



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 22

SECOND SESSION, FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

PRAYER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

10:00 O'CLOCK A.M.

Mr. JOHNSON moved:

THAT Bill (No. 202) – The Manitoba Hydro Amendment Act (Net-Metering Agreements)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Hydro-Manitoba (ententes de facturation nette), be now read a Second Time and be referred to a Committee of this House.

And a debate arising,

And Mr. JOHNSON having spoken,

And Hon. Ms. SMITH, Mrs. STONE, Mr. SCHULER, Hon. Min. SALA and Mr. PIWNIUK having questioned the Member,

And the debate continuing,

And MLA PANKRATZ speaking at 10:30 a.m. The debate was allowed to remain in their name.

Mrs. COOK moved:

THAT Bill (No. 203) – The Earlier Screening for Breast Cancer Act/Loi sur l'abaissement du seuil d'admissibilité au dépistage systématique du cancer du sein, be now read a Second Time and be referred to a Committee of this House.

And a debate arising,

And Mrs. COOK having spoken,

And MLA PANKRATZ, Mrs. HIEBERT and MLA BEREZA having questioned the Member,

And the debate continuing,

And Hon. Min. NAYLOR speaking at 11:00 a.m. The debate was allowed to remain in their name.

Mr. PERCHOTTE moved:

Resolution No. 3: Calling on the Provincial Government to Implement a Volunteer Tax Credit

WHEREAS Manitoba's volunteers play an essential role in strengthening communities, supporting charities, non-profits, and public services through their unpaid contributions; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has failed to provide meaningful incentives to encourage and reward volunteerism, despite the rising costs of living that create financial barriers for many Manitobans who wish to give back to their communities; and

WHEREAS a Volunteer Tax Credit would provide fair recognition for the time and effort volunteers dedicate, encourage increased participation in community service, and help sustain critical non-profit organizations; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has the opportunity to show leadership by introducing a tax credit that would directly benefit volunteers, particularly seniors, youth, and those supporting social services and emergency response.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to act by introducing, and implementing without further delay, a Volunteer Tax Credit in order to ensure that Manitobans who dedicate their time to serving their communities receive financial recognition for their contributions.

And a debate arising,

And Mr. PERCHOTTE having spoken,

And Hon. Min. KENNEDY, MLA LAGASSÉ and Mr. BALCAEN having questioned the Member,

And the debate continuing,

And Hon. Mr. SIMARD, MLAs LAGASSÉ and LOISELLE and Hon. Min. CABLE having spoken,

The debate was allowed to remain open.

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

By unanimous consent, the House agreed to allow the Honourable Member for The Pas-Kameesak to second the motions for all stages of Bill (No. 41) – The Reporting of Supports for Child Survivors of Sexual Assault (Trained Health Professionals and Evidence Collection Kits) Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la présentation de rapports concernant les mesures de soutien destinées aux enfants survivants d'agression sexuelle (professionnels de la santé formés et trousses médicolégales).

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

(No. 27) – The Income Tax Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi de l'impôt sur le revenu
(Hon. Min. SALA)

(No. 223) – The Official Time Amendment Act, 2025/Loi de 2025 modifiant la Loi sur le temps réglementaire
(Mr. SCHULER)

(No. 28) – The Manitoba Hydro Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Hydro-Manitoba
(Hon. Min. SALA)

(No. 42) – The Buy Canadian Act (Government Purchases Act Amended)/Loi sur l'achat au Canada (modification de la Loi sur les achats du gouvernement)
(Hon. Min. SANDHU)

(No. 37) – The Manitoba Financial Services Authority Act and Amendments to Various Other Acts/Loi sur l'Autorité des services financiers du Manitoba et modifiant diverses autres lois
(Hon. Min. SALA)

(No. 10) – The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act (2)/Loi n° 2 modifiant la Loi sur la location à usage d'habitation
(Hon. Min. SANDHU)

(No. 25) – The Public-Private Partnerships Transparency and Accountability Act/Loi sur la transparence et la responsabilité en matière de partenariats public-privé
(Hon. Min. SANDHU)

(No. 26) – The Vital Statistics Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les statistiques de l'état civil
(Hon. Min. SANDHU)

(No. 31) – The Property Controls for Grocery Stores and Supermarkets Act (Various Acts Amended)/Loi sur les instruments de contrôle de biens-fonds visant des épiceries et des supermarchés (modification de diverses lois)
(Hon. Min. SANDHU)

(No. 206) – The Homeowner Protection from Unsolicited Purchase Offers Act/Loi sur la protection des propriétaires contre les offres d'achat non sollicitées
(Mr. WASYLIW)

(No. 17) – The Public Schools Amendment Act (Nutrition Equality for Lasting Learning Outcomes)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les écoles publiques (équité alimentaire pour un apprentissage durable)
(Hon. Min. SCHMIDT)

(No. 18) – The Public Schools Amendment Act (Indigenous Languages of Instruction)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les écoles publiques (enseignement en langue autochtone)
(Hon. Min. SCHMIDT)

(No. 19) – The Public Schools Amendment Act (Safe Schools)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les écoles publiques (milieu scolaire sûr)

(Hon. Min. SCHMIDT)

(No. 20) – The Community Child Care Standards Amendment and Education Administration Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la garde d'enfants et la Loi sur l'administration scolaire

(Hon. Min. SCHMIDT)

(No. 40) – An Act respecting “O Canada” and Other Observances and Land and Treaty Acknowledgements in Schools (Education Administration Act and Public Schools Act Amended)/Loi sur les activités scolaires soulignant notamment l'« Ô Canada » et la reconnaissance des territoires et des traités (modification de la Loi sur l'administration scolaire et de la Loi sur les écoles publiques)

(Hon. Min. SCHMIDT)

(No. 39) – The Public Schools Amendment Act (Campaign Financing for School Trustees)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les écoles publiques (financement des campagnes électorales pour les élections scolaires)

(Hon. Min. SCHMIDT)

(No. 21) – The Protecting Youth in Sports Act/Loi sur la protection des jeunes sportifs

(Hon. Min. KENNEDY)

(No. 22) – The Environment Amendment and Waste Reduction and Prevention Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'environnement et la Loi sur la réduction du volume et de la production des déchets

(Hon. Min. MOYES)

(No. 13) – The Minor Amendments and Corrections Act, 2025/Loi corrective de 2025

(Hon. Mr. WIEBE)

(No. 23) – The Public Interest Expression Defence Act/Loi visant à défendre l'expression sur des questions d'intérêt public

(Hon. Mr. WIEBE)

(No. 32) – The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act (Measures to Address Unlawful Activities)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la location à usage d'habitation (mesures concernant les activités illégales)

(Hon. Mr. WIEBE)

(No. 35) – The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Société d'assurance publique du Manitoba

(Hon. Mr. WIEBE)

(No. 36) – The Drivers and Vehicles Amendment and Highway Traffic Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les conducteurs et les véhicules et le Code de la route

(Hon. Mr. WIEBE)

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(No. 30) – The Election Financing Amendment and Elections Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur le financement des élections et la Loi électorale

(Hon. Mr. WIEBE)

(No. 24) – The Workers Compensation Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les accidents du travail

(Hon. Min. MARCELINO)

(No. 29) – The Workplace Safety and Health Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la sécurité et l'hygiène du travail

(Hon. Min. MARCELINO)

(No. 33) – The Public Health Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la santé publique

(Hon. Min. ASAGWARA)

(No. 41) – The Reporting of Supports for Child Survivors of Sexual Assault (Trained Health Professionals and Evidence Collection Kits) Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la présentation de rapports concernant les mesures de soutien destinées aux enfants survivants d'agression sexuelle (professionnels de la santé formés et trousse médicale)

(Hon. Min. ASAGWARA)

(No. 34) – The Highway Traffic Amendment Act (Motor Carrier Enforcement)/Loi modifiant le Code de la route (réglementation des transporteurs routiers)

(Hon. Min. NAYLOR)

(No. 38) – The Highway Traffic Amendment Act (Traffic Safety Measures)/Loi modifiant le Code de la route (mesures de sécurité routière)

(Hon. Min. NAYLOR)

Mr. GUENTER, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, presented its Second Report Report, which was read as follows:

Meetings

Your Committee met on March 5, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Chamber of the Legislative Building.

Matters under Consideration

- Auditor General's Report – eChart Manitoba dated October 2018
- Auditor General's Report – Forensic Audits dated October 2018
 - *Pharmacare: Special Audit of Financial Irregularities and Controls*
- Auditor General's Report – Main Street Project Investigation dated June 2021
- Auditor General's Report – Follow-up of Recommendations dated March 2020
 - *eChart Manitoba*
 - *Pharmacare: Special Audit of Financial Irregularities and Controls*
- Auditor General's Report – Follow-Up of Previously Issued Audit Recommendations dated March 2021
 - *eChart Manitoba*
 - *Pharmacare: Special Audit of Financial Irregularities and Controls*
- Auditor General's Report – Follow-Up of Previously Issued Audit Recommendations dated April 2022
 - *eChart Manitoba*
 - *Pharmacare: Special Audit of Financial Irregularities and Controls*
- Auditor General's Report – Follow Up of Previously Issued Recommendations dated February 2024
 - *Main Street Project Investigation*

Committee Membership

- Mr. BRAR
- MLA CHEN
- MLA COMPTON
- MLA DELA CRUZ
- MLA DEVGAN
- Mr. GUENTER (*Chairperson*)
- MLA LAMOUREUX
- MLA MALOWAY (*Vice-Chairperson*)
- Mr. NESBITT
- Mr. OXENHAM
- Mrs. STONE

Substitutions received prior to Committee proceedings:

- Mr. BLASHKO for MLA DELA CRUZ

Officials Speaking on Record

- Tyson Shtykalo, Auditor General of Manitoba
- Scott Sinclair, Deputy Minister of Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care
- Chris Christodoulou, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Shared Health
- Christine Pawlett, Executive Director, Clinical Digital Solutions, Digital Shared Services, Shared Health

Reports Considered and Passed

Your Committee considered and passed the following report as presented:

- Auditor General's Report – eChart Manitoba dated October 2018

Your Committee completed consideration of the following report as presented:

- Auditor General's Report – Main Street Project Investigation dated June 2021

Your Committee completed consideration of the following chapters as presented:

- Auditor General's Report – Forensic Audits dated October 2018
 - *Pharmacare: Special Audit of Financial Irregularities and Controls*
- Auditor General's Report – Follow-up of Recommendations dated March 2020
 - *eChart Manitoba*
 - *Pharmacare: Special Audit of Financial Irregularities and Controls*
- Auditor General's Report – Follow-Up of Previously Issued Audit Recommendations dated March 2021
 - *eChart Manitoba*
 - *Pharmacare: Special Audit of Financial Irregularities and Controls*
- Auditor General's Report – Follow-Up of Previously Issued Audit Recommendations dated April 2022
 - *eChart Manitoba*
 - *Pharmacare: Special Audit of Financial Irregularities and Controls*
- Auditor General's Report – Follow Up of Previously Issued Recommendations dated February 2024
 - *Main Street Project Investigation*

On motion of Mr. GUENTER, the Report of the Committee was received.

Hon. Min. FONTAINE, the Minister responsible for Women and Gender Equity, made a statement regarding March 8, 2025, being International Women's Day.

Ms. BYRAM commented on the statement.

Pursuant to sub-rule 28(1), Mrs. SCHOTT, Mr. EWASKO, Hon. Min. CABLE, Mr. SCHULER and MLA COMPTON made Member's statements.

Pursuant to Rule 34, the Opposition House Leader announced that the Private Member's resolution titled "Provincial Government Job-Destroying Payroll Taxes" will be considered on the next Thursday of Private Members' Business.

Hon. Min. FONTAINE moved:

WHEREAS the Standing Committee on Legislative Affairs recommends to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba that Jill Perron be reappointed as the Manitoba Ombudsman.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, pursuant to subsections 2(1), 2(1.1), and 4(1) of *The Ombudsman Act*, Jill Perron be reappointed as the Manitoba Ombudsman.

And the Question being put. It was agreed to.

The House resumed the debate on the proposed resolution of Hon. Min. FONTAINE:

WHEREAS the tariffs by U.S. President Donald Trump threaten Canada's sovereignty and economic security; and

WHEREAS Manitoba is a powerhouse of clean hydroelectricity, critical minerals, and brilliant, hardworking people who drive innovation and prosperity; and

WHEREAS Manitobans look out for each other as it is the Manitoba way; and

WHEREAS now more than ever, the people of this province need to stick together, stand up for each other, and take decisive action to fight for Manitoban jobs, industries and resources; and

WHEREAS Manitobans are stronger standing together; and

WHEREAS Manitobans love Canada; and

WHEREAS Canada will never become the 51st state.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba stands united in defense of the province, its workers, and its industries against President Donald Trump's tariff tax and threats, which threaten Canada's sovereignty and economic security.

And the debate continuing,

And Mrs. STONE, Hon. Min. KENNEDY, MLA BEREZA, Hon. Mr. KOSTYSHYN and Mr. NARTH having spoken,

And Hon. Min. ASAGWARA speaking at 5:00 p.m. The debate was allowed to remain in their name.

Mr. WASYLIW asked Written Questions (Nos. 1 to 5) for reply to the following:

1. In 2012, the Province of Manitoba sued major tobacco companies to recover the costs of providing healthcare services for tobacco-related illness. During the election campaign, the now-Provincial Government promised to build a new headquarters for CancerCare. On May 5, 2024, it was reported that the Premier told Manitobans that the tobacco lawsuit had settled, and that the money would be used to construct the new headquarters. The Premier indicated the settlement, ranging from hundreds of millions to up to half of a billion dollars, would arrive by early 2025, yet the province has still not received any money. What is the policy of the Provincial Government in relation to building the CancerCare headquarters and when will it get built?
2. While in Opposition, the NDP held up Bill 22, which overturned a ban on cosmetic pesticides, citing the health of Manitoban children were being placed at risk. On August 29, 2023, during the provincial election campaign, at the Environment and Climate Forum, the NDP pledged that they would reinstate the ban on cosmetic pesticides. What is the Provincial Government's current policy on cosmetic pesticides, and will a new ban be forthcoming?
3. The Provincial Government announced that beginning in February, the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg will move people into housing from one encampment at a time. What are the criteria for determining which encampment is prioritized to be moved, and when will the Southwood encampment in the University Heights neighbourhood of Fort Garry be scheduled to be moved?
4. During the 2023 election campaign, the Provincial Government pledged to hold gas companies accountable by giving the Public Utilities Board new powers to review, investigate and regulate retail gasoline prices in Manitoba. It was reported that the Premier cited Atlantic provinces that ban 'surge pricing' of gas during the summer and on long weekends as an example. Is this still the policy of the Provincial Government, and when will Public Utilities Board receive those new powers?
5. The Provincial Government committed to reinstating International Student health coverage during the previous election campaign. Is this still the current policy of the Provincial Government and what is the reason for the delay in reinstating this coverage?

The House then adjourned at 5:00 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. Monday, March 10, 2025.

Hon. Tom LINDSEY,
Speaker.