



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 26

SECOND SESSION, FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

PRAYER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

10:00 O'CLOCK A.M.

Mrs. STONE moved:

THAT Bill (No. 224) – The Budget Bill Public Accountability Act/Loi sur la participation du public quant à la loi budgétaire, be now read a Second Time and be referred to a Committee of this House.

And a debate arising,

And Mrs. STONE having spoken,

And MLA DELA CRUZ, Messrs. GUENTER and NESBITT and Ms. BYRAM having questioned the Member,

And the debate continuing,

And MLA LOISELLE, Messrs. GUENTER, OXENHAM and NESBITT and Hon. Min. MOYES having spoken,

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

During the debate, the Speaker interjected and requested that the words “not truthful” spoken by the Honourable Member for Midland be withdrawn and that the Member apologize.

WHEREUPON Mrs. STONE apologized and withdrew their remarks.

Mrs. STONE moved:

Resolution No. 4: Provincial Government Job-Destroying Payroll Taxes

WHEREAS Manitoba’s economy and workers are under threat with increasing costs and taxes imposed by the Provincial Government on families and businesses; and

WHEREAS the payroll tax is a tax on jobs and drives business away from Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government is responsible for the second highest job-destroying payroll tax in Canada behind only Quebec; and

WHEREAS only three other provinces have maintained a job-destroying payroll tax; and

WHEREAS Canada, the Territories and six other provinces are all free of a payroll tax; and

WHEREAS Manitoba businesses are struggling under unfair tariffs imposed by the American government and require meaningful, permanent relief; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government job-destroying payroll tax makes Manitoba less attractive for new businesses to come to Manitoba and for investors and job creators to grow the economy; and

WHEREAS under the Provincial Government the unemployment rate has soared from 4% in 2023 to over 6% now in 2025; and

WHEREAS during a recession, the Pawley NDP Provincial Government created the job-destroying NDP payroll tax in 1982; and

WHEREAS the current Provincial Government is leading Manitoba into another recession with high unemployment levels; and

WHEREAS the previous PC Provincial Government began to phase out the payroll tax in successive budgets in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, taking many small- and medium-sized businesses off these tax rolls entirely and reducing the cost of the payroll tax for thousands of other Manitoba businesses; and

WHEREAS with the ongoing threat of U.S. tariffs, the current Provincial Government has only offered a temporary, three-month deferral of the payroll tax to Manitoba businesses; and

WHEREAS Manitoba needs a competitive business environment to attract investment to Manitoba and strengthen the local economy in the face of U.S trade action.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to make the province more attractive to international investors and new businesses by completing the phasing out of the job-destroying payroll tax permanently, provide real relief for businesses struggling under American tariffs, and reversing the Provincial Government's trend of growing the tax burden on Manitobans.

And a debate arising,

And Mrs. STONE having spoken,

And Mrs. SCHOTT, Mr. PIWNIUK, MLA BEREZA and Mr. PERCHOTTE having questioned the Member,

And the debate continuing,

And MLA PANKRATZ, Mr. PIWNIUK and MLAs DEVGAN and BEREZA having spoken,

And Hon. Min. NAYLOR speaking at 12:00 p.m. The debate was allowed to remain in their name.

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

The following Bill was read a First Time and had its purposes outlined:

(No. 212) – The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la location à usage d'habitation

(Mr. WASYLIW)

Hon. Min. FONTAINE, the Minister of Families, made a statement regarding today being Manitoba Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

Ms. BYRAM commented on the statement.

Pursuant to sub-rule 28(1), Ms. LATHLIN, Mr. WHARTON, Hon. Mr. KOSTYSHYN, Ms. BYRAM and MLA DELA CRUZ made Member's statements.

The following petitions were presented and read to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba:

Ms. BYRAM – To urge the Provincial Government to support the investment and placement of a CT scanner machine in the Neepawa Health Centre in Neepawa, Manitoba.

Mr. BALCAEN – To urge the Provincial Government to support the investment and placement of a CT scanner machine in the Neepawa Health Centre in Neepawa, Manitoba.

MLA BEREZA – To urge the Provincial Government to support the investment and placement of a CT scanner machine in the Neepawa Health Centre in Neepawa, Manitoba.

Mrs. COOK – To urge the Provincial Government to support the investment and placement of a CT scanner machine in the Neepawa Health Centre in Neepawa, Manitoba.

Mr. EWASKO – To urge the Provincial Government to support the investment and placement of a CT scanner machine in the Neepawa Health Centre in Neepawa, Manitoba.

Mrs. HIEBERT – To urge the Provincial Government to support the investment and placement of a CT scanner machine in the Neepawa Health Centre in Neepawa, Manitoba.

Mr. NESBITT – To urge the Provincial Government to support the investment and placement of a CT scanner machine in the Neepawa Health Centre in Neepawa, Manitoba.

Mr. KING – To urge the Provincial Government to support the investment and placement of a CT scanner machine in the Neepawa Health Centre in Neepawa, Manitoba.

Mr. JACKSON – To urge the Provincial Government to support the investment and placement of a CT scanner machine in the Neepawa Health Centre in Neepawa, Manitoba.

Mr. PERCHOTTE – To urge the Provincial Government to support the investment and placement of a CT scanner machine in the Neepawa Health Centre in Neepawa, Manitoba.

Mr. WHARTON – To urge the Provincial Government to support the investment and placement of a CT scanner machine in the Neepawa Health Centre in Neepawa, Manitoba.

Mr. WOWCHUK – To urge the Provincial Government to support the investment and placement of a CT scanner machine in the Neepawa Health Centre in Neepawa, Manitoba.

Mrs. STONE – To urge the Provincial Government to support the investment and placement of a CT scanner machine in the Neepawa Health Centre in Neepawa, Manitoba.

Hon. Mr. WIEBE moved:

THAT Bill (No. 2) – The Provincial Court Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Cour provinciale, be now read a Second Time and be referred to a Committee of this House.

(Recommended by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor)

And a debate arising,

And Hon. Mr. WIEBE having spoken,

And Mr. BALCAEN, Mrs. HIEBERT and Ms. BYRAM having questioned the Minister,

And the debate continuing,

And Mr. BALCAEN, Mrs. HIEBERT, MLA LAMOUREUX and Ms. BYRAM having spoken,

And the Question being put. It was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly read a Second Time and referred to a Committee of this House.

Hon. Mr. WIEBE tabled:

Message from Her Honour the Administrator recommending the disposition of public revenue for Bill (No. 2).

(Sessional Paper No. 10)

During the debate, the Deputy Speaker interjected requested that the words “not be truthful” spoken by the Honourable Minister of Justice be withdrawn and that the Minister apologize.

WHEREUPON Hon. Mr. WIEBE apologized and withdrew their remarks.

Also during the debate, the Deputy Government House Leader sought and received leave for a list of names to be included in today’s Hansard following the Member’s statement of Ms. LATHLIN.

Hon. Mr. WIEBE moved:

THAT Bill (No. 5) – The Highway Traffic Amendment Act (Impaired Driving Measures)/Loi modifiant le Code de la route (mesures en cas d’infractions de conduite avec facultés affaiblies), be now read a Second Time and be referred to a Committee of this House.

And a debate arising,

And Hon. Mr. WIEBE having spoken,

And Mr. BALCAEN having questioned the Minister,

The question period was allowed to remain open.

Hon. Mr. WIEBE tabled:

Message from Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor recommending the disposition of public revenue for Bill (No. 5).

(Sessional Paper No. 11)

The House then adjourned at 5:00 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. Monday, March 17, 2025.

Hon. Tom LINDSEY,
Speaker.