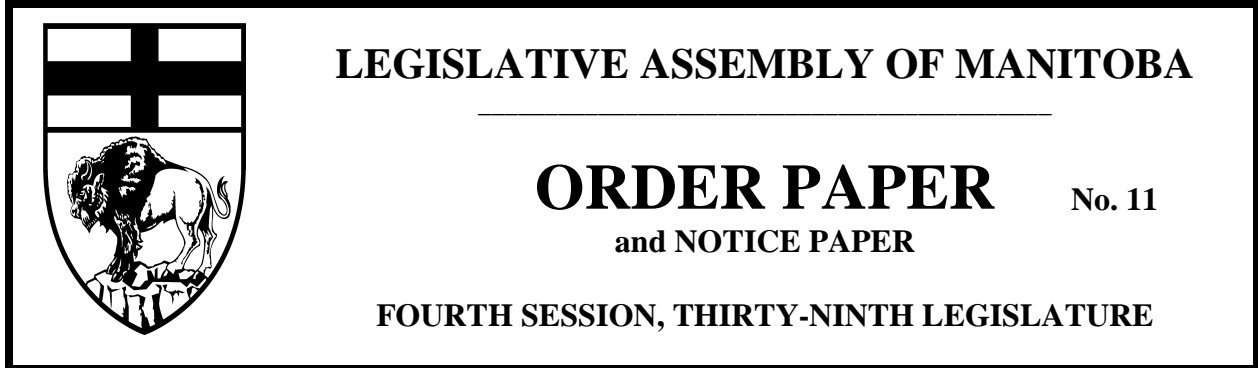


Monday, December 14, 2009



PRAYER

SITTING AT 1:30 P.M.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Hon. Mr. BJORNSON –

(No. 10) – The Proceedings Against the Crown Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les procédures contre la Couronne

Mrs. MITCHELSON –

(No. 208) – The Consumer Protection Amendment Act (Ban on Government Cheque Cashing Fees)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la protection du consommateur (interdiction d'exiger des frais d'encaissement de chèques du gouvernement)

PETITIONS

Mr. DYCK

Mr. SCHULER

Mrs. DRIEDGER

Mrs. STEFANSON

Mr. GRAYDON

Mr. BOROTSIK

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TABLING OF REPORTS

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

ORAL QUESTIONS

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

ADJOURNED DEBATE (Seventh Day of Debate):

On the Proposed Motion of Mr. WHITEHEAD –

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 Fourth Session of the Thirty-Ninth Legislature of Manitoba.

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

THAT the motion be amended by adding at the end the following words:

But this House regrets:

- (a) That the Government's Throne Speech was long on problems, but short on solutions; and
- (b) That the speech failed to address the fact that Winnipeg is the country's murder capital, the child poverty capital, and Manitoba has the lowest GDP per capita in the west; and
- (c) That the speech fails to address the high taxes that Manitoba families already pay under the current NDP Government; however the PC Caucus does support some positive initiatives in the Throne Speech, including the NDP Government's decision to avoid increasing taxes by refusing to move to a harmonized sales tax in a manner that would add to the already high taxes that Manitobans pay; and
- (d) That the speech references fiscal restraint, and yet the NDP Government has failed to practice fiscal restraint and has increased the size of its cabinet, while at the same time closing the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba over the holiday season, and putting some of the most vulnerable Manitobans at risk; and
- (e) That the speech indicates that the NDP Government's plans to use the Rainy Day Fund to pay for justice and child protection costs, which are important services provided by the province, and something that should already have been factored into the budgeting process; and
- (f) That instead of using the last decade of general global economic prosperity to move our province forward, the NDP Government has squandered an opportunity to make Manitoba a Have Province, and has instead left a legacy of debt for Manitobans; and

- (g) That the speech reinforces the government's lack of understanding of Manitoba's agriculture sector, as evidenced by the absence of any new programs or services to help producers facing economic challenges brought on by factors such as: adverse weather conditions; trade-related matters such as BSE and Country of Origin Labelling; and, public policy decisions based on politics and not on sound science, such as Bill 17; and
- (h) That the speech continues this government's history of paying lip service to the needs of rural Manitoba, as evidenced by its ongoing failure to develop broad-based strategies aimed at cultivating growth and opportunities in our rural communities, the spin-off benefits of which are felt throughout the entire provincial economy; and
- (i) That the speech revisits the government's habit of making promises about its commitment to protecting the environment in areas such as restoring the health of Lake Winnipeg, the creation of new parks and protection areas, and recycling, yet as its track record has shown, it has proven woefully slow in translating such promises into meaningful and timely actions; and
- (j) That the speech failed to put forward a plan to provide timely access to health care for all Manitobans, to address the closure of 17 rural emergency rooms, to bring back more than 1500 doctors who have left Manitoba since the NDP Government took office, and to shorten long wait times that threaten the health and well being of all Manitobans; and
- (k) That this Government continually fails to acknowledge the challenges facing Manitoba seniors – such as the shortage of safe, affordable housing, the availability of assisted living spaces and other long-term care options, better caregiver supports, and Pharmacare deductibles, which have increased almost every year under this Government; and
- (l) That this speech is rife with previous announcements and old health care capital commitments - some as old as 2003 – with no time line or reassurance that these projects will ever get off the ground; and
- (m) That this speech fails to acknowledge the lack of accountability at many of Manitoba's Crown Corporations and fails to put an end to wasteful, costly projects like the NDP-directed west side Bipole line and the NDP Government's Enhanced Driver License initiative; and
- (n) That this speech fails to lay out a vision for Manitoba Hydro, and as such is ignoring an asset that Manitobans take pride in, particularly given the ability of our province to generate clean power in an era when clean energy is coveted by other jurisdictions; and
- (o) That this speech does not propose solutions to combat child poverty in our province, or to better protect children in care by reducing the caseloads of social workers; and

- (p) That this speech takes a few small steps in the right direction with the funding for a police helicopter that the PC Caucus advocated for, and a commitment to start tracking gang members and known drug dealers; however it doesn't go far enough, especially given the horrendous summer of crime we just experienced with innocent victims getting shot at weddings and people being lit on fire in their back yard.

And as a consequence, the Government has thereby lost the trust and confidence of the people of Manitoba and this House.

(Mrs. TAILLIEU – 10 mins.)

SECOND READINGS:

Hon. Mr. LEMIEUX –

(No. 3) – The City of Winnipeg Charter Amendment and Municipal Amendment Act (Derelict Property)/Loi modifiant la Charte de la ville de Winnipeg et la Loi sur les municipalités (biens abandonnés)

Hon. Ms. HOWARD –

(No. 4) – The Workplace Safety and Health Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la sécurité et l'hygiène du travail

Hon. Ms. WOWCHUK –

(No. 5) – The Cottage Property Tax Increase Deferral Act (Property Tax and Insulation Assistance Act Amended)/Loi sur le report des majorations de taxes foncières visant les chalets (modification de la Loi sur l'aide en matière de taxes foncières et d'isolation thermique des résidences)
(Recommended by His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor)

Hon. Ms. ALLAN –

(No. 6) – The Manitoba Association of School Trustees Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Association des commissaires d'écoles du Manitoba

Hon. Mr. SWAN –

(No. 7) – The Highway Traffic Amendment Act (Suspending Drivers' Licences of Drug Traffickers)/Loi modifiant le Code de la route (suspension de permis de conduire en cas d'infractions se rapportant au trafic de drogues)

Hon. Mr. ASHTON –

(No. 8) – The Highway Traffic Amendment Act (Safety Precautions to Be Taken When Approaching Tow Trucks and Other Designated Vehicles)/Loi modifiant le Code de la route (précautions que doivent prendre les conducteurs qui s'approchent de dépanneuses ou d'autres véhicules désignés)

Hon. Ms. HOWARD –

(No. 9) – The Electricians' Licence Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur le permis d'électricien
