Continued)**

### **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

## **COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY**

(65 hrs. 23 mins.)  
(Chamber – Finance)  
(Room 255 – Advanced Education and Training)  
(Room 254 – Health)

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**DEBATE ON REPORT STAGE AMENDMENTS:**

Hon. Mr. ASHTON –

(No. 22) – The Water Protection Act/Loi sur la protection des eaux

[4 Amendments – Hon. Mr. GERRARD]

(#1 – Mr. CUMMINGS)

(#2 – Mr. FAURSCHOU)

(#3 – Mr. FAURSCHOU)

(#4 – Mr. FAURSCHOU)

[8 Amendments – Mr. FAURSCHOU]

(#1 – Mr. LAMOUREUX)

(#2 – Mr. LAMOUREUX)

(#3 – Mr. PENNER)

(#4 – Mr. DERKACH)

(#5 – Mr. PENNER)

(#6 – Mr. PENNER)

(#7 – Mr. PENNER)

(#8 – Mr. DYCK – 7 mins.)

[12 Amendments – Hon. Mr. ASHTON]

(#1 – Mr. DERKACH)

(#2 – Mr. DERKACH)

(#3 – Mr. DERKACH)

(#4 – Mr. DERKACH)

(#5 – Mr. DERKACH)

(#6 – Mr. DERKACH)

(#7 – Mr. DERKACH)

(#8 – Mr. DERKACH)

(#9 – Mr. DERKACH)

(#10 – Mr. DERKACH)

(#11 – Mr. DERKACH)

(#12 – Mr. DERKACH)

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**DEBATE ON SECOND READINGS:**

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Ms. MELNICK –

(No. 2) – The Child and Family Services Amendment Act (Child Protection Penalties)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les services à l'enfant et à la famille (peines applicables en matière de protection des enfants)

(Mr. LOEWEN) (Stands)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. ROBINSON –

(No. 3) – The Recreational Trail Property Owners Protection Act (Occupiers' Liability Act Amended)/Loi sur la protection accordée aux propriétaires de biens à l'égard des sentiers récréatifs (modification de la Loi sur la responsabilité des occupants)

(Mr. ROCAN)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. SELINGER –

(No. 5) – The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation Amendment Act (Injury Compensation Appeal Commission)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Société d'assurance publique du Manitoba (Commission d'appel des accidents de la route)

(Mr. LOEWEN)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. SELINGER –

(No. 6) – The Real Property Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les biens réels

(Mr. LOEWEN)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. SELINGER –

(No. 7) – The Personal Investigations Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les enquêtes relatives aux particuliers

(Mr. LOEWEN)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Ms. OSWALD –

(No. 8) – The Manitoba Council on Aging Act/Loi sur le Conseil manitobain du vieillissement

(Mr. ROCAN)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. ROBINSON –

(No. 9) – The Manitoba Centennial Centre Corporation Act/Loi sur la Société du Centre du centenaire du Manitoba

(Mr. LOEWEN)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. MACKINTOSH –

(No. 11) – The Provincial Court Amendment Act (Justices of the Peace)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Cour provinciale (juges de paix)

(Mr. ROCAN)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Ms. ALLAN –

(No. 14) – The Electricians' Licence Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur le permis d'électricien

(Mr. SCHULER)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. SMITH –

(No. 15) – The Emergency Measures Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les mesures d'urgence

(Mr. ROCAN)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. STRUTHERS –

(No. 16) – The Wildlife Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la conservation de la faune

(Open)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. SALE –

(No. 17) – The Regional Health Authorities Amendment and Manitoba Evidence Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les offices régionaux de la santé et la Loi sur la preuve au Manitoba  
(Mr. ROCAN)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Ms. MCGIFFORD –

(No. 18) – Le Collège de Saint-Boniface Incorporation Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi constituant en corporation le Collège de Saint-Boniface  
(Mr. ROCAN)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. SELINGER –

(No. 20) – The Life Leases Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les baux viagers  
(Mr. ROCAN)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. RONDEAU –

(No. 21) – The Oil and Gas Amendment and Oil and Gas Production Tax Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur le pétrole et le gaz naturel et la Loi de la taxe sur la production de pétrole et de gaz  
(Mr. ROCAN)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. SELINGER –

(No. 24) – The Consumer Protection Amendment Act (Cost of Credit Disclosure and Miscellaneous Amendments)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la protection du consommateur (communication du coût du crédit et modifications diverses)  
(Mr. ROCAN)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Ms. ALLAN –

(No. 25) – The Workers Compensation Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les accidents du travail  
(Mr. CULLEN)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Ms. WOWCHUK –

(No. 26) – The Margarine Repeal Act/Loi abrogeant la Loi sur la margarine  
(Mr. ROCAN)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. SMITH—

(No. 29) – The Municipal Councils and School Boards Elections Act/Loi sur les élections municipales et scolaires

(Mr. MAGUIRE)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Ms. WOWCHUK –

(No. 30) – The Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation Act/Loi sur la Société des services agricoles du Manitoba

(Mr. EICHLER)

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**SECOND READINGS:**

Hon. Ms. WOWCHUK –

(No. 27) – The Horse Racing Commission Amendment and Horse Racing Regulation Repeal Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Commission hippique et abrogeant la Loi sur les courses de chevaux

(Printed)

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## **NOTICE PAPER**

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR MONDAY NEXT:**

Hon. Mr. MACKINTOSH –

(No. 34) – The Highway Traffic Amendment Act/Loi modifiant le Code de la route

Hon. Mr. SMITH –

(No. 35) – The Capital Region Partnership Act/Loi sur le Partenariat de la région de la capitale

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**PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:**

**Mr. EICHLER –**

1. WHEREAS Manitoba farmers have found that the deposit requirement to the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program has become a major hindrance to their access of the CAIS program supports which ties up much needed money that could be used for other farm expenses; and

WHEREAS many producers are forced into loan situations in order to come up with the deposit, further pushing the producers deeper into debt; and

WHEREAS many banks are even refusing to lend money to farmers who offer their future cash payments as security because the banks have little confidence in how the money will be paid; and

WHEREAS our agriculture producers who have suffered through difficult circumstances such as BSE, drought, frost or tariffs are fed up with empty government promises that aid is finally coming their way; and

WHEREAS the Canadian House of Commons passed a resolution on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005 which stated: That, in light of numerous recent disasters affecting agricultural communities across Canada and the government's failure to deliver timely relief to struggling farmers, whether by the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program or other programs, the House call on the government to immediately drop the CAIS deposit requirement and honour the commitments it has already made to Canadian producers; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government recognized the need to remove the deposit requirement in their Budget delivered on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and committed to working with the provinces and territories to make the change; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's economy is heavily reliant on the health of the agricultural sector and the economic toll of these crises on the province's producers will ultimately be borne by all Manitobans; and

WHEREAS Manitoba can be the leader in the country that pushes for a positive step forward for Manitoban and Canadian producers by advocating the removal of the CAIS deposit, thus enabling more farmers to access to the supports.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider supporting the February 8<sup>th</sup> House of Commons resolution which supported eliminating the deposit requirement for the CAIS program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Province Government to consider lobbying their provincial government counterparts across Canada to ensure that there are seven provinces who support the changing of the CAIS program to remove the deposit requirement.

**Mr. CALDWELL –**

2. WHEREAS promoting and facilitating the orderly development of energy resources, ensuring a reliable and low cost supply of energy to consumers, and promoting conservation and efficient energy use in accordance with sustainable development principles are the objectives of the Province of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the investment into a diversification of energy production will ensure that these principles are upheld; and



WHEREAS the production of wind energy is one means whereby the diversification of energy will be ensured as it builds upon the province's current means of energy production, that is hydroelectricity; and

WHEREAS producing and utilizing wind energy in Manitoba is characterized as being both clean and renewable energy source and therefore in accordance with sustainable development principles; and

WHEREAS using wind energy requires new technologies, products and services could provide economic opportunities for Manitoba companies and new high-technology jobs and potentially enhance Manitoba's economic development; and

WHEREAS preliminary assessments are currently being conducted by Manitoba Hydro, so as to identify ideal sites to locate potential wind turbines for generating electricity.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing to promote and facilitate the orderly development of energy resources by the investment in research, specifically research regarding wind energy production, so as to diversify the energy production in Manitoba in accordance with sustainable development principles.

**Mr. CULLEN –**

3. WHEREAS the Premier during the 2003 election campaign promised the communities of Erickson and Rivers that their hospitals would not close; and

WHEREAS the Premier promised to these communities that on call and emergency services would be restored by the spring of 2004; and

WHEREAS the Premier has broken his promise to the people of Rivers and Erickson; and

WHEREAS rural Manitobans especially on the west side of the province are witnessing the removal of services; and

WHEREAS doctor shortages in rural communities have reached a crisis situation resulting in the termination of such services as chemotherapy; and

WHEREAS a result of hospital services being closed, patients living in rural Manitoba have been relegated to second class citizens; and

WHEREAS the term "Hallway Medicine" has been replaced by "Highway Medicine"; and

WHEREAS this NDP government has seriously damaged the way in which rural health services are delivered.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba strongly urge the NDP government and the Premier to live up to their promise to the rural communities of Erickson and Rivers to restore all services as promised in the 2003 election campaign; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NDP government end its ill focused policy of Highway Medicine and put patients first so that rural Manitobans can receive medical treatment in their local hospitals as was promised by the Premier in 2003.

**Mr. SANTOS –**

4. WHEREAS prior to this century, living standards had never diverged so widely across different countries and regions of the world; and

WHEREAS the divide between the richest 20% of the world's population and the poorest 20% has doubled in size over the past 30 years; and

WHEREAS despite record lows of disparity in the Southern Hemisphere, Canada has reduced its foreign aid to an all-time low; and

WHEREAS the divide between the North and South has serious repercussions, as inequality and economic deprivation contribute to violence and war within and among countries; and

WHEREAS by failing to address global poverty, conflicts between the North and South over the control of important resources such as oil and strategic minerals are likely to persist; and

WHEREAS many countries in South America and Africa are in debt to international banks and often cannot repay their loans and provide basic services to their citizens simultaneously; and

WHEREAS eligibility for loans or debt relief requires the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) and the World Bank's seal of approval, which is obtained by following prescribed, uniform and strict relief packages; and

WHEREAS these programs are designed to foster foreign direct investment, whereby national applicants must liberalize their economies, cut back on social services and institute a flexible labour market, often to the detriment of their citizens; and

WHEREAS in order to attract foreign direct investment, developing states must appear attractive to multinational corporations; and

WHEREAS the Multi-National Corporations (MNC) have significant leverage and superior bargaining positions when deciding where to locate their operations and as a result they are able to exploit labour and escape environmental regulations; and

WHEREAS the yearly sales of the largest MNC dwarf the annual Gross National Products (GNP) of a vast majority of third world countries thereby raising concerns that MNC are more powerful and influential than democratically elected governments, putting shareholder interests above those of communities and even customers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to encourage the Federal Government to conduct meaningful dialogue with MNC and the IMF and work to promote global responsibility; and

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

**Mr. NEVAKSHONOFF –**

5. WHEREAS the Hometown Manitoba Program is a new initiative launched last spring as part of the Rural Economic Development Initiative that provides financial support for rural and northern community enhancement projects; and

WHEREAS Hometown Manitoba is a partnership involving the province, smaller communities, non-profit organizations and businesses wanting to improve the physical appearance of their communities; and

WHEREAS the program supports community-driven projects that advance community identities, build community pride and citizen involvement, and enhance the appearance and use of community gathering places and buildings in the ‘main street’ area of rural and northern communities; and

WHEREAS the physical enhancement of community main streets can encourage economic and social sustainability that build community pride and citizen involvement while promoting the use of local products, services and talent; and

WHEREAS in 2004, Hometown Manitoba supported 176 upgrading and beautification projects worth more than \$300,000, with even more communities and enterprises expected to participate in 2005; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba congratulate the communities and volunteers for their involvement and efforts in building stronger communities and increasing community pride; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Provincial Government consider continuing to invest in rural and northern communities through initiatives such as the Hometown Manitoba program.

**Mr. PENNER –**

6. WHEREAS the transportation sector in Manitoba is a significant industry; and

WHEREAS the food produced by Manitoba farmers, along with other products produced in Manitoba, must be transported from the source to market; and

WHEREAS the southern part of Manitoba is divided by the Red River; and

WHEREAS the bridge across the Red River at Letellier on Highway 201 is the route used to carry grain from the East side of the Red River to the grain-handling facilities at Letellier and Morris; and

WHEREAS most of the livestock East of the Red River must go to market on a timely basis; and

WHEREAS this bridge is a key point of access for the Roseau River First Nation community; and

WHEREAS this bridge is now going to be limited to a 16-tonne load limit and one lane of traffic;  
and

WHEREAS no large agriculture equipment will be allowed across the bridge because of these government imposed weight limits; and

WHEREAS the NDP government has neglected to properly maintain this bridge; and

WHEREAS this bridge was designated for replacement several years ago.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider taking immediate action to replace the bridge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider ways to ensure the people of southern Manitoba have proper and adequate transportation infrastructure to allow Manitoba farmers access to market for their product and to give all Manitobans access to schools, recreation, retail outlets and service centres.

**Mr. GOERTZEN –**

7. WHEREAS all fire-fighters risk their lives and their own health in order to help others; and

WHEREAS volunteer fire-fighters in rural communities put their lives on hold to protect the lives and property of their neighbors without compensation; and

WHEREAS volunteer and part-time fire-fighters play an incredibly important role in their communities in rural Manitoba; and

WHEREAS many times volunteer and part-time fire-fighters stand side by side with full-time firefighters to protect life and limb; and

WHEREAS all firefighters, including volunteer and part-time firefighters, are subjected to the same dangers and exposed to the same toxins that may lead to cancer or other illnesses; and

WHEREAS all firefighters that obtain cancer or another illness from being exposed to toxins or dangerous environments, should be compensated accordingly; and

WHEREAS on May 23, 2002 the Provincial Government of Manitoba passed legislation that treats volunteer and part-time firefighters as second class citizens and does not recognize that their exposure to toxins may lead to cancer and illness; and

WHEREAS every Government Member of the Legislative Assembly voted against amendments that would have seen volunteer and part-time firefighters treated equally with full-time firefighters in this province.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba condemn the Government of Manitoba for ignoring the principles of equality, justice, and fairness by excluding volunteer and part-time firefighters from Bill 5; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Provincial Government to consider further amending the Worker's Compensation Act to ensure that volunteer, part-time and full-time firefighters are treated equally.

**Mrs. STEFANSON –**

8. WHEREAS a growing concern of Manitoba taxpayers is the dramatically increased administrative costs of the province's regional health authorities (RHAs); and

WHEREAS the audited reports of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) for the years 1999 to 2003 clearly accounted for the RHA's administrative costs; and

WHEREAS the administrative costs of the WRHA more than tripled between 1999 and 2003, causing public outrage; and

WHEREAS the administrative costs as a line item have been entirely removed from the 2003-2004 audited statements of the WRHA and have instead been lumped in with other health care system administrative costs; and

WHEREAS the omission of the actual administrative costs of running the WRHA prevents the public from knowing how much money is being diverted from direct patient care; and

WHEREAS the omission of the administrative costs is a barrier to the type of transparency and accountability desperately needed to properly manage Manitoba's health care system.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba consider requesting the Auditor General of Manitoba to conduct a thorough analysis of the WRHA's accounting practices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba recommend that the WRHA immediately reinstate the practice of including administrative costs as a line item in its audited statements to ensure that the public is provided with the complete and transparent financial picture to which they are entitled.

**Mr. DYCK –**

9. WHEREAS the pork, poultry, sheep, beef, bison and elk industries are integral to not only Manitoba's rural economy, but to the overall economic well being of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS inter-provincial trade is an important contributor to Manitoba's economy providing employment and development opportunities within the province; and

WHEREAS federally inspected meat and meat products can be traded within and across provincial borders; and

WHEREAS provincially inspected meat plants can only sell products within the Province of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS any person visiting Manitoba can enjoy a safe and provincially inspected meat product within the province yet cannot have this product shipped to their home province.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider developing an inter-provincial meat and meat products policy to encourage the trade and sale of meat and meat products.

**Mrs. MITCHELSON –**

10. WHEREAS the NDP government has made an unprecedented raid of \$203 million on Manitoba Hydro forcing Manitoba Hydro to borrow the money; and

WHEREAS the NDP government has also taken up to an additional \$86 million annually from Manitoba Hydro by more than doubling Water Power Rentals rates and increasing the Provincial Debt Guarantee fee; and

WHEREAS as a direct result of the NDP government's actions, Manitoba Hydro ratepayers are now being forced to pay an additional 10 per cent on their hydro bills; and

WHEREAS a provincial policy is needed to protect Manitoba Hydro ratepayers and Manitoba Hydro from being unfairly burdened by a NDP government that cannot control its spending.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba condemn the NDP government for substantially weakening Manitoba Hydro's financial position; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the NDP government to consider implementing a comprehensive policy that prohibits the NDP government from making raids on Manitoba Hydro and exorbitantly increasing fees for Manitoba Hydro ratepayers.

**Mrs. DRIEDGER –**

11. WHEREAS the MLA for Concordia during the Spring 2000 Manitoba Association of School Trustees convention told trustees that there will be "no forced amalgamations. That is not the Manitoba way"; and

WHEREAS less than six months later the Provincial Government announced the forced amalgamations of several school divisions in the province of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government made a commitment to the people of Manitoba that these forced amalgamations would result in a minimum \$10 million of savings; and

WHEREAS no savings have been achieved to date and in fact many school divisions have experienced significant increased costs as a result of forced amalgamations; and

WHEREAS as recently as July of 2003, the Minister of Education and Youth is on record as saying there will be no further forced amalgamations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider providing empirical evidence of the promised \$10 million cost savings that have been achieved under the forced amalgamations of school divisions.

**Mr. MAGUIRE –**

12. WHEREAS education is the province's constitutional responsibility and under this Provincial Government's administration, provincial funding of the operation of Manitoba's public schools has fallen every year to the current level of 56.0 per cent, with a growing amount to be derived from the taxation of property; and

WHEREAS provincial support in some school divisions has fallen as low as 44.8 per cent; and

WHEREAS the soaring reliance on the community-based taxation of property within school divisions and districts has led to an extreme and increasingly unfair tax burden on Manitobans; and

WHEREAS Manitobans are seeking the creation of a tax system that is fair, simple and competitive and making improvements to the way public education is funded would be a positive step in that direction.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider the elimination of property-based education taxes including the Special Levy.

**Mr. ALTEMEYER –**

13. WHEREAS the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act was proclaimed in February of 2002 and has seen great success to date; and

WHEREAS the Act establishes a national precedent in reclaiming the safety and security of neighbourhoods; and

WHEREAS the Act represents a new tool for Manitobans to combat criminal organizations by having an experienced team investigate complaints received by concerned citizens; and

WHEREAS the Act targets properties that adversely affect the safety and security of neighbourhoods by their habitual use for prostitution and related activities; the possession, sale and/or use of drugs; sale of liquor without a licence; the use or sale of intoxicating substances; and the possession, use or sale of non-potable intoxicants; and

WHEREAS the Act places responsibility on property owners to stop these activities from occurring on their properties; and

WHEREAS 92 drug, sniff or prostitution operations, involving 118 complaints, have been shut down; and

WHEREAS charges have been laid as a result of criminal investigations; and

WHEREAS one inspection revealed a marijuana grow operation valued at \$1.4 million in a fortified home; and

WHEREAS 18 premises concerning 20 complaints have been closed by other agencies; and

WHEREAS virtually all landlords have co-operated with investigators in all cases resolved to this date.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing to develop innovative tools to help ensure the safety and security of Manitoba communities.



**Mr. LAMOUREUX –**

14. WHEREAS the Provincial Nominee Program in Manitoba has been a huge success in attracting immigrants to our Province; and

WHEREAS Manitobans want to be able to get more family members to be able to immigrate to our Province; and

WHEREAS for the purpose of this resolution, family class immigrants would include brothers, sisters, parents, nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles; and

WHEREAS the PNP program is Manitoba's best way to target possible immigrants; and

WHEREAS placing restrictions on certain occupations has ruled out the possibility of being able to even consider coming to Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the ability of the province to predict which occupations are in highest demand has been inadequate.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of Manitoba no longer require family class immigrants to be employed in certain occupations.

**Mr. SCHULER –**

15. WHEREAS in May 2004, 46 year-old Mr. Peter Krahn suffered a heart attack while exercising in East St. Paul and was pronounced dead just under an hour later after being transported to the Concordia Hospital in Winnipeg and reports show that it took nearly 18 minutes for an ambulance to arrive for Mr. Krahn; and

WHEREAS the Interlake Regional Health Authority (IRHA) claims that 21 minutes is an acceptable emergency response time; and

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg uses a benchmark of four minutes; and

WHEREAS the difference between the IRHA and City of Winnipeg response time standards is 17 minutes; and

WHEREAS ambulance coverage for East St. Paul is provided from Selkirk, which is almost 25 kilometers away; and

WHEREAS the municipalities of East St. Paul and West St. Paul combined have over 12,000 residents.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the NDP government to consider providing East St. Paul with local ambulance services which would service both East St. Paul and West St. Paul; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the NDP government to consider improving the way that ambulance service is supplied to all Manitobans by utilizing technologies such as GPS in conjunction with a Medical Transportation Co-ordination Centre (MTCC) which would ensure that patients receive the nearest ambulance in the least amount of time; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the NDP government to consider ensuring that appropriate funding is provided to maintain superior response times and sustainable services.

**Mrs. ROWAT –**

16. WHEREAS young people in Canada have the right to legal protection from sexual predators and any form of exploitation; and

WHEREAS the current legal age at which an individual may consent to sexual activity is 14 years of age; and

WHEREAS police and child advocacy groups across the country support raising the legal age of consent; and

WHEREAS New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario support raising the legal age of consent; and

WHEREAS the Parliament of Canada is currently addressing legislation relating to child exploitation and the legal age of consent.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider lobbying the Federal Government to strengthen legislation around protecting youth from sexual predators and exploitation of any kind; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to consider raising the legal age of consent from 14 to at least 16 years of age.

**Hon. Mr. GERRARD –**

17. WHEREAS the report of the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada chaired by Roy Romanow recommended that accountability be a fundamental principle of health care.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of Manitoba fully accept that for the operations of health care in our province, accountability be treated as a sixth fundamental principle of health care delivery.

**Mr. AGLUGUB –**

18. WHEREAS the economic and social well being of Manitoba is tied to our ability to actively encourage the growth of skilled people in all fields and disciplines; and

WHEREAS it is necessary to ensure an attitude of co-operation and inclusiveness so that newly arrived Manitobans can participate equitably and contribute to the economy; and

WHEREAS 7413 immigrants with a variety of skills and occupations entered Manitoba last year from all over the world and many of them were unable to effectively use their training and education in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the province benefits from the diversity of new skills and knowledge that new immigrants bring; and

WHEREAS by recognizing the high level of skills, education and training of those immigrants as important assets for Manitoba and Canada, the government's priority is to ensure all new Manitobans are given every opportunity to find suitable employment in the province without delay; and

WHEREAS one step has been the creation of the country's first permanent medical licensure program; a collective effort by the Manitoba Health, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba, and the University of Manitoba, to assist internationally trained medical graduates obtain the required licences to practice medicine in the province; and

WHEREAS the objectives of the medical licence assistance program are twofold: to provide a more open process to assess international medical graduates and to provide on-site training to those medical doctors unfamiliar with the Canadian health system; and

WHEREAS more recently the Provincial Government has held a Qualifications Recognition Summit pledging to work with regulatory bodies and stakeholders to remove the barriers highly-skilled immigrants encounter in securing formal recognition of their qualifications; and

WHEREAS the Province has a goal to increase and retain the level of skilled immigrants, it is therefore necessary to find efficient, transparent and effective methods of assessing foreign-trained individuals while ensuring practice standards and public safety are met.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba support the Provincial Government in continuing its efforts to develop and support an innovative professional qualifications recognition strategy.

**Mr. JHA –**

19. WHEREAS expanding two-way trade relationship is a critical factor in the future success of many Manitoba companies; and

WHEREAS the International Trade Summit, hosted by Manitoba last spring, supported both the new exporter and gained insight and feedback from active exporters; and

WHEREAS the key goals of the provincial Exporter Development Initiative is to increase the number of Manitoba companies active in exporting and to increase market diversification by exporters; and

WHEREAS in 2003, Manitoba's two-way trade with the United States totaled \$15.2 billion CDN and represented approximately 79 % of Manitoba's exports; and

WHEREAS exports support job creation and job maintenance according to studies that have shown that every billion dollars of exports supports 8,000 to 11,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS the recent provincial trade mission to Texas and hosting delegations from China, India and Russia creates vital links and opportunities to explore mutually beneficial opportunities for trade cooperation; and

WHEREAS opportunities for Manitoba companies to diversify into emerging markets including China, India and Brazil can be supported through trade missions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba consider supporting the efforts of the Provincial Government and local businesses to establish and strengthen international trade contacts, such as in the recent trade mission to Texas, which will improve and diversify the province's economy and create jobs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the province continue working with the federal government in efforts to open the US border to all trade and to build upon the success of the North American Free Trade Agreement to the benefit of both countries.

**Mr. FAURSCHOU –**

20. WHEREAS the establishment of a national park in Manitoba's Interlake has been under discussion since the 1970s and under study since 1993; and

WHEREAS the 1994 feasibility study concluded in 1996 that a national park in the Manitoba Lowlands was indeed feasible and suggested boundaries; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba government signed an memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Canada in 1993 wherein both governments agreed to establish a national park in Manitoba's Interlake Region, and Manitoba agreed to also establish protected areas in the natural regions where the national park study would be conducted; and

WHEREAS the August 2004 report, *Economic Impact Study: Proposed National Park Manitoba Northern Interlake Region*, concluded that "a national park could diversify the regional economic base, produce significant economic benefits and contribute additional societal and environmental benefits"; and

WHEREAS to date there is no interim protection for Lowlands National Park candidate lands; and

WHEREAS protecting ecological integrity of the lands within the proposed Lowlands national park would safeguard representative features including the boreal forest, karst lands, aquatic ecosystems, and wildlife habitat for all five ungulates, as well as the cultural values and history of the region; and

WHEREAS the Mining Sector Protected Areas Consultation, in support of Manitoba's protected areas commitments and the Protected Areas Initiative (PAI), approved (in 1998 and 1999) and continues to support 500,000 ha for inclusion in the proposed National Park and will provide its technical review of lands south of Long Point early in 2005; and

WHEREAS in March 2004, the Governments of Manitoba and Canada signed a MOU to work together to conclude consultations and negotiations for a Lowlands national park establishment agreement by May 2005; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider giving its full support to the establishment of a national park in the Manitoba Interlake region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to identify additional areas that may be included within such a park, and to consider taking actions to protect all candidate areas in the interim period until said park is established.

**Ms. IRVIN-ROSS –**

21. WHEREAS the Provincial Government recognizes that an investment in early childhood education benefits students throughout their schooling, and leads to greater opportunities later in life; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government committed during the 2003 election campaign to increasing support for early childhood education, which included the creation of 500 new nursery school spaces and funding for the expansion of the early years literacy program; and

WHEREAS through initiatives such as Healthy Child Manitoba, the Provincial Government has invested over \$40 million in new funding for early years education and early childhood development from 2000 to 2003; and

WHEREAS as part of the Early Childhood Development Initiative, parent resource kits are being developed to provide parents with activities geared to prepare children emotionally, socially and physically for school. These kits will be distributed to school libraries, public libraries, and parent-child centres throughout Manitoba; and

WHEREAS in 2003, Red River College and Assiniboine College received funding to increase access to their early childhood education diploma programs to meet the need for more qualified Level II early childhood educators in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS through the 5-Year Child Care Plan, Manitoba's existing nursery school program for three and four-year olds will be expanded and more closely linked with other early childhood development initiatives, and to date, under the Child Care Plan, the government has funded 3,500 more childcare spaces since 1999.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to continue supporting early childhood education, thereby ensuring that all of Manitoba's students receive the benefits of a successful start in school.

**Mr. DEWAR –**

22. WHEREAS in 2001, the total number of Manitobans living with diabetes was approximately 63,000 with 6,000 new cases diagnosed annually; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's aging population will further drive up the number of people living with Type 2 diabetes; and

WHEREAS the rate of First Nations people living with Type 2 diabetes is approximately four times higher than the rate for all Manitobans and in some regions one in two First Nations individuals aged 50 and up have Type 2 diabetes; and

WHEREAS the NDP government has recognized the devastating effects, diabetes has on society, especially the elderly and First Nations communities; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's Diabetes Strategy incorporates the Regional Diabetes Program Framework, the Chronic Disease Prevention Initiative and the Renal Health Outreach Program; and

WHEREAS the Regional Diabetes Program responds to the epidemic of Type 2 diabetes among First Nations people and the elderly of all communities by focusing on diabetes prevention, education, care, research and support.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Government continue implementing Manitoba's Diabetes Strategy by considering the establishment of a task force to heighten public awareness of diabetes issues in Manitoba; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Provincial Government call upon the Government of Canada to join in this effort by contributing equally to the cost of the program from the recently announced federal budget.

**Mr. JENNISSEN –**

23. WHEREAS the Internet is a valuable tool for all Manitobans to obtain and to convey information and ideas, as well as to receive vital services; and

WHEREAS the Province stands to benefit from having all Manitobans participating equally and effectively in the digital economy; and

WHEREAS it is nearly impossible for residents in isolated communities to receive high-speed or sometimes even dial-up service due to inadequate or non-existent phone lines; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government recognizes the need for provincial government buildings, hospitals, schools and municipalities to have access to broadband services; and

WHEREAS it becomes therefore necessary for communities, local businesses and the province to enter into partnerships so as to provide Internet service; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's E-Friendly Information and Communications Technology Strategy is such an initiative, which has successfully helped to launch the Churchill Community Network; and

WHEREAS the Churchill Community Network is a not-for-profit initiative whose goal is to provide Internet service to interested businesses and residents of Churchill; and

WHEREAS the Churchill Community Network demonstrates that the ICT Strategy is fulfilling its goals: to educate and train Manitobans in the use of information and communications technologies, to bring Manitoba communities online, to attract businesses and help Manitoban businesses to expand and to improve public access to government services through increased use of online technology and e-government; and

WHEREAS another such initiative is the Provincial Data Network which aims to provide broadband Internet capabilities to the hospitals and government offices of 85 communities and eventually to libraries and schools; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Data Network will enhance existing health programs such as Telehealth, Oncology Outpatient and the Drug Program Information Network; and

WHEREAS this initiative has required an investment of \$47.4 million over five years and will serve as a catalyst for the expansion of high-speed Internet service to rural and northern Manitoba.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing to pursue initiatives that will ensure Manitobans have access to high speed internet; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Provincial Government to consider setting a target date of 2010 whereby all Manitoba communities will have high speed Internet access.

**Mr. SCHELLENBERG –**

24. WHEREAS the costs of post-secondary education have a direct impact on the number of students able to attend colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS the current Provincial Government has made post-secondary education more accessible through a 10% tuition reduction in 2000/01; and

WHEREAS this Provincial Government is continuing its commitment to affordability by maintaining a reduced rate for students at public colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS a representative of the Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba stated in September 2002 that it would eliminate this tuition reduction if elected; and

WHEREAS post-secondary enrollment has increased by a combined average of nearly 30% since tuition levels were rolled back and frozen.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing its support for Manitoba's post-secondary students and strive to keep Manitoba's tuition among the lowest in Canada.

**Mr. HAWRANIK –**

25. WHEREAS the Auditor General recently released the Audit of the Public Accounts for the year ended March 31, 2004; and

WHEREAS Public Accounts represent the annual financial statements for the Province and are represented by two distinct sets of financial statements that satisfy two unique purposes; and

WHEREAS the Summary Financial Statements are the General Purpose statements of the Government and provide audited information on the aggregate financial affairs and resources for which the Government is responsible, including government enterprises and crown organizations; and

WHEREAS the Financial Statements of the Operating Fund and Special Funds are the Special Purpose statements of the Government and serve as the Government's accountability report to the Legislative Assembly on revenues raised and expenditures made, and determine compliance with the Balanced Budget, Debt Repayment and Taxpayer Accountability Act; and

WHEREAS the Government, according to the Operating Fund Financial Statement has publicly stated that it posted a surplus of \$13 million for the 2003/04 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS the Auditor General, according to the province's Summary Financial Statements, has stated in the Audit of Public Accounts that the government ran a deficit of \$604 million for the 2003/04 fiscal year; and



WHEREAS the Auditor General states that “public communication should focus on the annual results from the Summary Financial Statements.”; and

WHEREAS the Auditor General states that the “Operating Fund Financial Statements should not be used to assess the Government’s performance. Unfortunately the Government’s communications continue to emphasize the Operating Fund Financial Statements;” and

WHEREAS the Auditor General stated that “communicating the operating Fund Financial Statements portrays an incomplete and misleading by omission picture of the Province’s financial positions and operating results to the citizens of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the Auditor General states that “the Government failed in its duty to communicate accurate information to citizens to enable them to make an informed judgement of the Province’s fiscal performance. Government should focus their communication on the Summary Financial Statements.”; and

WHEREAS the Auditor General states that “the Operating Fund Financial Statements are solely for the information and use of MLAs to determine compliance with the Balanced Budget law. These statements should not be used to assess the fiscal performance of the Government as this information is only available in the Summary Financial Statements.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to follow the recommendation of the Auditor General to provide Manitobans with transparency and accountability in reporting on the finances of this Province by emphasizing the results in the Summary Financials Statements in communication with the public.

**Mr. CUMMINGS –**

26. WHEREAS Manitobans value high quality and timely access to health care; and

WHEREAS regionalized health care was implemented across Manitoba years ago; and

WHEREAS Manitobans are concerned that significant growth in budget expenditures for health care has not led to improvements and timely access to health care across Manitoba; and

WHEREAS Manitobans are concerned about rising administrative costs reported in RHA expenditures; and

WHEREAS a review of Regional Health Authority (RHA) organizations and delivery of health care has been urged since 1999 to advise on the efficacy of the RHA model for health care delivery; and

WHEREAS the government has undertaken amalgamation of RHAs without evidence of the efficiency of the structure of RHAs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Government consider the advisability of conducting a full review of the RHA structure and mandate, along with a value for dollar review.

**Mr. REIMER –**

27. WHEREAS the price of liquor and beer in Northern communities is controlled so that consumers pay the same amount for the product whether it is purchased in Southern Manitoba or in Northern Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the price of milk is up to \$5.00 per litre in some Northern communities and prices are not controlled; and

WHEREAS a recent survey of dental health among preschoolers in a Northern Manitoba First Nations (Garden Hill First Nation) revealed rates of tooth decay normally found in only the world's most underdeveloped countries; and

WHEREAS dental health experts have said that the high cost of milk in Northern Manitoba is part of the reason for poor dental health in Northern Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the Milk Prices Review Commission has the authority to set milk prices in Northern Manitoba as the Commission does in Southern Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the NDP Government have had the opportunity to control milk prices in Northern Manitoba since 1999, yet they have failed to do so.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba condemn the NDP Government for taking no action to control Milk prices in Northern Manitoba; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the NDP Government to consider controlling milk prices in Northern Manitoba through the Milk Prices Review Commission.

**Mr. REID –**

28. WHEREAS producing and utilizing hydrogen energy in Manitoba is characterized as being both clean and available without the need for energy imports; and

WHEREAS using hydrogen requires new technologies, products and services which could translate into economic opportunities for Manitoba companies and new high-technology jobs; and

WHEREAS Manitoba has a natural advantage for the production of clean hydrogen given the province's abundant hydroelectric resources and low electricity prices; and

WHEREAS hydrogen is therefore important to Manitoba as a future opportunity of economic development; and

WHEREAS Manitoba has developed a hydrogen vision to position the province for the future and has begun the process to develop a Hydrogen Economic Development Strategy; and

WHEREAS preliminary assessments were conducted by Working Groups under the auspices of the Manitoba Hydrogen Steering Committee to identify hydrogen-related opportunities for the province as a whole; and

WHEREAS this work was conducted in conjunction with many participating organizations, including different departments, all three levels of government, utility, university, and industry representatives; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba Hydrogen Steering Committee and Working Groups prepared a report outlining eleven possible initiatives to begin to bridge Manitoba to the future hydrogen economy by addressing niche areas in which the province has a competitive advantage; and

WHEREAS five of these initiatives have been given high priority due to time sensitivity, these include: transit bus demonstration, including refueling and on-site hydrogen production; fuel cell demonstration using by-product hydrogen; development of a Centre of Excellence on hydrogen; monitoring progress of proposed hydrogen system at Manitoba Hydro's Dorsey Converter Station; and reaching a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Iceland on hydrogen development.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider following up on these five initiatives so as to take advantage of the numerous potential benefits of hydrogen energy development for Manitoba.

**Mr. SWAN –**

29. WHEREAS crystal meth is a looming problem in Manitoba and its horrendous consequences are already being experienced in neighbouring states and provinces; and

WHEREAS crystal meth is beginning to make its appearance felt in this province and the increased volume of production, use or sale of crystal meth is accompanied by immense health and societal costs, including the environmental/health/housing concerns associated with crystal meth production labs, the burden of addictions, and the problems of law enforcement; and

WHEREAS this Legislative Assembly has a duty to support measures for the prevention of crime, rather than simply react when an extensive problem is readily apparent; and

WHEREAS a strategy to combat the spread of crystal meth involves numerous departments, governments and agencies.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to work with the Federal Government to stop the widespread use of crystal meth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Provincial Government to establish an interdepartmental collaborative effort to better understand the nature of the crystal meth problem and to consider exploring numerous solutions so that the social, environmental and health costs of widespread crystal meth use and production can be minimized.

**Mr. ROCAN –**

30. WHEREAS the Non-Smoker's Health Protection Act prohibits smoking in all indoor public places and partially enclosed patios in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS Manitoba Health's 2001 analysis of the costs to the province to treat tobacco-related illnesses estimated a bill of \$128 million a year; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's Provincial Government has joined British Columbia's legal battle to recover health-care costs from the country's largest tobacco companies; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government refuses to enforce the province-wide smoking ban on First Nation reserves, thereby creating a two-tier environment that ignores aboriginal people's right to have their health protected from the hazards of second-hand smoke; and

WHEREAS Section 88 of the Indian Act allows for all laws of general application in any province to be applicable to First Nations; and

WHEREAS Saskatchewan and New Brunswick's province-wide smoking bans extend to First Nations; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba Tobacco Reduction Alliance (MANTRA) has criticized the Provincial Government for its failure to enforce the province-wide smoking ban in all jurisdictions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Government recognize the inherent rights of aboriginal people to be protected from the negative health effects of second-hand smoke; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Provincial Government consider enforcing the Non-Smoker's Health Protection Act on all Manitoba First Nations.

**Mr. MALOWAY –**

31. WHEREAS governments throughout the world are quickly discovering the usefulness and efficiency of Internet-based service delivery; and

WHEREAS the electronic medium provides the general public with fast and reliable access to government services and information; and

WHEREAS the use of such on-line services is a relatively low-cost, low-maintenance endeavor which provides an equal if not greater level of service than many pre-existing delivery methods such as office sites, mailings, and call centre; and

WHEREAS on-line transaction services can provide users with 24 hour access to government information and services from home or office, remote communities or anywhere in the world; and

WHEREAS the possibilities for the on-line delivery of government services are considerable with the potential for the on-line bill payment and the registration for government services or programs; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government web site currently provides specific on-line services for student aid applications, of which 65% were done on line this year, and various other services such as day care, job applications, maps available for download, and the ability to check for liens on used cars; and

WHEREAS in addition to these current services, many high school courses are now offered on-line through the Distance Learning and Information Technologies Unit of the Program Development Branch of Education, Citizenship and Youth, with 23 school divisions participating in the provision of 26 on-line courses and over 2000 students currently enrolled; and

WHEREAS there exists great potential for the further development and administration of new Internet based services.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider pursuing initiatives to make all government services available on a transactional basis by the year 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Provincial Government to consider providing a timetable to the public outlining the rollout of these services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Provincial Government to consider using surplus computer equipment to establish stations in government offices where, during normal office hours, the public could access government services through the Internet.