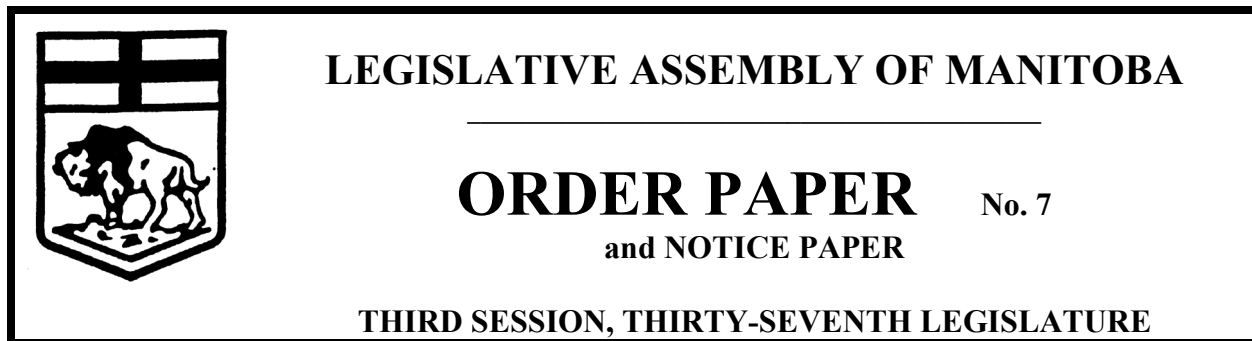


Wednesday, November 21, 2001



**PRAYERS**

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

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**PRESENTING PETITIONS**

**READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS**

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS**

**NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

Hon. Mr. DOER –

(No. 4) – The Order of Manitoba Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Ordre du Manitoba

Hon. Ms. BARRETT –

(No. 5) – The Workers Compensation Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les accidents du travail

Hon. Ms. FRIESEN –

(No. 7) – The Local Authorities Election Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'élection des autorités locales

Hon. Mr. MACKINTOSH –

(No. 8) – The Limitation of Actions Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la prescription

**ORAL QUESTIONS**

**MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**Adjourned Debate (Fifth Day of Debate):**

On the Proposed Motion of Mr. JENNISSEN –

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 Third Session of the Thirty-Seventh Legislature of Manitoba.

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

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

But this House regrets

(a) the government's inability to fulfill the promises outlined in its Throne Speech of November 13, 2001, including the following failures: not ending hallway medicine; not addressing the province-wide shortage of health care professionals; not reducing waiting lists for health care services; not providing adequate resources to Manitoba's justice system, including a commitment to maintain a minimum of 1180 police officers in the City of Winnipeg; rejecting compulsory standards testing in Grade 6, Senior 1 and Senior 4, while at the same time announcing annual reports on student achievement outcomes across subject and grade levels; not ensuring a viable future for the family farm in Manitoba; failing to adequately promote rural economic diversification; failing to secure adequate levels of income loss compensation for Manitoba farmers; and, not forging a new strategy for economic development; and

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

(c) the government's failure to bring Manitoba Hydro before the Public Utilities Board, despite the government's commitment to projects that may potentially cost the Province of Manitoba \$10 billion; and

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

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

(f) the government's failure to back up the Member for Concordia who earlier this spring made a commitment to the citizens of Manitoba that there will be “no forced amalgamation (of school divisions). It is not the Manitoba way.”; and

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

(h) the government's failure, as promised by the Member for Concordia, as promised in the Legislative Assembly on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2001 to arrange a meeting -- ‘any day, any place, any time’ -- between the Prime Minister and a delegation of farm, business and municipal leaders in order to address the challenges facing the agriculture sector; and

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

(j) the government's failure to address issues pertinent to seniors; and

(k) the government's failure to address issues pertinent to women.

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

(Hon. Ms. WOWCHUK – 31 mins.)

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#### **DEBATE ON SECOND READINGS:**

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. MACKINTOSH –

(No. 2) – The Security Management (Various Acts Amended) Act/Loi sur la gestion de la sécurité (modification de diverses dispositions législatives)

[Mrs. SMITH (Fort Garry)]

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#### **SECOND READINGS:**

Hon. Mr. ASHTON –

(No. 3) – The Highway Traffic Amendment and Summary Convictions Amendment Act/Loi modifiant le Code de la route et la Loi sur les poursuites sommaires

(Printed)

Hon. Mr. MACKINTOSH –

(No. 6) – The Fortified Buildings Act/Loi sur les bâtiments fortifiés

(Printed)

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# NOTICE PAPER

## NOTICE OF MOTION FOR THURSDAY NEXT:

Hon. Mr. DOER –

(No. 9) – The Canadian Forces Personnel (Amendments Relating to Voting Rights and Driving Privileges) Act/Loi sur le personnel des Forces canadiennes (modifications relatives au droit de vote et aux privilèges rattachés à la conduite des véhicules)

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## NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR UPCOMING PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS:

### PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. ENNS –

1. WHEREAS according to the Manitoba Agriculture Yearbook 2000, Manitoba farmers produced close to 5.35 million hogs, an increase of 12.4 per cent from 1999; and

WHEREAS according to the Manitoba Agriculture Yearbook 2000, increased hog production and prices in 2000 resulted in a \$224 million increase in the total value of hog production to \$700 million; and

WHEREAS according to the Manitoba Agriculture Yearbook 2000, Manitoba producers marketed over 2.9 million hogs for slaughter by Canadian plants in 2000, 344,000 more than in 1999; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS dual marketing is the best way to ensure the future prosperity of the hog industry and has led to such initiatives as the construction of Brandon's Maple Leaf plant; and

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

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

**Mr. MAGUIRE –**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba encourage the Minister of Conservation to consider following through in a timely fashion on his commitment to develop and implement a comprehensive long-term water strategy for Manitoba; and

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

**Mr. CUMMINGS –**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Ms. CERILLI –**

4. WHEREAS Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and the related Fetal Alcohol Effect (FAE) are entirely preventable neurological disorders caused by the consumption of alcohol during pregnancy, which delays growth and results in intellectual and behavioural disabilities. These disorders are frequently related to maternal alcohol addiction; and

WHEREAS FAS and FAE can have a devastating impact on children, families, and communities, with serious implications for the Justice system, as well as social services. One child with this affliction can cost up to \$1.5 million in special care, supervision, and support throughout its lifetime; and

WHEREAS in some high risk populations in Canada, the incidence of FAS reaches 190 births per 1,000, while the global average is 2 births per 1,000; and

WHEREAS Healthy Child Manitoba, initiated by the Provincial Government, provides numerous educational programs aimed at preventing FAS and FAE, including recent funding for the STOP FAS program to expand to the North; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has provided \$4.1 million to the Healthy Baby program, which ensures Manitoba women have good nutrition throughout their pregnancy. There has also been a 42 per cent funding increase for Healthy Child Manitoba for the year 2001; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has increased funding to Parent-Child centres across Manitoba, and is working with communities to establish other programs suitable for those communities; and

WHEREAS the STOP FAS program provides mentoring and support for a three-year period to addicted mothers, most of whom enter treatment; and

WHEREAS the Department of Health, and the Department of Family Services and Housing, as well as numerous non-profit organizations, are working to implement and address the recommendations of the Study of the Service Needs for Pregnant Addicted Women in Manitoba.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba recognize the efforts made in this area, and urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing its commitment to addressing the widespread problem of FAS, and to consider assisting individuals currently suffering from this preventable illness across Manitoba.

**Mr. AGLUGUB –**

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS family sponsorship has proven to be very successful in retaining immigrants in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS these federal criteria are putting Manitoba at a disadvantage in its ability to attract new immigrants.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to create a new category of family sponsorship for Winnipeg and other cities of similar size to reflect the lower cost of living; and

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

**Mr. DERKACH –**

6. WHEREAS the Provincial Government is in the process of establishing four aboriginal casinos and has revealed plans for even more casinos in the future; and

WHEREAS the hours of operation of video lottery terminals were expanded in August 2001, with VLT operators now permitted to turn on the machines at 9:00, rather than 11:00 am; and

WHEREAS in Canada in 1992 casinos and VLTs accounted respectively for only 1% and 9% of gross gambling profits, but by 2000 those figures had grown to 29% and 27%; and

WHEREAS a report released by the University of Manitoba found that 85% of problem gamblers use VLTs; and

WHEREAS The Addictions Foundation of Manitoba has stated that the extended VLT hours may be cause for concern with regard to the problem gamblers in the province; and

WHEREAS a report on gambling in Canada by the Canada West Foundation released in August 2001 estimated that in the mid 1990's approximately 3-5% of Canada's adult population were experiencing multiple problems with their level of gambling, and that Manitoba was ranked among the provinces with the highest percentage of problem gamblers; and

WHEREAS the report concluded that gambling has expanded at a rate that surpasses the ability of government regulators to assess its consequences; and

WHEREAS according to the Manitoba Gaming Control Commission, reliable information as to the social impact of gambling is at least 5 years away.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government, upon completion of the four new aboriginal casinos, to consider placing a moratorium on the expansion of gambling in the province for five years in order for the social impact of these new casinos and increased VLT hours to be accurately assessed.

**Mr. RONDEAU –**

7. WHEREAS the impacts of climate change and other environmental issues are being recognized around the world as well as in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS this province's natural resources are not infinite and the importance for our society to develop alternative energy sources is a irrefutable reality; and

WHEREAS this government supports practical, Manitoba-based actions that respond to environmental and energy usage issues; and

WHEREAS the recent Manitoba Climate Change Task Force explains the importance of Manitoba leading by example and participating in national and international efforts; and

WHEREAS among its key recommendations, the Task Force calls for a provincial energy policy that ensures future energy needs are met by developing renewable and alternative energy options, and maximizing the energy sector's potential as an economic development tool, especially in the areas of hydro, biofuels, geothermal, wind and hydrogen; and

WHEREAS the Premier of Manitoba and the governors of North Dakota and Minnesota agreed this October to share information on promoting the use of alternative fuels such as ethanol.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider following the vital recommendations put forward by the Manitoba Climate Change Task Force and to consider exploring alternative energy options; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing its leadership role when dealing with this issue.



**Mr. ROCAN –**

**8.** WHEREAS in recent years the Federal Government has dramatically reduced the level of support to the agricultural sector; and

WHEREAS many Canadian producers have experienced several years of diminished incomes, thereby affecting their ability to farm; and

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS the Federal Government -- by reducing or eliminating all farm income support and safety net programs -- has failed to provide western Canadian farmers with adequate financial assistance in response to this crisis in agriculture; and

WHEREAS safety nets such as the Agriculture Income Disaster and the Canadian Farm Income Program have fallen short of addressing the needs of Canadian agricultural producers; and

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

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

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

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

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

**Ms. KORZENIOWSKI –**

**9.** WHEREAS Emergency Personnel risk their lives regularly to help others in their dangerous, at times lethal, line of work; and

WHEREAS in Canada, the numerous natural disasters such as the Quebec ice storm and Manitoba's flood of 1997 have required great efforts on the part of Emergency Personnel, who aptly demonstrated their capabilities; and

WHEREAS Emergency Personnel in many areas of Manitoba are volunteers, performing dangerous tasks without financial remuneration; and

WHEREAS the events of New York have made us, as a society, more grateful and proud of our Emergency Personnel.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba commend the actions of Emergency Personnel everywhere for their commitment and sacrifice.

**Mr. AGLUGUB –**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Mrs. DACQUAY –**

**11.** WHEREAS the rate of auto thefts in Manitoba rose by 9.5% in 2000, giving the province the highest rate among all Canadian provinces and territories; and

WHEREAS the number of auto thefts in Manitoba have risen steadily since the New Democratic Party (NDP) came to power; and

WHEREAS while in Opposition the NDP was extremely critical of the former government on the issue of auto theft; and

WHEREAS during the 1999 election campaign the NDP promised to take measures to halt the increasing numbers of auto thefts in the province; and

WHEREAS one such promise was the implementation of a program whereby communities would be notified about thefts in their neighborhood; and

WHEREAS no neighborhood notification plan has been introduced to date; and

WHEREAS there were 139 auto thefts reported in Winnipeg over a period of four days near the end of October 2001.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Minister of Justice to reveal his plan for neighborhood notification and to consider taking meaningful action to curb the number of auto thefts in Manitoba.

**Mr. SCHULER –**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Mrs. SMITH (Fort Garry) –**

**13.** WHEREAS youth crime is on the rise, with Statistics Canada reporting that the rate of violent crimes committed by young people rose by 38% between 1989 and 1999, and by another 7% in 2000 alone; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS the Government of Canada passed the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* in the House of Commons on May 29, 2001 as a replacement to the *Young Offenders Act*, despite harsh criticism of the new Act from judges, victims of crime, youth workers, and provincial governments; and

WHEREAS the Government of Quebec is an avid opponent of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, claiming that the legislation would inhibit some of the positive justice initiatives that have been implemented in that province, and further indicating that it may refer the Bill to the Quebec Court of Appeal in order to challenge its constitutionality; and

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario also feels that the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* does not go far enough in dealing with youth crime, and has drafted approximately 100 proposed amendments which it submitted to the federal Justice Minister as the "No More Free Ride for Young Offenders Act"; and

WHEREAS under the Act, a person 14 years or older may still be sentenced as a youth even in cases of violent crimes such as murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, or aggravated assault, and there are no mandatory minimum sentences for weapons offences; and

WHEREAS for many offences the Act continues to allow, on an arbitrary basis, youths to be released from incarceration into community supervision after two-thirds of the sentence has been completed, without undertaking a risk assessment or taking into consideration the behaviour of the offender while incarcerated; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada, through the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, will be imposing significant financial costs onto the provinces without providing the appropriate supports.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Government of Canada to provide the provinces with the necessary financial resources to implement and enforce any changes imposed under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.

**Mr. JENNISSEN –**

**14.** WHEREAS in our modern society, access to a telephone is a necessity; and

WHEREAS cell phones are vitally important to those who live in remote areas such as in the North; and

WHEREAS currently there are many Manitobans who live hundreds of miles from areas where cell phone service is available; and

WHEREAS cell phone service is not even available for larger communities such as Snow Lake, Leaf Rapids, Lynn Lake, Pukatawagan, South Indian Lake, Cranberry Portage, Garden Hill, Shamattawa, Cross Lake, Norway House and others; and

WHEREAS this creates a serious risk for the Manitoba citizens living in those communities who have no way of accessing emergency services in a time of crisis, or automotive help should they experience car troubles; and

WHEREAS due to the previous government's short sighted decision to sell MTS, the phone inequalities across the province have been exacerbated and the North and rural Manitoba is paying the price.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to require that telecom providers extend adequate cellular telephone coverage to those remote, rural and northern communities which presently have inadequate or no cellular telephone services.

**Ms. ASPER –**

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

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

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

WHEREAS since the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, the reality of racism and its terrible effects have been seen even in our own society.

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly take a strong stand against racism and urge all Manitobans to do the same in the spirit of multiculturalism.

**Mrs. DACQUAY –**

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

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

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

WHEREAS a national survey revealed that 4% of the Canadian population 65 years of age or older living in private dwellings experienced at least one type of abuse; and

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

WHEREAS because the population of many countries is aging, it is expected that this crime will grow in incidence; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS victims of elder abuse need to be informed that this type of conduct on their person is a crime that needs to be reported and stopped; and

WHEREAS by educating community professionals on how to respond to abuse complaints, the effectiveness of available supports in the community for the abused elderly is enhanced; and

WHEREAS the provinces of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick each have an Adult Protection Program in place to provide assistance or protection intervention to vulnerable adults unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect; and

WHEREAS it is the right of Senior Citizens to be safe, secure, and free from being harmed; and

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

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

**Mr. RONDEAU –**

**17.** WHEREAS the reduction of property taxes was a key election promise by the Provincial Government; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government's \$75.00 dollar reduction last year, and the subsequent \$75.00 reduction this year for a combined \$150.00 over the last two budget years represents an average property tax reduction of 6.0% in Winnipeg and 9.4% in the rest of the province; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's Provincial-Municipal Tax Sharing program, the only such arrangement in the country, helps to curb the reliance on property taxes by municipalities by providing a share of corporate and personal income taxes to local governments; and

WHEREAS this property tax reduction affords a greater level of security to fixed income families, particularly seniors, by assisting them to remain in their homes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing its efforts to provide fair and significant property tax relief; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing to provide meaningful property tax reductions to Manitobans.

**Mr. LOEWEN –**

**18.** WHEREAS the Provincial Government has instigated only token tax relief, reducing Personal Income Tax rates in the middle bracket from 16.2% in 2001 to 14.9% in 2003; and

WHEREAS middle income taxpayers in Manitoba are the highest taxed in Canada west of Quebec; and

WHEREAS according to the Department of Finance, in the 1999-2000 fiscal year total revenue was \$6.3321 billion, an increase of \$434.6 million (or 7.4%) from the budget estimate, while in the 2000-2001 fiscal year total revenue was \$6.7548 billion, an increase of \$340.5 million (or 5.3%) from the budget estimate; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has increased user fees on a number of services – to file a petition for divorce by 13%; for driver's license fees by 15%; to register cars, trucks and motorcycles by 20%; for private vehicle inspections by 67%; and for a dealer permit by 167%; and

WHEREAS the Minister for Transportation and Government Services has attempted to justify these increases by arguing that the Government of Manitoba is only trying to be competitive with fee increases in other provinces; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has ensured that Manitoba is competitive in terms of fee increases, but not in tax reduction; and

WHEREAS the budget surplus indicates that the Provincial Government has the financial resources to live within its means, yet continues to raise user fees and provide negligible tax relief.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider living within its budgetary means, rather than increasing user fees and avoiding meaningful tax reduction.

**Mr. FAURSCHOU –**

**19.** WHEREAS the Government of Manitoba receives \$67 million in revenues each year from motive fuel taxes; and

WHEREAS the Government of Manitoba receives another \$157 million in revenues each year from gasoline taxes; and

WHEREAS while all of the 11.5 cents per litre gasoline tax is spent on the Department of Transportation and Government Services, only 6 cents per litre are dedicated to capital spending; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba Lower Tax Commission has recommended converting gasoline and motive fuel tax revenues to a type of user fee by dedicating them to spending on the transportation system; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Taxpayers Federation has recommended the dedication of fuel tax revenues to highway construction and maintenance; and

WHEREAS the Government of Manitoba receives \$60 million in revenues each year from automobile and motor carrier licences and fees; and

WHEREAS the Government of Manitoba receives \$14 million in revenues each year from driver licences; and

WHEREAS the Government of Manitoba will receive an additional \$5.7 million in revenues due to the \$10 increase in vehicle registration fees announced in April of 2001; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association has recommended dedicating the revenues from the \$10 increase directly to highways improvement; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association has also indicated that, to bring provincial highways up to an acceptable standard and begin making modest improvements, the highways capital budget should be increased to \$240 million by 2005 and maintained at that level for the next 20 years; and

WHEREAS Manitobans who contribute to the Government of Manitoba's revenue by paying licencing fees, fuel taxes and other transportation costs should receive a correlating benefit of improved roadways and infrastructure.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider implementing a dedicated fund into which revenue from all fuel taxes, licence and registration fees is deposited and used solely for the maintenance and improvement of transportation infrastructure.



**Mr. PENNER (Emerson) –**

**20.** WHEREAS in June 2001, federal, provincial and territorial agriculture ministers met in the Yukon to discuss the state of Canada's agricultural sector; and

WHEREAS arising out of this meeting was a national action plan ostensibly aimed at ensuring that Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector is well prepared for the future; and

WHEREAS the Member for Swan River was a signatory to this action plan, whose strategy for renewal in agriculture includes having farm families pursue options such as "enhancing the capacity to earn off-farm income" or "choosing non-farm income"; and

WHEREAS Manitoba farmers were hoping for something more substantive to arise from the Yukon meetings, instead of being offered an action plan whose idea of renewal is to have farmers work off the farm or to get out of the business all together; and

WHEREAS farmers need an immediate cash infusion, not more vague pledges to review safety nets; and

WHEREAS through the actions of the Federal Government and the Provincial Government, a negative message about the viability of the agriculture sector is being sent to existing farmers and those who might be considering getting into agriculture in the future; and

WHEREAS a comprehensive, national agricultural and rural development strategy would provide tremendous benefits not only to farmers and to rural communities, but also to the overall Canadian economy; and

WHEREAS a national summit is urgently needed to address both the challenges and the opportunities facing Canada's agricultural sector and the rural economy; and

WHEREAS such a summit should include participation by all the stakeholders – including producers, industry, business and community leaders and politicians – in order to examine impediments to growth in the agricultural and rural economy and to find ways to overcome them.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to ask the Federal Government to consider organizing a national summit to examine ways of developing an approach aimed at producing and sustaining growth in the agricultural sector and the rural economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba direct the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to send a copy of this resolution to the federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.

**Mrs. MITCHELSON –**

**21.** WHEREAS one woman in nine will develop breast cancer by age 85, which is the leading cause of cancer death among women aged 40 to 55; and although there is no certain way to prevent breast cancer, researchers are investigating the use of low-fat, high-fibre diets to help prevent the disease; and

WHEREAS because cardiovascular disease is the number one killer of Canadian women with statistics revealing that one in nine women over 45 has some form of heart disease and one in three women over 65 has some form of heart disease, women need to be better educated about the symptoms of heart disease because they tend not to report symptoms to their doctors; and

WHEREAS although about one in four women over age 50 will be affected by osteoporosis, it can be treated and, in most cases, prevented through proper nutrition, regular physical activity and healthy lifestyle; and

WHEREAS according to the Canadian Psychiatric Association one in four women will experience depression in their lifetime, a treatable condition that is the fourth most common cause of disability worldwide and has surpassed accidents as a cause of lost work time; and

WHEREAS the United States National Institute of Mental Health estimates that approximately five percent of adolescent and adult women suffer from an eating disorder, which are curable if they are identified early and treated by trained therapists and if treatment is supplemented by support from family, friends and support/self-help groups; and

WHEREAS midwifery has broadened the care options available to women and their families by offering specialized education and support to those who want an enhanced level of care before, during and after the birth of their child; and

WHEREAS over the past two decades a variety of provincial programs have been developed to promote family health and illness prevention including initiatives aimed at curbing Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect, enhancing prenatal and infant nutrition, and emphasizing the importance of healthy child development during the early years. These are all programs through which women have been able to benefit and obtain information and resources for their children.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider emphasizing the importance of women educating themselves about the variety of illnesses which present the greatest risk to women; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing to promote and enhance the province's longstanding child and parent health and development programs.

**Mr. NEVAKSHONOFF –**

**22.** WHEREAS the importance of clean water and proper conservation has been a priority for the Provincial Government; and

WHEREAS there are thirteen conservation districts in the province covering over fifty per cent of agro-Manitoba, all of which practice watershed based, sustainable soil and water management; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has just increased funding to conservation districts for integrated watershed management, an increase of about 20 per cent over the previous year; and

WHEREAS these funds will be used for water management, soil management, eco-tourism, wildlife habitat, riparian areas, and water quality; and

WHEREAS funding will also be used for the development of three new conservation districts comprising 12 rural municipalities, one city, one town, and two villages.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing its actions that will help manage our resources for future generations of Manitobans.

**Mr. PITURA –**

**23.** WHEREAS for agricultural producers, new generation co-operatives can provide economic benefits by creating market opportunities for their products and a chance to share in the growth and profits of their co-operative; and

WHEREAS the concept of new generation co-operatives is potentially well-suited to Manitoba by helping producers adjust to major transportation reforms while providing opportunities to add value to their products, such as the creation of co-op processing facilities that are located in close proximity to where the commodity is grown; and

WHEREAS the development of new generation co-operatives was recommended by the previous government's Working for Value Task Force; and

WHEREAS in 1998, the Provincial Government introduced changes to the Manitoba Co-operatives Act that would make it easier for co-operatives to raise capital by allowing them to issue shares with growth potential; and

WHEREAS the former Progressive Conservative government made it possible for agricultural producers to get financing for shares in new generation co-operatives through the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation (MACC); and

WHEREAS new generation co-ops could provide the potential to stimulate local employment, increase the demand for local service industries and generate other economic spinoff benefits for rural Manitoba.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to recognize the important role new generation co-operatives could play in developing opportunities for value-added processing of agricultural products in this province; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider taking steps to actively promote programs related to the creation of new generation co-operatives and to consider providing technical assistance to groups interested in establishing new generation co-operatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider examining other types of development initiatives suited to growing economic opportunities in rural Manitoba.

**Mr. REIMER –**

**24.** WHEREAS on November 23, 1994 the Member for Concordia stated: "Manitobans don't want more public relations ads from the Lotteries Corporation..."; and

WHEREAS on October 29, 1996 the Member for Thompson stated: "Not a day goes by where I have not had the opportunity to talk to people in my own community and other communities across the province where people have outlined the very specific personal costs of gambling"; and

WHEREAS the Member for Burrows on June 23, 1998 advised the citizens of Manitoba that any future government of which he participated would commit itself to, "...reducing gambling advertising..." and;

WHEREAS the Minister Responsible for the Manitoba Lotteries on June 12, 2000 advised the citizens of Manitoba that "we of course, do not advertise within the province of Manitoba"; and

WHEREAS the Government of Manitoba and the Manitoba Lotteries Corporation have spent approximately \$500,000 on an advertising campaign for the privately-run Royal Palms Restaurant and Michele's Restaurant; and

WHEREAS the Government of Manitoba and the Manitoba Lotteries Corporation, in direct contradiction of the Minister's June 12, 2000 statement, have spent millions of dollars directly advertising within the province of Manitoba in an attempt to lure more Manitobans into McPhillips Street Station and Club Regent; and

WHEREAS the Government of Manitoba and the Manitoba Lotteries Corporation have placed their "Go for the Fun of It" casino ads during family-oriented Sunday prime-time television at 15-minute intervals; and

WHEREAS "Go for the Fun of It" billboards have been placed on the east side of Winnipeg, across from Tinkertown Amusements, Fun Mountain Waterslide and the Kampgrounds of America family campground; and

WHEREAS the Minister of Finance in his 2001 Estimates of Revenue has demanded from the Minister Responsible for Lotteries additional revenue of \$20 million; and

WHEREAS \$1,385,121 was spent by the Manitoba Lotteries Corporation in the 2000 fiscal on advertising; and

WHEREAS \$1,838,000 is allocated by the Manitoba Lotteries Corporation for advertising in the 2001 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS the Government of Manitoba and the Manitoba Lotteries Corporation has revealed that casino advertising directed at Manitobans will continue indefinitely.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to reconsider its decision to spend millions of dollars actively encouraging Manitobans to attend Club Regent and McPhillips Street Station.

**Ms. ASPER –**

**25.** WHEREAS a key election commitment by the Provincial Government was to provide hope to the youth of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the former government's neglectful approach to advanced education has created the need for a reinvestment in Manitoba's educational institutions to renew the hopefulness and spirit of our province's youth; and

WHEREAS in fulfilling its election promise, the Provincial Government has come to the aid of students throughout the province by providing a comprehensive system of support including increased capital funding, tuition rebates, and bursaries, all of which serve to mark the new direction for education policy in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS over \$100 million in capital investment has been provided to Manitoba's educational institutions in the last two years in order to provide comfortable, healthy and modern learning environments for students; and

WHEREAS having recognized the need to provide financial support to hard-working students, the Provincial Government has created the Manitoba Bursary program which will provide \$6.26 million in financial resources for 2001/2002 to reduce the debt incurred by Manitoba students; and

WHEREAS in remedying the effects of the former government's decade-long series of punitive tuition fee increases, the Provincial Government provided much needed financial relief to all students throughout the 10% tuition reduction in 2000/2001 and a subsequent tuition freeze in 2001/2002; and

WHEREAS enrolment at Manitoba's colleges and universities has witnessed a pronounced increase with 1,680 new students attending the University of Manitoba, a 7.5% increase, or 487 new first-year students at the University of Winnipeg which represents a 7.8% increase; and

WHEREAS total college enrollment has risen 5.8% with gains at all colleges throughout the province.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing its strategy to increase student enrolment and make education more affordable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing to address the needs of Manitoba's youth.

**Mr. PENNER (Steinbach) –**

**26.** WHEREAS in the year 2001, prostate cancer accounts for one quarter of all cancer diagnoses among Canadian men; and

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

WHEREAS 5,800 Manitoba men currently suffer from prostate cancer; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Cancer Society predicts that there will be 780 new cases of prostate cancer diagnosed in Manitoba in the year 2001 alone; and

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

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

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

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

**Mr. TWEED –**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider creating a business and tax environment that allows our province to be competitive in the digital economy.

**Mr. PENNER (Steinbach) –**

**28.** WHEREAS many Manitoba industries and businesses are facing barriers to trade, with the province's products encountering increasing competition from jurisdictions that subsidize local production and place trade impediments on Manitoba's exports; and

WHEREAS for these barriers to be removed, Manitoba must ensure that provincial and federal regulators understand and embrace the principles of free trade; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce has called upon the Provincial Government to reaffirm its commitment to removing trade impediments; and

WHEREAS the Chamber's recommendations include for the Provincial Government to "require a report from all provincially authorized regulators as to whether or not trade impediments exist, and take steps to have such trade impediments removed" and also to "continue to study and provide informed reports regarding trade related issues that affect, or may come to affect, Manitoba's industries"; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce has further recommended the development of communication strategies that would promote a more thorough understanding of free trade principles within Canada and abroad; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider adopting the recommendations brought forth by the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce, in order to remove impediments to trade, thus safeguarding the future of Manitoba's industries.

**Mr. PITURA –**

**29.** WHEREAS since October 4, 2001, when a Florida man was diagnosed with anthrax, the bacterium has become a very serious threat; and

WHEREAS a number of Americans have subsequently been infected with anthrax, and there have been several fatalities; and

WHEREAS a false report of anthrax on Parliament Hill on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2001 began a spree of anthrax reports across Canada; and

WHEREAS there have been dozens of false anthrax reports across Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the anthrax threat to Manitoba has been deemed very low by health and law enforcement officials; and

WHEREAS to date there has not been a single confirmed case of anthrax in Canada; and

WHEREAS Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service Battalion Chief John Black has stated that attending to all of the false anthrax reports expends "a lot of resources and hundreds of man hours"; and

WHEREAS Canada Post has attributed many of the false anthrax reports to "copy-cats" and "mischief-makers"; and

WHEREAS the high number of fabricated reports in the USA have caused the Attorney General to warn that anyone making false anthrax reports will be prosecuted; and

WHEREAS changes to the Criminal Code of Canada may be required in order to adequately deal with those perpetrating anthrax hoaxes; and

WHEREAS anthrax hoaxes and other hoaxes perpetrated in relation to terrorism or the threat of terrorism exact a great financial and emotional toll on society.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to consider amending the Criminal Code of Canada to provide law enforcement with the tools necessary to take severe action against the perpetrators of anthrax hoaxes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to consider amending the Criminal Code of Canada to provide law enforcement with the tools necessary to take severe action against the perpetrators of any type of hoax related to terrorism or the threat of terrorism.

**Mr. STRUTHERS –**

**30.** WHEREAS the number of management, social and industry issues that facing farmers today, the need for a support system for rural farmers and their families and friends, is of utmost importance; and

WHEREAS the challenges faced by the vast majority of farmers in the province can negatively affect the health and well being of the family unit and the collective farming community; and



WHEREAS with the re-establishment of the Farm and Rural Stress Line in December of 2000, the Provincial Government clearly expressed its commitment to providing assistance to farmers across the province; and

WHEREAS the provincial Farm and Rural Stress line is staffed by professionally trained counselors who provide free confidential support, information and referrals; and

WHEREAS the provincial Farm and Rural Stress line is a joint co-operative service managed and maintained by Manitoba's department of Health and the department of Agriculture and Food; and

WHEREAS in addition to the aforementioned government departments, a number of agricultural, social, and health related agencies and organizations provide support and guidance to the stress line's operations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba consider promoting greater awareness of the Farm and Rural Stress Line; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing its support of the Farm and Rural Stress Line.

**Mr. PENNER (Emerson) –**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Mr. ROCAN –**

**32.** WHEREAS under Federal Government legislation, Section 52.1 of *The Competition Act* defines telemarketing as "the practice of using interactive telephone communications for the purpose of promoting, directly or indirectly, the supply or use of a product or for the purpose of promoting, directly or indirectly, any business interest"; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS the Canadian Department of Justice estimates that telemarketing fraud accounts for as much as 10% of the total volume of telemarketing; and

WHEREAS Project Phonebusters, a task force of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police battling telemarketing fraud, reports that as of June 2001 there have been 20 victims of telemarketing fraud in Manitoba who have lost \$33,852 or an average of \$1,692.60 per victim; and

WHEREAS Phonebusters reports that from 1996-2001 the total reported loss to telemarketing fraud in Canada has been \$39,784,481; and

WHEREAS Phonebusters reports that 90% of telemarketing fraud victims in Canada in 2001 have been over the age of 60, losing a total of \$300,230; and

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

WHEREAS organizations such as Phonebusters believe tougher laws in the United States have caused many fraud operators to move to Canada; and

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

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

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

**Mr. DYCK –**

**33.** WHEREAS Canadians support one another and their communities in countless ways and have contributed immensely to this nation's rich social fabric; and

WHEREAS the United Nations General Assembly designated 2001 the International Year of Volunteers in recognition of the enormous social and economic contribution of volunteers worldwide; and

WHEREAS year-round, Manitobans – by volunteering their time, energy, ideas and financial resources – make significant contributions toward improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of the neighborhoods and communities they call home; and

WHEREAS the 2000 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (NSGVP) examined the contributions Canadians make to one another through their gifts of volunteer time and money; and

WHEREAS the NSGVP 2000 survey found that 312,000 Manitobans, or 36 per cent of the population, were volunteers; and

WHEREAS the NSGVP 2000 survey found that 726,000, or 84 per cent of Manitobans, made donations to charities and non-profit organizations; and

WHEREAS in 2001, as part of the International Year of Volunteers, Manitobans have had the opportunity to celebrate the contribution made by millions of volunteers to thousands of charitable and voluntary organizations throughout the country.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba commend all those who work tirelessly in their communities to improve the quality of life of all Manitobans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba encourage the spirit of volunteerism among the people of Manitoba that assists in the growth and enhancement of Manitoba's communities.

**Mrs. STEFANSON –**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS securing access to Manitoba's national and international markets must be a priority to ensure Manitoba's economic engine continues to run; and

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

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

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

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

**Mrs. DRIEDGER –**

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

WHEREAS the nursing shortage in Manitoba has grown from 751 in 1999 to more than 1,464 in 2001 under this Provincial Government; and

WHEREAS the Honourable Member for Kildonan on August 22, 2001 told Manitobans that the nursing shortage was 1,054 when it was in fact 1,464; and

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

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

WHEREAS in 2001 1,539 Manitoba nurses are eligible to retire; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has broken its promise to hire more full-time nurses as evidenced by the fact that only 35.5% of Manitoba nurses work full-time compared to the national average of 52%, leaving Manitoba with the lowest percentage of full-time nurses per capita in Canada; and

WHEREAS on August 10, 2001, commenting on the provincial nursing shortage Manitoba Nurses Union President, Maureen Hancharyk said, "In terms of our populations, we have one of the worst vacancy rates in Canada."; and

WHEREAS on August 22, 2001 commenting on the provincial nursing shortage the Honourable Member for Kildonan stated, "It is going to get worse before it gets better. Manitobans are going to have to tough it out until more nurses can be trained."; and

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to apologize to Manitobans for misleading them during the 1999 provincial election campaign and more recently regarding the full extent of Manitoba's nursing shortage.

**Ms. ALLAN –**

**36.** WHEREAS home invasion is a horribly victimizing and serious violent criminal act; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has prioritized the effective prosecution of home invasion offences; and

WHEREAS home invasion is not recognized as a separate criminal offence under the criminal code; and

WHEREAS this does not emphasize the gravity of this serious crime; and

WHEREAS this does not allow criminal records to indicate clearly the background and risk of an offender; and

WHEREAS a separate offence would ensure that the incidence, location, victim, and offender profiles could be tracked for more effective preventative action.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to make home invasions a separate criminal offence under the Criminal Code of Canada.

**Mr. DERKACH –**

**37.** WHEREAS in a plebiscite on September 19, 2001 the people of Thompson rejected the creation of an urban reserve by a vote of 1,931 to 1,682; and

WHEREAS the establishment of an urban reserve would have allowed for the creation of a casino to be operated by Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (formerly Nelson House); and

WHEREAS in a similar vote held on April 5, 2000 to determine support for the Swan Lake casino proposal, 85 % of the residents of the rural municipality of Headingley rejected the idea of any casino in their community; and

WHEREAS two of the five original aboriginal casino proposals have now met with failure when brought to a vote; and

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

WHEREAS despite the defeat of the Provincial Government's attempt to establish an urban reserve in Thompson, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Chief Jerry Primrose remained optimistic about the future of the casino proposal, telling the September 2001 issue of *Grassroots News* that "Life goes on. They may have tripped us up but they didn't knock us out"; and

WHEREAS Liz Stephenson, spokeswoman with the Manitoba Gaming Commission, noted in a September 21, 2001 *Winnipeg Free Press* article that "The Province has indicated that it will not consider alternative locations after the fact"; and

WHEREAS the Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs has indicated that the aboriginal casino project, currently restricted to five casinos, will expand should the Provincial Government be granted a second mandate.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Minister Responsible for Gaming to clarify the status of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation casino project, in order to prevent a repeat of the fiasco of the failed casino proposal in Swan Lake.

**Hon. Mr. GERRARD –**

**38.** WHEREAS Nellie McClung made major contributions to Manitoba; and

WHEREAS Nellie McClung was a major force ensuring that women were able to vote in Manitoba.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider placing a statue on the grounds of the Legislature in order to commemorate the life and contribution of Nellie McClung to the province of Manitoba.

**Ms. ALLAN –**

**39.** WHEREAS seniors of this province provide a wealth of knowledge, skills, and experience; and

WHEREAS seniors play a vital role in the province by being such significant contributors to charitable organizations and by spending much time volunteering for diverse groups; and

WHEREAS a new program, developed as a result of a grassroots effort by the Boni-St. Vital Council for Seniors has recently been launched; and

WHEREAS this new Emergency Response Information Kit Program, or E.R.I.K., is a cooperative initiative that will help to ensure that seniors in St. Vital will have a standardized package of health related information placed in a common location so that it is available to paramedics and other health care providers; and

WHEREAS E.R.I.K. is an essential step in providing programs and services that will not only assist seniors with independent living but will provide a valuable personal health safety package to any individual with health or communications difficulties; and

WHEREAS it will certainly help paramedics and firefighters to deliver more focused service in emergency situations; and

WHEREAS the Boni-St. Vital Council for Seniors has developed a partnership with a variety of organizations including the WRHA, the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association, and the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba consider continuing to recognize and support the efforts of the growing number of seniors in our communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly congratulate the Boni-St. Vital Council for Seniors on their initiative and support of the E.R.I.K. program.

**Hon. Mr. GERRARD –**

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

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

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

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

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

**Mr. MALOWAY –**

**41.** WHEREAS in the wake of the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, there has been a renewed call for individuals to have photo identification, especially when boarding an airplane; and

WHEREAS many people do not have drivers' licenses or other photo identification; and

WHEREAS a voluntary system of photo identification could be valuable to these individuals; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government may plan to introduce identification cards that contain photo identification; and

WHEREAS if each province were to introduce its own identification cards a redundant and piecemeal system could be created whereby each province's cards could prove to be incompatible and may not be broadly accepted; and

WHEREAS such a piecemeal system would not be cost effective and would not address Canadian's need for suitable identification.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider supporting the Federal Government should it introduce plans to develop identification cards so that a voluntary photo identification card that is widely accepted may be developed in a cost effective manner.

**Mr. DEWAR –**

**42.** WHEREAS flooding in Manitoba has dire economic, emotional, and social repercussions that can last for many years; and

WHEREAS the International Joint Commission clearly recognized the need to prepare for floods greater than those of 1950 and 1997 by enhancing the flood proofing capacity of the Red River Floodway; and

WHEREAS flood protection has been a priority of the Provincial Government; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government announced this spring that there would be an investment of \$65 million in flood protection for Winnipeg and rural Manitoba; and



WHEREAS projects funded through the Canada-Manitoba Partnership Agreement on Red River Valley Flood Protection have included enhanced secondary diking in Winnipeg to protect buildings and structures to the 1997 flood level plus two feet; and

WHEREAS the province is now inviting Manitobans to provide input towards a comprehensive strategy for how best to manage the province's water resources.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing its measures to ensure that Manitoba is protected from future floods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Provincial Government to consider having a significant level of public consultation in the flood prevention process.

**Mr. MURRAY –**

**43.** WHEREAS balanced budgets provide economic stability and funding for vital programming such as education and health care rather than increased debt servicing costs; and

WHEREAS the New Democratic Party (NDP) vehemently opposed and voted against the balanced budget legislation in 1995; and

WHEREAS the NDP Members stood in the House, and one by one condemned the proposed balanced budget legislation; and

WHEREAS the Member for Concordia, then Leader of the Opposition, said of the balanced budget legislation that it was "a cynical pre-election ploy" and that "you have a silly balanced budget legislation"; and

WHEREAS the current Member for Fort Rouge said of the balanced budget legislation that "balancing a budget every year cannot be defended on any economic grounds" and that the Bill is "destined to make Manitoba the laughing stock of the financial management world"; and

WHEREAS the Member for Wolseley said of the balanced budget legislation that "it is one of the more unthinking pieces of legislation" that "its real purpose, of course, is an abdication of responsibility" and "it is a sheer sham"; and

WHEREAS the current Member for Inkster said of the balanced budget legislation that "this legislation does not correspond with any economic theory known to personkind, either historical theory or current economic theory"; and

WHEREAS the current Member for Minto said of the balanced budget legislation that it was "an election gimmick to bind themselves into an irresponsible fiscal straitjacket" that "this government is looking at a short-term balance sheet, not the long-term, good investment for Manitobans" and that the legislation was "a very mean-spirited and regressive measure"; and

WHEREAS the Member for St. Johns referred to the balanced budget legislation as "this silly Bill and this silly public relations stunt"; and

WHEREAS the current Member for Lord Roberts said of the balanced budget legislation that "with this kind of legislation, any real recovery, any real job creation strategies or job creation programs would be next to impossible"; and

WHEREAS the Member for Radisson said of the balanced budget legislation "I think it is really a political gimmick" and that "I have come to view it as one of the most dangerous pieces of legislation we have had to deal with"; and

WHEREAS the Member for Swan River said of the balanced budget legislation that "the myth that if we do not balance our budget every year, we will leave our children with a crushing debt is also an untruth" and that the legislation "will endanger the economy...will not maintain Manitoba as a wealthy place where our young people can continue to live and prosper" and that "no government needs balanced budget legislation"; and

WHEREAS the Member for Burrows said of the balanced budget legislation that "one of the most odious parts of this Bill is that it hamstring future governments" and "this government only takes a short-term view of the future of this province"; and

WHEREAS the Member for Wellington said of the balanced budget legislation that "the principle of balanced budgets, the principle of debt repayment and the principle of taxpayers' protection, they are like three enticing bottles of perfume, which give Manitobans pleasures to behold and to smell but if they swallow it, it will be deadly for them" and

WHEREAS the NDP opposed and voted against the first balanced budget in 1995; and

WHEREAS the NDP opposed and voted against the second balanced budget in 1996; and

WHEREAS the NDP opposed and voted against the third balanced budget in 1997; and

WHEREAS the NDP opposed and voted against the fourth balanced budget in 1998; and

WHEREAS during the 1999 Provincial General Election, the NDP decided that they now were supportive of balanced budget legislation; and

WHEREAS during the fall of 2001 when asked by reporters if the NDP were planning on changing balanced budget legislation the Minister of Finance indicated that he was not aware of any changes but refused to give a definitive answer.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to reconfirm its commitment to the existing balanced budget legislation that provides the people and Province of Manitoba with the long-term economic stability that our province has worked so hard to achieve; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider making the necessary financial decisions which will ensure the Provincial Budget is balanced each and every year during the course of their mandate.

**Mr. CUMMINGS –**

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS more than two years after he promised to build a new hospital in Swan River the Honourable Member for Kildonan still cannot indicate when construction on the new hospital will begin; and

WHEREAS the Brandon Regional Health Centre still has not received the magnetic resonance imaging machine promised by the Honourable Member for Concordia during the 1999 provincial election; and

WHEREAS the Honourable Member for Kildonan in his capacity as Health Minister received the Regional Health Authority Template for the Determination of Minimal Standards for Acute Care Hospitals in January and has yet to respond to it, leaving rural residents to wonder whether their hospitals will be closed or converted to personal care homes.

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

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

**Ms. KORZENIOWSKI –**

**45.** WHEREAS in times of stress and turmoil, the Canadian Forces are frequently called upon to protect our societal and humanitarian needs; and

WHEREAS our military is frequently sent to fulfill peace keeping duties abroad; and

WHEREAS we saw the invaluable services they provided in events at home like the Manitoba Flood of 1997, and the Quebec ice storms; and

WHEREAS we often do not acknowledge the sacrifices that military personnel and their families make when they are called upon in situations such as these; and

WHEREAS Manitobans are grateful for the contributions made by military personnel to our quality of life and our safety, and we are deeply indebted to the families that forego personal time for that cause; and

WHEREAS events like that of September 11 reinforce the important roles played by the Canadian Forces here and abroad, and remind us of the sacrifices made by their families.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba extend their thanks to our Canadian Forces and their families.

**Mr. NEVAKSHONOFF –**

**46.** WHEREAS safe and clean drinking water is a basic quality of life issue; and

WHEREAS protecting and enhancing the drinking water of all Manitobans has been a priority of the Provincial Government; and

WHEREAS the previous Progressive Conservative government cut the funding to water testing and passed the burden on to families who need to test the drinking water of their private or semi-public wells; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has reinstated subsidized bacterial testing of private and semi-public drinking water and waste-water systems on a yearly basis; and

WHEREAS testing is an important way to know for certain whether or not water going into people's homes is safe from harmful bacteria; and

WHEREAS the province will now cover 70% of the cost of private or semi-public water testing, and if secondary bacteriologic testing is required because of a positive finding as a result of the first test, the province will cover the entire amount; and

WHEREAS Manitobans who want their water tested can obtain special vials from different government offices located throughout the province; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has recently introduced a mandatory certification program for operators of water and waste-water facilities in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has introduced training through Red River College for current and future staff at water treatment facilities that will ensure that the people overseeing the supply and disposal of water in this province have the training they need to maintain a safe water system.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing its efforts in dealing with the issue of water testing in Manitoba; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing its efforts that ensure proper training for operators of water treatment facilities.

**Mrs. STEFANSON –**

47. WHEREAS continued support of provincial infrastructure projects is fundamental to the province's economic success; and

WHEREAS within the City of Winnipeg infrastructure development requires the cooperation of all three levels of government; and

WHEREAS the intersection at Wilkes and Kenaston has grown to become the largest unseparated crossing in Canada; and

WHEREAS the volume of traffic for this railroad crossing is twelve times the acceptable limit as set out by Transport Canada; and

WHEREAS nearly 40,000 vehicles go through the busy intersection at Kenaston and Wilkes every day with as many as 40 trains crossing Kenaston over the same time period; and

WHEREAS vehicles which have to wait for trains at this intersection burn up approximately \$1.4 million in fuel annually; and

WHEREAS vehicles waiting for trains at this busy intersection emit over 8 tons of environmental pollutants annually; and

WHEREAS representatives of the Federal Government have stated that it would support the construction of an underpass at Kenaston and Wilkes if it has the support of both the Provincial and Municipal Governments; and

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has not officially endorsed this project; and

WHEREAS the Honourable Member for Concordia has unequivocally withheld his support for this project.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider reversing its decision not to take steps to limit substantial vehicle emissions, alleviate significant traffic congestion and by supporting an initiative to construct an underpass at Kenaston and Wilkes.

**Mr. LAURENDEAU –**

48. WHEREAS in November 2000, Manitoba Public Insurance announced that it had decided to give \$20 million of its surplus to three of Manitoba's universities and another \$10 million to Driver and Vehicle Licensing; and

WHEREAS the Minister of Education, Training and Youth stated at the time that this initiative complemented MPI's "already strong role as a vital part of Manitoba communities and its social mandate as a crown corporation"; and

WHEREAS the decision to use part of the MPI surplus for the funding of traditional government operations was eventually withdrawn; and

WHEREAS questions remain as to whether using MPI money for education was even permissible according to Manitoba's legislation; and

WHEREAS it remains unclear whether or not the use of surplus funds for other government initiatives could be attempted in the future; and

WHEREAS the possibility of using these surplus funds is a concern not only in the case of MPI, but with regard to other Crown Corporations such as Manitoba Hydro and the Workers' Compensation Board; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce has called upon the Provincial Government to amend the enabling legislation of the Crown Corporations so that the potential uses of surplus funds are clearly stated.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce's request that amendments be made to the enabling legislation of the province's Crown Corporations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Provincial Government consider following the Chamber's recommendations that the legislation state that the money received by a Crown Corporation be used only for the purpose of sustaining its own goals; that the Crown Corporations were not created to generate funds for areas outside a Crown Corporation's own mandate; and that any surplus revenue generated by a Crown Corporation may be returned to the ratepayers in the form of reduced rates or a rebate.

**Mr. MALOWAY –**

**49.** 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 centers; 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 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 51% were done on line this year, and various other services such as day care and job applications, downloadable maps, 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 with 16 courses provided last year through the Manitoba Education Research, Learning Information Networks (MERLIN) project; 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 continuing its efforts to expand the range and accessibility of Internet based services, information and government on-line transactions.

**Mr. STRUTHERS –**

**50.** WHEREAS all Manitobans deserve the most affordable hydro rates possible, regardless of where they reside in the province; and

WHEREAS Manitoba Hydro is able to keep costs low due to their ability to export power in the U.S. marketplace; and

WHEREAS surplus power is available due, in part, to the Limestone Generation facility; and

WHEREAS Manitoba Hydro has equalized the cost of residential electricity prices to their residential customers on the grid effective November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001; and

WHEREAS in keeping with the government's election commitment, the "single-rate" initiative will save rural and northern Manitoba electricity consumers a combined \$14.4 million annually; and

WHEREAS the rate adjustment provides much needed support to Manitoba's northern and rural communities, including both farmers and northern residents who live in the region of the province where Manitoba Hydro generates hydro-electricity; and

WHEREAS this initiative ensures that Manitoba Hydro serves the interests of all Manitobans fairly and further demonstrates the commitment by the provincial utility to its customers; and

WHEREAS the previous government chose not to equalize hydro costs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba congratulate the Provincial Government on its actions to equalize electricity rates in Manitoba.

**Mr. FAURSCHOU –**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS facility upgrades, dredging of the harbour and earlier opening season dates have allowed for a greater volume of vessels to use the port; and

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

WHEREAS exports through the Port of Churchill reached a near-record 710,000 tonnes in 2000 with an estimated one million tonnes to be exported in 2001; and

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

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

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

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

**Mr. SCHELLENBERG –**

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



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

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

WHEREAS the previous Government reduced the Employment and Income Assistance payments to families receiving the National Child Benefit Supplement by reducing social assistance which eroded the incomes of Manitoba's poorest families; and

WHEREAS the previous Government also cut funding to schools and child care, eliminated parent-child centres, and reduced money for children's nutrition; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government, made a commitment to phase back the National Child Benefit Supplement and has consequently ended the "claw back" of increases to the National Child Benefit Supplement effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2000, to children six and under; and

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

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has increased funding for public schools, put \$14 million more into child care for more subsidized spaces, has 25 Parent-Child centres up and running across the province, and has established Lighthouse schools in our urban neighbourhoods; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has introduced the Healthy Baby benefit and nutrition program that targets working poor families; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has created employment and training programs to offer hope and opportunity for people in the inner city through Neighbourhoods Alive!; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government is creating quality affordable housing for low-income people through Neighbourhoods Alive! and the Winnipeg Housing Initiative.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing its efforts in fighting child poverty.

**Mrs. SMITH (Fort Garry) –**

**53.** WHEREAS police, fire and ambulance personnel risk their safety each and every day in order to provide Manitobans with assistance, security and rescue; and

WHEREAS emergency personnel should not have to pay a personal price for doing this imperative and honourable job on behalf of Manitobans; and

WHEREAS currently, when emergency personnel are involved in collisions or other instances which cause damage to a vehicle in the course of duty, they are regularly assessed responsibility on their personal driver's license; and

WHEREAS the effects of an accident or other vehicle damage on a driver could include a reduction in merits, the acquiring of demerits, increased driver license fees and increased insurance fees; and

WHEREAS it is not in the best interests of emergency personnel nor of Manitobans to have emergency personnel hesitate and balance the personal consequences of incurring vehicle damage with the importance and immediate necessity of performing their professional duties.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider studying the creation of a separate class of driver's license for emergency personnel in Manitoba that would limit the personal responsibility of emergency personnel when they incur vehicle damage in the course of their professional duties.

**Mr. REID –**

**54.** WHEREAS the use of hydrogen gas, created by the passing of electricity through water, is both an efficient and environmentally safe alternative energy source; and

WHEREAS hydrogen energy holds great promise in a number of applications including the powering of homes, businesses, and transportation; and

WHEREAS Manitoba, with its natural abundance of water and an efficient and affordable hydro-electric utility, is at a considerable advantage to other provinces and nations for hydrogen production; and

WHEREAS private sector research in the province is currently involved in hydrogen cell research such as Kraus Group's hydrogen refueling station model; and

WHEREAS with the depleting supply of fossil fuels and other non-renewable energy sources, hydrogen energy production is of great importance to all Manitobans and ensures a sustainable and environmentally-friendly supply of energy; and

WHEREAS the use of hydrogen energy also helps to curb our reliance on oil products which often require significant government subsidies for production and distribution; and

WHEREAS hydrogen energy use can also bolster domestic economies by reducing the need for costly oil imports, and hydrogen energy production creates new jobs in the fields of scientific research, manufacturing, industry, and commerce.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing to examine the potential for hydrogen energy production in the province.

**Mr. ENNS –**

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

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

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

WHEREAS the Government of Canada's current proposal, Bill C-5, The Species at Risk Act, poses a number of problems for Canadian agricultural producers in that if an endangered species resides on a parcel of land, it would be illegal to disrupt that habitat through farming; and

WHEREAS under Bill C-5, farmers and other landowners whose operations are disrupted by the presence of an endangered species and who have habitat protection imposed on them will receive less than 50% compensation for the loss of the land's value or production; and

WHEREAS farmers and other landowners should not be expected to bear the burden for the maintenance of endangered species and their habitat; and

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

WHEREAS Bill C-5 contains substantial fines and criminal sanctions to ensure compliance with the legislation, thereby alienating those landowners whose very co-operation is essential; and

WHEREAS heavy-handed endangered species legislation in the U.S. has resulted in litigation and conflicts between landowners and government; and

WHEREAS such conflict does not further, but rather hinders, the effort to protect endangered species and their habitat.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to consider amending Bill C-5 to allow habitat protection on private land to be implemented on a voluntary basis, with full compensation offered if landowners suffer financial loss; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider encouraging the amendment of Bill C-5 to respect fundamental democratic principles and to ensure that decisions on habitat protection be made with an awareness of its economic and social impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to consider removing from Bill C-5 any criminal sanctions, which may in fact act as a deterrent to co-operation with this type of legislation.

**Mr. GILLESHAMMER –**

**56.** WHEREAS as part of educational renewal, provincial standards testing "seeks to ensure that effective educational strategies are used consistently and appropriately across the system and that all students have the opportunity to achieve success at school. Educational renewal represents the commitment to revitalize the public education system for current and future generations of students;" and

WHEREAS the purpose of provincial testing is to determine levels of performance based on pre-established criteria for specific grade levels; and

WHEREAS participation in standards testing at the grade six and senior 1 levels continues to be optional; and

WHEREAS the State of Education Report showed that nearly 80% of Canadians feel that province-wide testing of student achievement is of value; and

WHEREAS a number of other provinces have considerably more comprehensive testing than Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government affirmed during the 1999 provincial election campaign that it would maintain standards testing in grade 6 and senior 1.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Minister of Education, Training and Youth to consider making the currently optional grade six and senior one standards tests mandatory.

**Mr. LOEWEN –**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Mr. LAURENDEAU –**

**58.** WHEREAS more than 3,700 Canadians are awaiting organ transplants for kidneys, hearts, lungs, or livers, and thousands of others are in need of replacements for tissues such as corneas, heart valves, bone grafts, and skin; and

WHEREAS in 2000, 147 Canadians died while waiting for organs that never came because suitable donors were not found in time; and

WHEREAS Canada has one of the lowest organ donation rates among industrialised nations, with fewer than 14 donors per million people in this country, as compared with more than 31 in Spain; and

WHEREAS more than 1,800 organ transplants were performed in Canadian hospitals in 2000; and

WHEREAS anyone at any age can become an organ and tissue donor; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Mrs. MITCHELSON –**

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

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

WHEREAS every capital city requires a vibrant, attractive, diverse downtown region; and

WHEREAS a fundamental component of downtown revitalization is encouraging more people to live downtown; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government needs to recognize the economic and social importance of encouraging more Manitobans to live in downtown Winnipeg seven days a week 365 a year; and

WHEREAS another important component of downtown revitalization is attracting more people to work downtown; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government needs to recognize the economic and social importance of encouraging more businesses to locate their offices in downtown to ensure that more Manitobans are working in downtown Winnipeg; and

WHEREAS the construction of an arena, sportsplex or entertainment venue contributes to downtown revitalization insomuch as it brings residents downtown for a number of evening events each year; and

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

WHEREAS there have been repeated construction delays in the development of the Red River College campus in Winnipeg's exchange district; and

WHEREAS Winnipeg's downtown region will benefit from the development of a Mountain Equipment Co-op store, a new Hampton Inn hotel, a new building to house Cambrian Credit Union headquarters and a new office building on Lombard Avenue; and

WHEREAS the above noted development and investment in downtown Winnipeg should be encouraged by the Provincial Government.

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

**Mr. HELWER –**

**60.** WHEREAS unimpeded navigation of provincial waterways is essential to certain sectors of the Manitoba economy, including supply and transportation services, the sport and commercial fisheries and tourism; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government has in recent years moved away from its previous commitment to maintenance dredging on the Red River and Lake Winnipeg; and

WHEREAS many of the channels leading into Lake Winnipeg are becoming laden with silt and other debris, thereby hindering navigation and leading to boats and barges becoming stuck attempting to enter or leave Lake Winnipeg; and

WHEREAS silt build-up is increasingly becoming a problem at the docks at Gimli and Selkirk, further interfering with navigation and affecting operations such as supply barges trying to transport products to communities along Lake Winnipeg and to northern Manitoba; and

WHEREAS on July 3, 2001 the Member for The Pas, in response to questioning in the Legislature by the Member for Gimli about the need to dredge the Red River, three times promised to pursue the issue with the Federal Government, stating, "Let me advise the member I will look into that situation and report back to him before the week is up."; and

WHEREAS it is essential that bodies of water such as the Red River and Lake Winnipeg be kept open for navigation purposes; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government should emphasize to the Federal Government the importance of maintaining the basic infrastructure on these waterways.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba strongly urge the Member for The Pas to consider following up on his commitment to pursue the dredging issue with the Federal Government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba strongly urge the Provincial Government to consider lobbying the Federal Government to examine the economic and social consequences of its decision to discontinue maintenance dredging on the Red River and Lake Winnipeg and the resulting impediments to navigation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba strongly urge the Provincial Government to consider pressuring the Federal Government to consider reinstating funding for maintenance dredging on the Red River and Lake Winnipeg.

**Mr. REID –**

**61.** WHEREAS the safety and well-being of working people are important to the Government of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS in Manitoba last year 16 workers were killed on the job and more than 18,000 others missed work due to workplace injuries; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government recently introduced a new six-point strategy to significantly reduce the numbers of workplace injuries in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS this new strategy focuses on youth injury, agricultural safety, labour standards enforcement, occupational disease, improvement of enforcement and regulations, and a review of The Workplace Safety and Health Act; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has created six new safety and health positions in order to improve compliance with Workplace Safety and Health legislation and ensure prosecution of offenders; to focus on safety in mining and smelting operations throughout the province and to develop expertise in other areas regulated by the Department of Labour and Immigration; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has added eight new safety and health officers to work with specific industrial sectors to focus on the manufacturing, construction and health care sectors, which have high lost-time injury rates; and

WHEREAS the Department of Labour and Immigration has launched a public consultation process to advance the government's six-point plan to prevent workplace injury and illness, whereby a review committee which includes business, labour and technical representatives of the Advisory Council on Workplace Safety and Health will receive input from Manitobans across the province.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba recognize the efforts being made by the Provincial Government, and encourage the Provincial Government to consider meeting its goal of a 15% reduction in workplace injury over the next 4 years.

**Ms. CERILLI –**

**62.** WHEREAS people with disabilities want to participate as fully and as inclusively as possible; and

WHEREAS adults with disabilities are often relegated to lives of poverty and isolation; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has recently released a new strategy document that calls for a more inclusive society and has announced plans to improve employment opportunities and supports for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS this paper, "Full Citizenship: A Manitoba Provincial Strategy on Disability," will be used to guide future planning between the disabilities community and our government; and

WHEREAS the paper sets out goals and plans including proposed measures to improve employment and training opportunities and recommends actions to make Manitoba government buildings more accessible; and

WHEREAS the strategy document also calls for an annual round table to ensure people with disabilities can advise the minister face-to-face regarding their priorities on any disability issues; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has also announced an improvement to the Employment and Income Assistance Program; and

WHEREAS these important changes, which will assist people with disabilities to find and keep work, were recommended by the disabilities community and community groups and reflected in the paper.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider supporting the white paper, "Full Citizenship" as a blueprint for government action.



**Mr. TWEED –**

**63.** WHEREAS the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 have made the security of North America a priority; and

WHEREAS the terrorist threat has increased security measures at the border between Canada and the United States, creating lengthy delays and impeding the easy flow of trade between the two countries; and

WHEREAS the daily value of trade between Canada and the United States amounts to \$1.4 billion, with 37,000 trucks crossing the border every day; and

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

WHEREAS foreign exports account for 30% of Manitoba's Gross Domestic Product; and

WHEREAS the United States is Manitoba's largest foreign market, accounting for almost 80% of the Province's total foreign exports; and

WHEREAS the preservation of the vital trade relationship between Canada and the United States is dependant on the maintenance of a free and open border; and

WHEREAS a continental security perimeter around North America would promote greater security, while still allowing for the continuation of a strong trading relationship between Canada and the United States; and

WHEREAS the idea of a security perimeter has been endorsed by 10 provincial and territorial premiers in a letter sent on October 15, 2001 to the Prime Minister of Canada from the Premier of British Columbia, as well as the Canadian Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS the Premier of Manitoba has already endorsed correspondence to the Prime Minister of Canada indicating that it is the right time to share information and to collaborate to address all of the aspects of the border including security, immigration, trade, movement of people and infrastructure.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to work with the United States towards the establishment of a North American security perimeter that would facilitate the normalization of trade, while still solidifying the security of both countries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider establishing a round table with business and community leaders focused on economic, border and security issues between the Province of Manitoba and neighbouring States.

**Mr. SANTOS –**

**64.** WHEREAS the future of Manitoba is directly linked to our ability to actively encourage the growth of our human resource base in all fields and disciplines; and

WHEREAS meeting the needs of our provincial workforces requires an attitude of cooperation and inclusiveness to ensure newly arrived citizens can prosper and contribute to the Manitoba economy; and

WHEREAS with over 4500 immigrants having entered Manitoba last year, our province stands to benefit greatly from the diversity of new skills and knowledge these individuals bring to their new home; and

WHEREAS recognizing the importance of those immigrants with a high level of skills and education, the government has taken important steps to ensure all new Manitobans can begin working in the province without delay; and

WHEREAS one such step is the creation of the country's first permanent medical license assistance program; a collective effort by the Health Department, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba, and the University of Manitoba, to assist international medical graduates obtain the require licenses needed to practice medicine in the province; and

WHEREAS the new program provides both assessment of international medical graduates and important training necessary for those unfamiliar with the Canadian health system to ensure all new doctors are well prepared for the provincial workforce.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing its efforts to encourage and support professional accreditation through new initiatives such as the medical license assistance program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing to explore ways to ensure foreign professionals are successful in Manitoba.

**Mr. MARTINDALE –**

**65.** WHEREAS the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas seeks to establish a free trade zone encompassing some 34 countries including Canada; and

WHEREAS the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas is an effort to unite the economies of the Western Hemisphere and to eliminate trade and investment barriers to promote greater integration of the world economies; and

WHEREAS the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas has increasingly come under public scrutiny as an instrument designed to fulfill corporate interests with little regard for environmental protection, fair labour rights, or the health and welfare of the participating countries; and

WHEREAS opponents of the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas point to the absence of labour standards as a component of the trade agreement, and its focus on public service deregulation in areas of healthcare, education, water, and energy; and

WHEREAS all parties negotiating the terms of the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas must ensure that all provisions of the agreement are fair and equitable; and

WHEREAS this approach has been witnessed as all countries, including Canada, have made clear their disapproval of any "investor-to-state" clauses in the agreement which can lead to corporate lawsuits against national governments; and

WHEREAS an effective trade agreement must address issues of social equality, human rights, cultural sensitivity and the protection of the environment, for without such measures, the advantages of greater trade among nations is lost.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider approaching the issue of the Free Trade Agreement with the interests of all Manitobans in mind; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Provincial Government make clear its position regarding the need for increased attention to issues of labour, human rights, culture, and the environment when dealing with any and all trade agreements.

**Mr. SCHULER –**

**66.** WHEREAS the events of September 11, 2001 have underscored the need to move quickly on security issues; and

WHEREAS Manitobans deserve to feel safe performing their daily activities, while living in culturally and ethnically diverse communities; and

WHEREAS new security and screening measures are necessary for ensuring the safety and security of Manitobans and all Canadians, for which the Federal Government will be primarily responsible; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government's implementation of the new Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Bill C-11) should further contribute to the security of Canada's borders; and

WHEREAS with newly created Federal Government initiatives to screen potential immigrants, the highest priority needs to be given to the removal of criminals and persons considered a security risk; and

WHEREAS necessary measures to target people and activities that pose a threat to the security and well-being of Canadians, such as the Federal Government initiatives to increase front-end security screening of refugee claimants, the creation of the permanent resident card for new immigrants, and upgrading security at Ports of Entry, are of vital importance; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government, along with all provincial governments, will also be responsible for implementing portions of the Federal Government's Immigration and Refugee Protection Act; and

WHEREAS the number of immigrants Manitoba receives annually has been gradually increasing since 1998 when Manitoba received 2,993 immigrants, to 3,702 immigrants in 1999, to 4,584 immigrants in 2000; and

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

WHEREAS over the next decade Manitoba should make it a point to be at the forefront of the enforcement of new immigration and refugee security and screening measures, as set out by the Federal Government, to ensure the safety and security of Manitobans.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider cooperating with the Federal Government wherever possible to ensure that Canada has an immigration policy that emphasizes the safety and well-being of all Canadians while maintaining a healthy level of immigration for Manitoba.

**Mr. MARTINDALE –**

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

WHEREAS many individuals, including many children, are currently living in unacceptable conditions; and

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

WHEREAS Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization dedicated to building affordable housing in partnership with people of low income and contributing to community renewal while eliminating substandard and poverty housing; and

WHEREAS the Winnipeg affiliate of Habitat for Humanity has built more than 85 homes in the inner city of Winnipeg since 1987, thereby improving neighborhoods and property values, enhancing the lives of Manitoba families, and creating a larger tax base; and

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

WHEREAS the July 2001 Ed Schreyer Work Project in Winnipeg saw the construction of 10 houses and benefited from the support of a thousand volunteers; and

WHEREAS Habitat for Humanity has also been active in Brandon and Selkirk and will soon begin constructing homes in Steinbach; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba branch of Habitat for Humanity, founded in 1987, is the largest Canadian affiliate of the organization and through its actions, has drawn national and international recognition of its innovative projects including the Millennium Project on Manitoba Avenue.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba commend Habitat for Humanity and its many volunteers for their past work in projects and for their future endeavours; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly recognize Habitat for Humanity's important contributions to the Winnipeg, Brandon, and Selkirk communities.

**Mr. PRAZNIK –**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Mr. SANTOS –**

**69.** WHEREAS a key concern of Manitoba continues to be the availability of skilled workers, and the ability of the province to effectively recruit workers from other countries; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's vast cultural diversity and vibrancy are further enriched by the recruitment of immigrants to our communities; and

WHEREAS immigrants made Manitoba their home in record numbers in 2000 with an increase of 24 per cent over the previous year; and

WHEREAS as we enter this new century, we are once again looking to immigration as an important part of our province's strategy for maintaining a competitive edge in the global markets of tomorrow; and

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

WHEREAS Manitoba has also encouraged the Federal Government to grant the same proportion of immigrants to the province as its portion of the Canadian population – 3.8 per cent or approximately 7,500 to 8,000 newcomers per year; and

WHEREAS Manitoba, the first province to implement both an immigration promotion and recruitment campaign and the Provincial Nominee Program, has been at the forefront in developing proactive and strategic means to increase provincial immigration levels.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing its work to ensure that this province receives its due percentage of immigrants to Canada each year; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly recognize and welcome immigration as not only the story of our past, but also the key to our future.

**Mr. MURRAY –**

**70.** WHEREAS in 1999 the New Democratic Party (NDP) was elected to government based on five commitments, one of which was a guarantee to the people of Manitoba to make communities safer; and

WHEREAS Statistics Canada and the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey shows that the Provincial Government has failed Manitobans and in particular the citizens of Winnipeg; and

WHEREAS in the year 2000, among major metropolitan areas, Winnipeg has the highest rate of homicides per capita; and

WHEREAS in the year 2000, among major metropolitan areas, Winnipeg has the highest rate of sexual assaults per capita; and

WHEREAS in the year 2000, among major metropolitan areas, Winnipeg has the highest rate of assault per capita; and

WHEREAS in the year 2000, among major metropolitan areas, Winnipeg has the highest rate of robbery per capita; and

WHEREAS in the year 2000, among major metropolitan areas, Winnipeg has the highest rate of total violent crime per capita; and

WHEREAS in the year 2000, among major metropolitan cities, Winnipeg has the second highest rate of break and enter per capita; and

WHEREAS in the year 2000, among major metropolitan areas, Winnipeg has the highest rate of motor vehicle thefts per capita; and

WHEREAS in the year 2000, among major metropolitan areas, Winnipeg has the second highest total criminal code rate per capita, excluding traffic.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to stand by its commitment to consider making communities safer by taking meaningful action to combat crime in the province; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider ensuring that victim rights come before the rights of criminals; that police services throughout the province have the necessary resources to prevent and investigate crime; and that Crown Attorneys are directed to prosecute criminals to the fullest extent available under the Criminal Code of Canada.

**Mrs. DRIEDGER –**

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

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

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

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has failed to keep its election promised to "put Grafton North Dakota out of business" by stemming the flow of Manitobans who travel to Grafton for diagnostic tests; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has failed to keep its election promise to provide a new hospital for the residents of Swan River; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has failed to keep Manitoba Health's commitment to build a new hospital for the residents of Emerson; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government failed to keep its promise to establish a prostate cancer screening program within their first year of government; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has not kept its promise to hire new full-time nurses to reduce the shortage of health care professionals in Manitoba as demonstrated by the increase in the shortage of nurses in Manitoba from 751 to 1,464; and

WHEREAS the Honourable Member for Kildonan has publicly admitted that he failed to keep his promise to open 138 new permanent hospital beds by April 2000; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has failed to keep its election promise to spearhead a Manitoba Aboriginal health care partnership with the Federal Government to provide close-to-home health care; and

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

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

**Mr. JENNISSEN –**

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

WHEREAS the Federal Government collects 10 cents tax on each litre of fuel plus GST; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government has the ability and obligation to make investments in roads and highways; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government has returned none of the money made on either the federal fuel tax or the GST on fuel back to Manitoba for highways from 1996 – 2001; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government has now returned \$5 million of fuel taxes in the form of the Prairie Grain Roads Program; and

WHEREAS the province of Manitoba has historically put its fuel tax revenues back into the provincial transportation infrastructure.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to put federal transportation tax revenue back into reinvesting in our highways in Manitoba and across Canada; and

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

**Mr. MAGUIRE –**

**73.** WHEREAS when it comes to agriculture and rural development in Manitoba and beyond, a clear plan and vision is required, a vision that recognizes that diversification of the rural economy leads to increased job creation, as well as increased investment and export opportunities; and

WHEREAS rural diversification has been an important factor in the development and health of Manitoba's economy and it is in the interest of all Manitobans for these trends to continue; and

WHEREAS the current Provincial Government has already taken a step backward on this important issue, not only by eliminating the Department of Rural Development, but also by altering the Community Development Bonds Act program so that the Grow Bonds Program is now open to businesses within the City of Winnipeg, thereby changing the original spirit and intent of the program, which was to foster rural development; and

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



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

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

WHEREAS the Canada West Foundation, as part of its "Building the New West Project," released *Building the New West: A Framework for Regional Economic Prosperity*, which examined issues such as western Canada's major strengths and weaknesses, identified demographic and economic trends in the West, and assessed the attitudes and preferences of western Canadians and presented a set of priorities for focused research, debate and action; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government in Manitoba seems indifferent to the fact that other provincial governments and private organizations are examining long-term strategies for economic growth and for securing the futures of provincial and national economies.

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

**Mr. HELWER –**

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

WHEREAS the Federal Auditor General reported that the balance in the Employment Insurance account increased by about \$8 billion from 2000 to 2001, standing at \$36 billion on March 31, 2001; and

WHEREAS \$36 billion is well in excess of \$15 billion, the maximum amount considered necessary by the Chief Actuary of Human Resources Development Canada; and

WHEREAS *The Employment Insurance Act* requires that in setting premiums, the Employment Insurance Commission ensure, to the extent possible, that the rate levels provide enough funding to cover program costs and that they remain relatively stable throughout a business cycle; and

WHEREAS the Federal Auditor General found that the Employment Insurance Commission did not provide an adequate justification for the size and rate of growth of the Account balance, rendering him unable to conclude that the intent of *The Employment Insurance Act* had been observed in setting the 2001 premium rates; and

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

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

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

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

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

**Mr. DYCK –**

**75.** WHEREAS agricultural tourism, or agri-tourism, can refer to the economic activity that arises from the act of visiting a working farm or any agricultural, horticultural or agribusiness operation for the purpose of enjoyment, education, or active involvement in the activities of the farm or operation; and

WHEREAS agri-tourism encompasses a variety of services and activities, including bed and breakfasts, u-pick operations, camping, farm tours, farm museums, farm vacations, sleigh or hay rides, seasonal festivals, nature walks, corn mazes, petting zoos, farm produce stands and many other operations; and

WHEREAS tourism of any kind creates income and employment opportunities in Manitoba communities; and

WHEREAS in June of 1999 the United States House of Representatives unanimously approved an amendment by Rep. Bernie Sanders, with the support of the Chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, which initiated a \$1 million national agri-tourism pilot program; and

WHEREAS in May of 2000, the United States House Agriculture Appropriations Committee doubled the funding for the national agri-tourism program to \$2 million; and

WHEREAS in Taiwan from 1982 to 2000, as a result of government encouragement, some 2,126 hectares of land were officially converted into tourist farms where visitors could pick their own fruits and vegetables; and

WHEREAS in the early 1990s, the Polish government eliminated the income tax on farm stay accommodations to boost a weakened economy, and now more than 4,000 farms accommodate paying guests; and

WHEREAS England's Farm Holiday Bureau has 1,000 members with over 8,500 beds, and nationally-funded publications advise farmers on methods of hosting foreign visitors; and

WHEREAS in Italy, *Agriturismo* provides unique, affordable accommodations on or around farmhouse villas, castles, and wineries all throughout the country; and

WHEREAS in 1997 alone, 86 farm vacation operations were identified in Manitoba with gross incomes ranging from a few hundred dollars to more than \$30,000, thereby providing a means of generating extra farm income.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider examining ways to better promote the agri-tourism sector to Manitoba agricultural producers as a means of diversifying and adding value to their operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider examining ways to better promote Manitoba's agri-tourism sector to potential visitors, as a means of generating new tourism dollars and potential new employment opportunities.

**Mr. DEWAR –**

**76.** WHEREAS aboriginal soldiers have served in the military since the Battle of the Plains of Abraham, seldom receiving recognition for their years of service; and

WHEREAS this service often resulted in the loss of Treaty and Aboriginal rights and alienation from the aboriginal community; and

WHEREAS Thomas George Prince was one such individual who voluntarily went beyond the required duties of soldiers to receive ten medals, including the Military Medal and U.S. Silver Star for his efforts in the Second World War and Korean War; and

WHEREAS Mr. Prince was the most decorated Aboriginal soldier in Canadian history; and

WHEREAS Mr. Prince went on to fulfill roles as a lobbyist, leader, and advocate for Treaty and Aboriginal rights in his life, becoming actively involved in the struggle for increased opportunities for Aboriginal peoples. He also fought for improved access to public schools and for the integrated education of Aboriginal children; and

WHEREAS sadly, like many Aboriginal soldiers, upon returning from action Sgt. Prince found many doors closed and had a difficult life; and

WHEREAS the family of Thomas George Prince raised funds from various sources to compete for his medals at an auction, that they might be placed in the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba congratulate the people of the Brokenhead First Nation, home community of Sgt. Prince, and Sgt. Prince's family on their successful acquisition of his medals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly also thank the Aboriginal groups, private residents, and corporations who contributed to the Prince Medal Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge all Manitobans to visit the upcoming museum exhibit to learn more about his important contributions to Canadian history; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Provincial Government to consider supporting the development of a Tommy Prince stamp.

**Mr. SCHELLENBERG –**

77. WHEREAS statistics indicate that 18% of seniors who qualify for the Guaranteed Income Supplement have not applied for this benefit; and

WHEREAS eligibility depends on your income level and varies with marital status; and

WHEREAS the spouse or common-law partner of a pensioner, may also be eligible to receive a monthly allowance; and

WHEREAS information and applications can easily be obtained toll free at 1-800-277-9914.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba request that the Federal Government mount a program to ensure that seniors apply for Guaranteed Income Supplement; and

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

**Mr. REIMER –**

78. WHEREAS the Manitoba Seniors Directorate defines fraud as "using deception to gain a material advantage for oneself"; and

WHEREAS fraud can take on many different forms, including home Repair and improvement fraud, phony prizewinner fraud, insurance fraud, funeral fund fraud, business fraud, investment fraud, medical-related fraud, advertising fraud, and phony bank inspector fraud; and

WHEREAS con artists are masters of lies and deception; and

WHEREAS con artists can contact individuals by knocking on their door, calling them on the telephone, dropping a brochure in the mail, or via email; and

WHEREAS the con artist often sees the elderly as "easy targets" for these types of crime; and

WHEREAS law enforcement agencies such as the Winnipeg Police Service report that not a year goes by that someone does not lose their life savings to a fast-talking swindler who convinced them to take part in something that was not what it seemed; and

WHEREAS many victims are so embarrassed that they have been cheated that they will not report theft to the police, and elderly victims may avoid telling family members for fear of being seen as financially incompetent; and

WHEREAS anti-fraud organizations such as law enforcement agencies, the Better Business Bureau, the Consumers' Bureau, and Project Phonebusters exist to aid victims of fraud; and

WHEREAS the Department of Government Services and Lands of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has published a brochure entitled, *Targeting Seniors: What You Can Do To Protect Yourself*, informing the province's senior citizens about telephone and mail fraud; and

WHEREAS in 1997 the Government of Ontario, with the help of various funding partners, implemented SeniorBusters, an extension of Phonebusters, that aims to reduce the level of fraudulent telemarketing against seniors; and

WHEREAS as an anti-fraud initiative targeted at senior citizens, the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations of the Government of Ontario annually publishes an informative *Fraud Alert Calendar*, the goal of which is to reduce the reported instances of losses due to fraud among Ontarians over the age of 60.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider examining the wide variety of anti-fraud initiatives aimed at senior citizens being used in other Canadian jurisdictions to determine which ones may possibly be beneficial to offer to Manitoba seniors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider implementing educational and informational initiatives aimed at reducing the number of senior citizens who become victims of fraud.