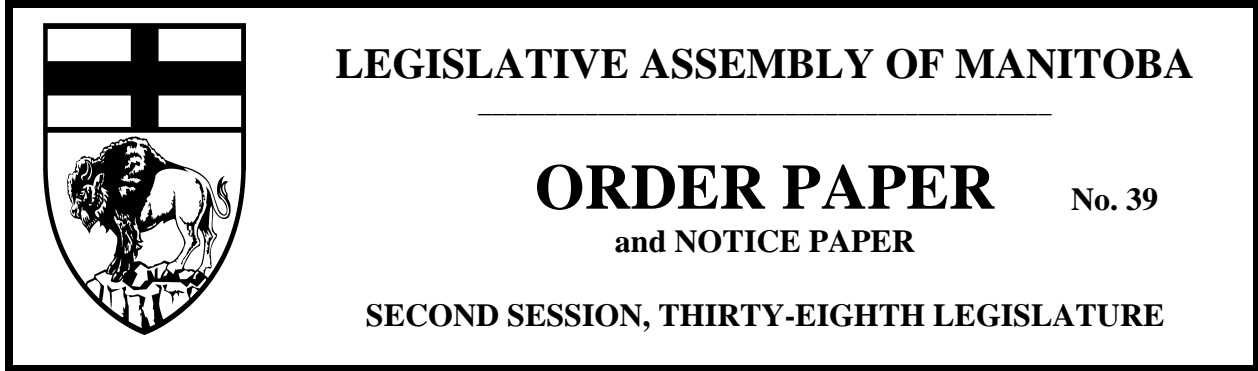


Monday, May 17, 2004



PRAYER

SITTING AT 1:30 P.M.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PETITIONS

Mr. DYCK
Mrs. STEFANSON
Mr. LAMOUREUX
Mrs. DRIEDGER
Mr. MURRAY
Mr. EICHLER
Mr. GOERTZEN
Mrs. TAILLIEU

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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Hon. Mr. MACKINTOSH –

(No. 47) – The Legal Aid Services Society of Manitoba Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Société d'aide juridique du Manitoba

Mr. LOEWEN –

(No. 205) – The Liquor Control Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la réglementation des alcools

Mr. REIMER –

(No. 213) – The Seniors' Property Tax Deferment Act/Loi sur le report des taxes foncières des aînés

ORAL QUESTIONS

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

GRIEVANCES

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

(22 hrs. 21 mins.)
(Chamber – Labour and Immigration)
(Room 255 – Water Stewardship)
(Room 254 – Intergovernmental Affairs)

DEBATE ON REPORT STAGE – AMENDMENT:

Hon. Mr. MACKINTOSH –

(No. 6) – The Cross-Border Policing Act/Loi sur les services de police interterritoriaux
(Amendment – Mr. HAWRANIK)
(Mr. GOERTZEN – 14 mins.)

DEBATE ON SECOND READINGS:

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. SELINGER –

(No. 5) – The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation Amendment Act (Claimant Advisers)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Société d'assurance publique du Manitoba (conseillers des demandeurs)
(Mr. TWEED) (Stands)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. SALE –

(No. 10) – The Gaming Control Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Commission de régie du jeu
(Mr. TWEED) (Stands)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. LEMIEUX –
(No. 12) – The Highways and Transportation Amendment and Highway Traffic Amendment Act
(Trucking Productivity Improvement Fund)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la voirie et le transport et le Code de
la route (Fonds d'amélioration de la productivité de l'industrie du transport routier)
(Mr. DYCK) (Stands)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. BJORNSON –
(No. 19) – The Public Schools Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les écoles publiques
(Mr. DYCK)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. RONDEAU –
(No. 21) – The Non-Smokers Health Protection Act (Various Acts Amended)/Loi sur la
protection de la santé des non-fumeurs (modification de diverses dispositions législatives)
(Mrs. DRIEDGER) (Stands)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. ASHTON –
(No. 22) – The Water Protection Act/Loi sur la protection des eaux
(Mr. REIMER)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. ASHTON –
(No. 23) – The Red River Floodway Act/Loi sur le canal de dérivation de la rivière Rouge
(Mr. DYCK)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. ROBINSON –
(No. 24) – The Travel Manitoba Act/Loi sur la Société Voyage Manitoba
(Mr. DYCK)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. ROBINSON –
(No. 25) – The Amusements Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les divertissements
(Mrs. TAILLIEU)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Ms. WOWCHUK –
(No. 27) – The Agricultural Societies Act/Loi sur les sociétés agricoles
(Mr. DYCK)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Ms. WOWCHUK –
(No. 28) – The Agrologists Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les agronomes
(Mrs. MITCHELSON)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. BJORNSON –
(No. 30) – The Safe Schools Charter (Various Acts Amended)/Charte de la sécurité dans les
écoles (modification de diverses dispositions législatives)
(Mr. DYCK)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. ASHTON –
(No. 31) – The Floodway Authority Act/Loi sur la Commission du canal de dérivation
(Mr. GOERTZEN – 27 mins.)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. LEMIEUX –
(No. 32) – The Provincial Railways Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les chemins de fer provinciaux

(Mr. MAGUIRE)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. SELINGER –
(No. 33) – The Public Servants Insurance Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'assurance des employés du gouvernement

(Mr. DYCK)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Ms. MCGIFFORD –
(No. 34) – The University of Winnipeg Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Université de Winnipeg

(Mr. DYCK)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. SELINGER –
(No. 35) – The Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les caisses populaires et les credit unions

(Mr. DYCK)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. LEMIEUX –
(No. 36) – The Highway Traffic Amendment Act/Loi modifiant le Code de la route

(Mr. MAGUIRE)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Ms. ALLAN –
(No. 37) – The Labour Relations Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les relations du travail

(Mr. SCHULER)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. ASHTON –
(No. 38) – The Fisheries Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la pêche

(Mr. DYCK)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. SELINGER –
(No. 39) – The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la location à usage d'habitation

(Mr. DYCK)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Ms. MIHYCHUK –
(No. 40) – The Planning Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'aménagement du territoire

(Mr. MAGUIRE)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. SMITH –
(No. 42) – The Mines and Minerals Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les mines et les minéraux

(Mr. EICHLER)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. CHOMIAK –
(No. 43) – The Personal Health Information Amendment Act (Spiritual Health)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les renseignements médicaux personnels (santé spirituelle)

(Mr. DYCK)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Ms. MCGIFFORD –
(No. 44) – The Colleges Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les collèges
(Mr. DYCK)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Ms. ALLAN
(No. 45) – The Engineering and Geoscientific Professions Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi
sur les ingénieurs et les géoscientifiques
(Mr. DYCK)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. BJORNSON –
(No. 46) – The Teachers' Pensions Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la pension de retraite
des enseignants
(Mr. DYCK)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. CHOMIAK –
(No. 48) – The Human Tissue Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les tissus humains
(Mr. DYCK)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Ms. MIHYCHUK –
(No. 49) – The Municipal Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les municipalités
(Mr. DYCK)

On the Proposed Motion of Hon. Ms. MIHYCHUK –
(No. 50) – The Municipal Assessment Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'évaluation
municipale
(Mr. DYCK)

NOTICE PAPER

NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR THURSDAY NEXT:

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. HAWRANIK –

1. WHEREAS the Legal Aid System in Manitoba is important to ensure that justice and access to legal services is available to those who cannot otherwise afford to hire a lawyer; and

WHEREAS Legal Aid needed to cut services and slash fees paid to private lawyers in January, 2003 in order to bring costs under control; and

WHEREAS the Legal Aid System in Manitoba is in crisis due to the lack of adequate funding by both the Provincial and Federal Governments, the lack of consultation with private lawyers in the Province with respect to fee schedules, the lack of controls and policies with respect to the funding of legal services for high-profile criminal cases, and the lack of adequate funding and tariffs for family law cases; and

WHEREAS a long term plan must be developed in order to ensure that the Legal Aid System in Manitoba is sustainable.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Minister of Justice to consider developing a long term plan to sustain the Legal Aid System in Manitoba.

Mr. REID –

2. WHEREAS producing and utilising hydrogen energy in Manitoba is characterised as being both clean and available without the need for energy imports; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. LOEWEN –

3. WHEREAS on January 8, 2004 the Auditor General released the Audit of the Public Accounts for the year ended March 31, 2003; and

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

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

WHEREAS the Summary Financial Statements are prepared in accordance with public sector accounting standards with notable exceptions; and

WHEREAS the Financial Statements of the Operating Fund and Special Funds are the Special Purpose statements of the Government and serve as the Government's accountability report to the Legislative Assembly on revenues raised and expenditures made; and

WHEREAS the Audit of the Public Accounts for the year ended March 31, 2003, shows that while the provincial government continues to comply with the letter of the balanced budget law, they are failing to follow the spirit of the law; and

WHEREAS the Government projects a positive balance of \$10 million for the 2003/04 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS the Auditor General, according to the province's Summary Financial Statements, projects an annual deficit of \$110 million for the 2003/04 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS the Government reported a positive balance of \$3.5 million for the 2002/03 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS the province's Summary Financial Statements reflected an annual deficit of \$184 million for the 2002/03 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS the Government reported a positive balance of \$63 million for the 2001/02 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS the province's Summary Financial Statements reflected an annual deficit of \$10 million for the 2001/02 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS the Auditor General advises that "deficits that recur over a protracted period of time are a real concern..." and that "Deficits are like a delayed tax because the money has to come from somewhere in the future."; and

WHEREAS the Auditor General advises that without a detailed summary budget the Legislative Assembly is not given the depth of financial information necessary upon which to fully debate the planned use of public funds; and

WHEREAS the Auditor General continues to encourage the Government to prepare a plan to fully adopt Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP); and

WHEREAS the governments of Canada, British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick have already made the summary budget, which is GAAP compliant, their primary budget.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider moving towards clear financial reporting and budgeting methods based upon Generally Accepted Accounting Principles as recommended by the Auditor General.

Mr. GOERTZEN –

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. MALOWAY –

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. ALTEMEYER –

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS 391 complaints concerning 342 operations have been received under the Act thus far; and

WHEREAS 51 drug, sniff or prostitution operations, involving 63 complaints, have been shut down; and

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

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

WHEREAS 13 premises concerning 14 complaints have been closed by other agencies; and

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

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

Mr. JHA –

7. WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba is poised to be a leader in the diverse and cutting edge industry of bio-science; and

WHEREAS the biotech and health sciences sectors are rapidly turning Winnipeg into a hub of knowledge-based industry; and

WHEREAS the biotechnology industry in Manitoba has grown by 40% in the last two years with Manitoba firms in this industry employing approximately 3,500 people; and

WHEREAS Winnipeg's flourishing biotech and bioscience industries led to the city recently being recognized in Canadian Business Magazine as one of the best cities in which to do business; and

WHEREAS research, innovation and technological development have the potential to benefit all Manitobans; and

WHEREAS BSE, SARS and West Nile Virus are examples of new biological threats which have impacted Manitobans; and

WHEREAS Winnipeg and Manitoba are equipped to take on a pivotal role in Canadian virology research, with a recent report entitled "Learning From SARS: Renewal of Public Health in Canada", by Dr. David Naylor, recommending an expanded role for the virology lab in Winnipeg; and

WHEREAS it is expected that the value of the functional food and nutraceutical industry will expand ten-fold in the next ten years, becoming a major segment of the agri-food industry, which is estimated to have a value of \$500 billion globally; and

WHEREAS research into experimental uses for plant oils in the development of plastics, lubricants and fuels will expand opportunities for Manitoba's agriculture industry, an industry of key importance to Manitoba's culture and economy; and

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has supported the bioscience industry in a variety of capacities, including through funding of the Richardson Research and Development Centre for Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals at the University of Manitoba, which will focus its research on crops grown in the prairie region; and

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba recently hosted the International Business of Science Symposium which highlighted advances made by Manitoba businesses including innovative medical research, zoonotic diseases, health and nutrition, biotechnology and biodefence; and

WHEREAS this industry is recognized as a key area for growth in Manitoba, with benefits that will profit multiple sectors.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Province of Manitoba to consider continuing to promote development of the bioscience and biotech industries in Manitoba; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Province of Manitoba to consider actively seeking opportunities to position Manitoba in a leading role in the national and international biotech and bioscience industries.

Mr. PENNER –

8. WHEREAS the May 20, 2003 discovery of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in a single cow in Alberta has led to chaos and devastation in Canada's livestock industry; and

WHEREAS the border closure is costing Manitoba's livestock industry \$1 million a day, and has had a negative impact on both primary producers and all those who supply and service the livestock industry, including feedlot operators, auction marts, trucking companies, machinery dealerships and farm input suppliers, among others; and

WHEREAS even though the United States and Mexico have reopened their borders to exports of certain boneless cuts of meat from beef, sheep, goats and cervids, the crisis is far from over for Manitoba's livestock producers, the vast majority of whom rely strongly on exporting live animals; and

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

WHEREAS both the Provincial and Federal Governments have been too slow to respond to the BSE crisis; and

WHEREAS it took weeks for the Provincial Government to acknowledge that the poorly subscribed federal-provincial BSE recovery program wasn't working for Manitoba's livestock producers; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government is offering a loans program that producers have roundly criticized as a measure that will only leave them deeper in debt, with one farmer stating, “I already owe enough money. The last thing I want to do is get more into debt. It’s just like digging a hole deeper for yourself.”; and

WHEREAS compounding the BSE crisis were a devastating drought and severe grasshopper infestations in some regions of Manitoba in 2003 that have tested farmers’ ability to cope and forced some rural municipalities to declare their regions to be disaster areas; and

WHEREAS so severe is the crisis that some producers have questioned their ongoing ability to pay their bills, such as their education and property taxes, with one producer stating, “If there’s no income coming in, there’s no leeway.”; and,

WHEREAS for producers, the education taxes often exceed the cost of their property taxes, yet with no income coming in, they could well be helpless to pay either.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider introducing a cash advance program to help put needed dollars into all producers’ hands to help see them through the BSE crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider overhauling the way public education system is funded in Manitoba by removing education taxes from farmland and residential property in order to make the system more fair and equitable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge elected officials at all levels to consider increasing their efforts to get live animals moving into key markets such as the United States.

Mr. CALDWELL –

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. SCHULER –

10. WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has tabled legislation in the Legislature that may result in the \$660 million expansion of the Red River Floodway by the summer of 2005.

WHEREAS the Premier of Manitoba plans to subject all work related to the project to a Project Labour Agreement (PLA).

WHEREAS labour laws state that all employees working under a collective bargaining agreement must pay union dues.

WHEREAS the proposed PLA would force non-unionized workers on the project to pay union dues.

WHEREAS approximately 95 per cent of heavy construction companies in Manitoba are currently non-unionized.

WHEREAS organizations including the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, the Merit Contractors Association of Manitoba, the Winnipeg Construction Association, the Construction Association of Rural Manitoba and the Canadian Construction Association have publicly opposed the Premier's plan to turn the floodway expansion project into a union-only worksite.

WHEREAS Manitobans deserve an open and fair competition that protects taxpayers from unnecessary costs and respects workers' democratic choice.

WHEREAS Manitobans support the right of any company, both union and non-union, to participate in the expansion of the Red River Floodway.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Premier to consider ending his government's plans to force non-unionized Red River Floodway Expansion workers to join unions and/or pay union dues.

Mr. AGLUGUB –

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

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

WHEREAS 6474 immigrants with a variety of skills and occupations entered Manitoba last year from all over the world and the majority of them are unable to use their training and education in Manitoba; and

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

WHEREAS by recognizing the high level of skills, education and training of those immigrants as important assets for Manitoba and Canada, the government needs to ensure all new Manitobans can begin working in the province without delay; and

WHEREAS one step is the creation of the country's first permanent medical licence 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 required licences to practice medicine in the province; and

WHEREAS the tasks of the medical licence assistance program are twofold: to provide assessments of international medical graduates and to train those medical doctors unfamiliar with the Canadian health system; and

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing its efforts to encourage and support the innovative professional accreditation program.

Hon. Mr. GERRARD –

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

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

Mr. JENNISSEN –

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continuing to pursue initiatives such as the E-Friendly Information and Communications Technology Strategy and the Provincial Data Network.

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

Mr. TWEED –

14. WHEREAS Alzheimer's is a debilitating disease which strikes the elderly; and

WHEREAS cholinesterase inhibitors are known to slow or even prevent the progression of Alzheimer's; and

WHEREAS the provincial government asked for the development of an Alzheimer's strategy in 2000 and was presented with nine recommendations in 2002, none of which have yet been implemented; and

WHEREAS in the absence of a provincial Alzheimer's strategy, the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority was able to put in place a policy in November 2003 whereby Alzheimer's patients entering personal care homes are being weaned from certain drugs in a move that the WRHA's VP of long-term care has called a financial necessity; and

WHEREAS the administrative costs of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority have more than tripled since 1999 to a total of more than \$16 million dollars a year; and

WHEREAS in a move that amounts to two-tier medicine, the families of Alzheimer's sufferers in personal care homes may request that the drug continue to be delivered at their expense.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Minister of Health to ensure that his attempts to balance his department's finances are not at the expense of the health and well-being of seniors and other vulnerable Manitobans suffering from this debilitating disease.

Ms. BRICK –

15. WHEREAS the government of Manitoba recognizes the importance of healthy living, as outlined in the four year healthy living strategy; and

WHEREAS Manitoba communities and Manitobans have greatly contributed to the development of a trail system in the province; and

WHEREAS the Trans Canada Trail is a non-profit, registered charity organization, whose primary purpose is to raise funds to build a recreational trail that will wind its way through every Province and Territory in Canada, linking hundreds of communities along its route; and

WHEREAS the Trans Canada Trail has had remarkable success at local levels throughout the country; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government, in conjunction with the Manitoba Recreational Trail Association has played an active role in the development of the recreational trail network, linking 58 communities along its route; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider continued support for development of trail systems in Manitoba; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba recognizes the commitment of Manitobans, especially volunteers, in creating a provincial network of trail systems that link with the national Trans Canada Trail.

Mrs. TAILLIEU –

16. WHEREAS the Provincial and Federal Governments have signalled their intention to move forward with \$660 million in improvements to the Red River Floodway as a means of improving flood protection; and

WHEREAS in a December 9, 2002 press release related to flood protection in the Rural Municipality of Ritchot, the Provincial Government said it “is committed to ensuring that any remaining issues from 1997 are addressed and that residents are compensated for any artificial flooding into the future”; and

WHEREAS many Manitobans (including the Ritchot Concerned Citizens Committee) have repeatedly expressed frustration about their inability to get information regarding the operation of the floodway, as well their inability to reach satisfactory settlements with the provincial and federal governments for losses they believe to have been caused by the operation of the floodway, such as artificial flooding; and

WHEREAS in a December 5, 2002 press release regarding flood protection actions for the Selkirk area, the Premier stated, “...part of moving the (floodway) expansion forward is to follow up on the outstanding questions voiced by residents of Selkirk and the surrounding area. We promised action to address those questions...”; and

WHEREAS Manitobans living north of the floodway (including the Coalition for Flood Protection North of the Floodway) still have outstanding questions related to flooding and future flood protection measures, including: compensation for past and future floods, the impact of proposed flood protection initiatives – such as an expanded floodway -- on individuals and communities north of Winnipeg; and, whether adequate consideration has been given to alternative flood protection initiatives that might lessen the impact on people living north of Winnipeg; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has been slow to honor its commitment to introduce “flood compensation legislation to give citizens the right to financial compensation if they experience artificial flooding due to floodway operation, including residents living north of the floodway.”; and

WHEREAS on December 5, 2002, the Premier also stated, “We must ensure through legislation and other measures that Manitobans living immediately upstream and downstream of the floodway are treated in a fair and equitable manner.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in the interests of providing Manitobans immediately upstream and downstream of the floodway with fair and equitable treatment, the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider resolving all outstanding issues related to the operation of the floodway, including compensation and the threat of artificial flooding, before it proceeds with major enhancements to the floodway.

Mr. MURRAY –

17. WHEREAS Manitoba’s livestock producers are facing a severe financial crisis as a result of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) crisis; and

WHEREAS livestock producers are forced to feed animals they are unable to sell and many are on the brink of financial bankruptcy; and

WHEREAS drought and grasshopper-related crop devastation, combined with low commodity prices in 2003, also negatively affected Manitoba producers' bottom lines; and

WHEREAS rural Manitobans and farmers have to pay education taxes on their property and farmland, taxes they may have difficulty being able to afford given the extraordinary challenges in the agricultural sector; and

WHEREAS only Manitoba and Saskatchewan rely so exclusively upon property taxes to fund education; and

WHEREAS education is a province's constitutional responsibility and provincial funding of the operation of our public schools has fallen every year under this Provincial Government's administration to the most current level of 56.7%; and

WHEREAS the elimination of the Special Levy on farmland would result in savings of approximately \$35 million for agricultural producers; and

WHEREAS the elimination of the Education Support Levy on all residential property would reduce property tax bills by approximately one-half; and

WHEREAS on February 18, 2004, the Keystone Agricultural Producers and the Association of Manitoba Municipalities issued a press release where they stated they "believe that the current system's heavy reliance on property taxes must be scrapped in favour of a more equitable method of investing in education."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider eliminating property-based school taxes and assume the entire funding of public education.

Mrs. STEFANSON –

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. DERKACH –

19. WHEREAS the enactment of Bill 18 – The Labour Relations Amendment Act -- has stifled the expansion of short-line railroads and put the future of other rural jobs and businesses in jeopardy; and

WHEREAS the Minister of Labour and Immigration indicated that succession rights would have been applicable without Bill 18; and

WHEREAS the Minister of Labour and Immigration recognized that this bill was unfair to employers; and

WHEREAS short-line rail companies warned the Provincial Government of the negative impact Bill 18 would have on their industry; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government ignored their warnings and passed the bill; and

WHEREAS a deal that would have endured continued service on the rail line between Winnipeg and Gimli operating for the next 25 years did not go forward because of Bill 18; and

WHEREAS the employee-owned company, Cando Contracting, abandoned plans to expand their operations which would have provided employment and business to the Interlake community; and

WHEREAS the future of two major Interlake employers, Gerdau MRM Steel and Diageo Canada, may be in jeopardy should the rail line no longer operate; and

WHEREAS Bill 18 has clearly stifled businesses, threatened job security, and ended short-line rail industry development in rural Manitoba.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Manitoba Legislative Assembly urge the Provincial Government to consider immediately repealing Bill 18.

Ms. IRVIN-ROSS –

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

WHEREAS the Provincial Government committed during the 2003 election campaign to increasing support for early years education; and

WHEREAS this infusion will provide 500 new nursery school spaces and will allow for the expansion of the early years literacy program, which helps grade 1 students improve their reading skills through one-on-one tutoring; and

WHEREAS new parent resource kits will be distributed, providing parents with activities geared to prepare children emotionally, socially and physically for school. The kits will be distributed to school libraries, public libraries, and parent-child centres throughout Manitoba; and

WHEREAS this investment in early education builds upon the success of Manitoba's Healthy Child initiative, which has seen the creation of 2,300 child care spaces since 2000.

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

Mr. MAGUIRE –

21. WHEREAS Manitoba is one of only two provinces that relies so heavily on property taxes in order to fund the operation of the public education system; and

WHEREAS education is a province's constitutional responsibility and under this Provincial Government's administration, provincial funding of the operation of Manitoba's public schools has fallen every year to the current level of 56.7 per cent, leaving the remaining 43.3 per cent to be derived from the taxation of property; and

WHEREAS the soaring reliance on the community-based taxation of property within school divisions and districts has led to an extreme and widening disparity in total mill rates across Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the owner of an \$85,000 home in Winnipeg currently pays approximately \$1,225 municipal taxes; and pays \$1,275 education taxes (\$1,025 Special Levy and \$250 ESL), for a total tax bill, including the \$400 Property Tax Credit, of \$2,100; and

WHEREAS eliminating all education taxes, as well as the Property Tax Credit, would result in a new tax bill of \$1,225 for a savings of 42 per cent or \$875; and

WHEREAS the owner of a \$90,000 home in Brandon currently pays approximately \$1,050 municipal taxes and they pay \$950 in education taxes (\$675 Special Levy and \$270 ESL), for a total tax bill, including the \$400 Property Tax Credit, of \$1,600; and

WHEREAS eliminating all education taxes as well as the Property Tax Credit would result in a new tax bill of \$1,050 for a savings of 34 per cent or \$550; and

WHEREAS Manitoba farmers and farm organizations have long argued that the Special Levy on farmland and production buildings puts an inequitable tax burden on farm families; and as recently as May 2, 2003, the Keystone Agricultural Producers stated that, “The special levy acts as a deterrent to young people wishing to take over the family farm or start their own farm business.”; and

WHEREAS in 2000, farmland on the average farm in Manitoba was charged \$1,536 in education taxes and \$1,645 in municipal taxes for a combined property tax bill of \$3,181, and these taxes were levied on farm property alone; and

WHEREAS by eliminating education taxes on farmland on the average farm, a producer would pay only \$1,645; and

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider changing the method by which the cost of public education in Manitoba is funded, including phasing out property-based education taxes.

Mr. FAURSCHOU –

22. WHEREAS Manitoba’s greatest natural resource is water and water is vitally important to all Manitobans; and

WHEREAS domestic, industrial, agricultural and recreation sectors require a substantial supply of quality water; and

WHEREAS most of Manitoba’s population lives and works in flood prone areas that are periodically threatened by excessive water; and

WHEREAS Manitoba has been subjected to prolonged periods of drought limiting at times the availability of water; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba Government recognises the variability of natural supplies of water in Manitoba by stating the two top limiting factors to agricultural production as excess water and drought; and

WHEREAS as our population grows, more and more Manitobans have expressed the need to address the variability in level and quality of water in Manitoba's major lakes and rivers; and

WHEREAS further development of industrial, recreational and agricultural projects such as the J.R. Simplot Potato Processing Plant in Portage la Prairie increase the demand for water; and

WHEREAS more than two years have elapsed since the Government of Manitoba's release of the discussion paper 'Water: A Proposed Strategic Plan for Manitoba'; and

WHEREAS even though the Government of Manitoba has created the Ministry of Water Stewardship, Manitobans continue to struggle with water issues from flooding to water shortages, with some Manitobans experiencing both in the same year; and

WHEREAS the issues of flood mitigation and water retention are unquestionably related.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Government of Manitoba to consider developing a long-term comprehensive water strategy that will ensure flood protection and limit the negative effects of drought while providing a sustainable supply of quality water addressing current and future demands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Government of Manitoba to consider, in a very timely fashion, implementing a long-term comprehensive water strategy – of flood protection and water retention – for Manitoba.

Mrs. MITCHELSON –

23. WHEREAS on June 16, 1997 the Member for Concordia stated: "...the Public Utilities Board is there to protect the public"; and

WHEREAS in January 2002 the Provincial Government made a commitment to Manitobans that the PUB would conduct a review of "needs and alternatives," or economic arguments for Wuskwatim; and

WHEREAS in April 2003 the Minister of Energy, Science and Technology dismissed the role of the PUB calling it no longer valid; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government's policies regarding Manitoba Hydro have resulted in the daily transfer of approximately one million dollars every day from Manitoba Hydro to the Government of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS Manitoba Hydro has applied for a residential rate increase of over 7.5 per cent by April 2005 and is forecasting the need for a rate increases of almost 30 per cent by 2014.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider ensuring that before any future hydro development is constructed the PUB shall "...ensure that all reasonable alternatives have been considered and that the preferred hydro development is economically and financially viable as an export market-driven project" as committed to by the Minister of Finance on January 29, 2002.

Mr. SANTOS –

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. LAMOUREUX –

25. WHEREAS Manitoba has an urgent need to develop a coordinated plan that will insure that our future housing stock will be of good quality in all communities.

WHEREAS the different levels of government combined currently have a number of housing programs and grants in place; and

WHEREAS the condition of our housing stock in many communities will not improve until there is some form of direct Government involvement that goes beyond what we are doing today; and

WHEREAS there are a number of communities that are facing a crisis situation with regards to homes being boarded up and or just being dilapidated; and

WHEREAS there is a huge negative impact on individual streets and on communities as a whole, where homes have been boarded up or have just been allowed to become dilapidated; and

WHEREAS a number of deteriorating homes in a small geographical areas cause many forms of neighborhood problems.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba consider supporting the need for all levels of Government to formally work together in generating a master plan on how to deal with Manitoba's housing stock; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly consider some form of public input in developing the strategy.

Mr. CUMMINGS –

26. WHEREAS MB Check-UP, an annual study by the Chartered Accountants of Manitoba, shows that the levels of corporate and personal taxation are not competitive with other provinces; and

WHEREAS the study reported that Manitoba has a relatively high personal tax burden, which can possibly discourage entrepreneurial investments and the attraction of high performers from lower taxation jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS according to MB Check-UP, the Manitoba Government needs to give people a reason to stay in the province and give others incentive to come; and

WHEREAS the Doer government has used draws on both the Fiscal Stabilization Fund and Manitoba Hydro as well as using a never-before-used clause in the balanced budget legislation to sustain its spending; and

WHEREAS according to the Manitoba Bureau of Statistics, from March 2003 to March 2004, there has been zero growth in Manitoba's labour force; and

WHEREAS Statistics Canada reported that the largest employment growth sector in Manitoba has been in the public sector, growing seven per cent since 1999; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider taking immediate action to ensure Manitoba's taxation is competitive with neighbouring jurisdictions and fosters private sector employment growth.

Mr. SCHELLENBERG –

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS post-secondary enrollment has increased by a combined average of nearly 30% since tuition levels were rolled back 10% in 2000/01.

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

Mrs. ROWAT –

28. WHEREAS the Provincial Government made a commitment to Manitobans to maintain rural hospitals; and

WHEREAS several rural communities including Erickson, Wawanesa, Rivers and Rossburn are facing the prospect of hospital closure; and

WHEREAS access to emergency services in a hospital setting is critical for rural Manitobans; and

WHEREAS the closure of a rural hospital represents a significant loss to the community members in terms their physical, mental, social and economic wellbeing; and

WHEREAS the retention and recruitment of physicians, nurses and other health care professionals in rural Manitoba remains a significant issue in terms of keeping rural hospitals open.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider working with locally elected officials, regional health authorities, health care professionals and community members to ensure emergency hospital services remain available throughout rural Manitoba.

Mrs. DRIEDGER –

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

WHEREAS, under this Provincial Government, the nursing shortage in Manitoba has more than doubled from 751 in 1999 to 1,587 in 2002; and

WHEREAS in September 2002, the Member for Kildonan tried to mislead Manitobans by not only failing to include term positions in his nursing shortage calculations, but also by factoring health-care aides into his data, to try and make the nursing shortage appear less serious than it really is; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government is slow to release the nursing shortage number 2003; and

WHEREAS on September 19, 2002, commenting on the provincial nursing shortage Manitoba Nurses Union President, Maureen Hancharyk said, "Painting a rosy picture isn't going to help anybody in terms of the nursing shortage. We know there's waiting lists, we know there's hallway medicine and we know there's bed closures."; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has broken its promise to hire more full-time nurses as evidenced by the fact that approximately one-third of Manitoba's nurses work full-time compared to the national average of 55% in 2002; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has dragged its heels in addressing the lack of full-time nursing jobs in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS on April 4, 2002, the Honourable Member for Kildonan stated, "Part of better managing is getting less people part-time and more people full-time. There's no question about that."; and

WHEREAS the RN Projection Model warns that the rural nursing shortage will worsen; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Institute of Health Information reports that Manitoba could lose more than one-quarter of its nurses or 3,000 positions by 2006; and

WHEREAS until the nursing shortage is curtailed, Manitoba's health care system will continue to face the challenges of growing waiting lists, closed hospital beds, compromised programs and the continued practice of hallway medicine.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider seeking, in a more aggressive and timely fashion, 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.

NOTICE OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

The Standing Committee on JUSTICE will meet in Room 255, Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba on Tuesday, May 18, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. to consider Bills referred.

The Standing Committee on SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT will meet in Room 254, Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba on Tuesday, May 18, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. to consider Bills referred.