



Second Session – Forty-Third Legislature

of the

Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

**Official Report
(Hansard)**

*Published under the
authority of
The Honourable Tom Lindsey
Speaker*



Vol. LXXIX No. 83B - 1:30 p.m., Thursday, November 6, 2025

ISSN 0542-5492

MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Forty-Third Legislature

Member	Constituency	Political Affiliation
ASAGWARA, Uzoma, Hon.	Union Station	NDP
BALCAEN, Wayne	Brandon West	PC
BEREZA, Jeff	Portage la Prairie	PC
BLASHKO, Tyler	Lagimodière	NDP
BRAR, Diljeet	Burrows	NDP
BUSHIE, Ian, Hon.	Keewatinook	NDP
BYRAM, Jodie	Agassiz	PC
CABLE, Renée, Hon.	Southdale	NDP
CHEN, Jennifer	Fort Richmond	NDP
COMPTON, Carla	Tuxedo	NDP
COOK, Kathleen	Roblin	PC
CORBETT, Shannon	Transcona	NDP
CROSS, Billie	Seine River	NDP
DELA CRUZ, Jelynn	Radisson	NDP
DEVGAN, JD	McPhillips	NDP
EWASKO, Wayne	Lac du Bonnet	PC
FONTAINE, Nahanni, Hon.	St. Johns	NDP
GOERTZEN, Kelvin	Steinbach	PC
GUENTER, Josh	Borderland	PC
HIEBERT, Carrie	Morden-Winkler	PC
JOHNSON, Derek	Interlake-Gimli	PC
KENNEDY, Nellie, Hon.	Assiniboia	NDP
KHAN, Obby	Fort Whyte	PC
KINEW, Wab, Hon.	Fort Rouge	NDP
KING, Trevor	Lakeside	PC
KOSTYSHYN, Ron, Hon.	Dauphin	NDP
LAGASSÉ, Bob	Dawson Trail	PC
LAMOUREUX, Cindy	Tyndall Park	Lib.
LATHLIN, Amanda	The Pas-Kameesak	NDP
LINDSEY, Tom, Hon.	Flin Flon	NDP
LOISELLE, Robert	St. Boniface	NDP
MALOWAY, Jim	Elmwood	NDP
MARCELINO, Malaya, Hon.	Notre Dame	NDP
MOROZ, Mike, Hon.	River Heights	NDP
MOSES, Jamie, Hon.	St. Vital	NDP
MOYES, Mike, Hon.	Riel	NDP
NARTH, Konrad	La Vérendrye	PC
NAYLOR, Lisa, Hon.	Wolseley	NDP
NESBITT, Greg	Riding Mountain	PC
OXENHAM, Logan	Kirkfield Park	NDP
PANKRATZ, David	Waverley	NDP
PERCHOTTE, Richard	Selkirk	PC
PIWNIUK, Doyle	Turtle Mountain	PC
REDHEAD, Eric	Thompson	NDP
ROBBINS, Colleen	Spruce Woods	PC
SALA, Adrien, Hon.	St. James	NDP
SANDHU, Mintu, Hon.	The Maples	NDP
SCHMIDT, Tracy, Hon.	Rossmere	NDP
SCHOTT, Rachelle	Kildonan-River East	NDP
SCHULER, Ron	Springfield-Ritchot	PC
SIMARD, Glen, Hon.	Brandon East	NDP
SMITH, Bernadette, Hon.	Point Douglas	NDP
STONE, Lauren	Midland	PC
WASYLIW, Mark	Fort Garry	Ind.
WHARTON, Jeff	Red River North	PC
WIEBE, Matt, Hon.	Concordia	NDP
WOWCHUK, Rick	Swan River	PC

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, November 6, 2025

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

The Speaker: Good afternoon, everyone. Please be seated.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

The Speaker: Introduction of bills? Committee Reports?

TABLING OF REPORTS

Hon. Nahanni Fontaine (Minister of Families): I'm pleased to table the following annual reports for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025: Annual Report on the Accessibility for Manitobans Act, Annual Report for Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Strategy and Annual Report for the Social Services Appeal Board.

The Speaker: Further tabling of reports? Ministerial statements?

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Remembrance Day

MLA David Pankratz (Waverley): We're getting closer to November 11 and this time of year feels different in Manitoba. The air cools down, the province starts to settle in. And the military is part of daily life here; it's families we know, people we work beside, neighbours we see on ordinary days.

At 17 Wing, crews guide aerospace operations and NORAD missions that guard our skies. Training continues every day: steady, disciplined and focused.

Out in Shilo, the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and the signals teams refine their skills with patience and precision.

Their work is constant and it's done without applause most of the time.

And here in the heart of Winnipeg, we have a naval presence too: HMCS Chippawa, sailors who train in the middle of the prairies, ready to serve on coasts and oceans far from where they grew up. And there's something quietly powerful about that.

And then there are the reservists across the 38 Canadian Brigade Group; people balancing uniforms with everyday responsibilities: teachers, construction workers, students, paramedics. They train at all hours. They report when they're needed. They carry two roles because here duty lives close to the surface.

And this is what service looks like in Manitoba. It's steady and it's grounded and it's present.

And when we remember, we remember people who walked the same streets we walk now. The Camerons at Dieppe. The rifles on Juno Beach. Aircrew trained here who crossed oceans and didn't return. Their legacy is not distant history.

So, on November 11, we pause. We stand still for a moment. We remember with humility, with gratitude.

And here in Manitoba, remembrance is rooted and lived and real. We remember who they are. And we remember who we are because of them.

Thank you to the members of 17 Wing and 38 Brigade who join us here today in the Chamber.

I ask for a moment of silence for all who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

The Speaker: Is there leave for a moment of silence? *[Agreed]*

A moment of silence was observed.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Lloyd Atchison

Mrs. Colleen Robbins (Spruce Woods): Today I rise to recognize and congratulate Lloyd Atchison, who was recently inducted into the Manitoba agriculture hall of fame, an honour that reflects a lifetime of dedication, leadership and innovation in agriculture over five decades.

Lloyd has been a respected leader in the agriculture community for decades. A proud farmer from the community of Findlay in the RM of Sifton, he has always demonstrated a strong commitment to framing excellence and environmental stewardship.

Lloyd's work with the Limousin cattle began in the '60s when he enrolled in crossbreeding experiments with Canadian Department of Agriculture. His commitment to breed improvements led to recognition as a founding member of the Manitoba Limousin Association.

His cattle received national recognition: Top indexing percentage bull at the National Bull Test in Alberta; Manitoba Performance Testing Premiere Commercial Beef Producer award in 1986.

Beyond his own farm gate, Lloyd has been deeply involved in the community: Served 35 years as a councillor on the RM of Sifton; 30 years, conservation boards; founding member of the Souris River Watershed District and later chairman. He championed sustainable and agriculture practices and water conservation initiatives that benefit the region. His farm popular stock farm, nomination of Grazer of the Year, 2004; Conservation Family of the Year, 2006.

His community involvement extends to Pipestone United Church, Pool Elevators, Manitoba Cattle Producers—now Manitoba Beef Producers—and the Findlay Community Club.

And we know that his love for his family in all these—

The Speaker: Honourable member's time is expired.

Some Honourable Members: Leave.

The Speaker: Is there leave for the member to finish her statement? *[Agreed]*

Mrs. Robbins: We know that his love for his family in all his 'accomplishments' has his biggest reward.

Lloyd's induction into the Manitoba agriculture hall of fame is a well-deserved recognition of his tireless efforts, his innovation and his passion for framing.

On behalf of the House and the constituents of Spruce Woods, I extend an heartfelt congratulations to Lloyd, his wife and his family on this outstanding achievement.

And can I ask that we all stand to congratulate Lloyd and his family in the gallery, and may I have all these names entered into Hansard?

Lloyd Ellice Atchison, Joan Irene Atchison, Trevor Lloyd Atchison, Angela Dawn Scott, Stephen Robert Scott, Ronald Glen Willson, Mavis Lee Willson.

Ian Fillingham

Hon. Mike Moroz (Minister of Innovation and New Technology): Honourable Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honour Ian Fillingham, a beloved educator, volunteer and friend whose passing on September 25 has left a profound void in our community.

Ian's life was a testament to service, creativity and kindness. Born in Chorley, England, he came to Winnipeg in 1956. After losing his father, Crescent Fort Rouge United Church became his sanctuary, and a place where he began a lifetime of service. For more than six decades, Ian sang in the choir, cared for the

sanctuary and managed the property, ensuring the church remained welcoming to all.

Professionally, Ian devoted 30 years to teaching at the Manitoba Youth Centre, Elmwood High, Tec-Voc, and Isaac Newton junior high. He championed performing arts programs and appeared on homework hotline, helping students succeed beyond the classroom.

After retiring in 2003, Ian began a second career as the overall handyman, generously lending his skills to countless families, helping build homes for Habitat for Humanity. And for five years, rain or shine, Ian walked every Friday with Mama Bear Clan.

Ian was a devoted husband to Donna for 56 years, a proud father to Alan and Kristin, and an adoring grandfather to Louis and Felix, and countless friendships spanned generations.

Honourable Speaker, Ian lived fully and gave generously to his family and his community. Please join me in extending heartfelt condolences to Donna, Alan, Kristin and the entire Fillingham family. May we honour Ian's memory by carrying forward his spirit of service and love for community.

His family joins us in the gallery today, and I ask that their names be entered into Hansard.

Alan Fillingham, Donna Fillingham, Felix Stoezel, Kristin Stoezel, Louis Stoezel.

Business Climate in Manitoba

Mr. Konrad Narth (La Vérendrye): Each and every day, I hear from Manitobans—business owners, farmers and investors—who are deeply concerned about the direction of this NDP government. They tell me about the uncertainty they feel. They tell me about the fear that exists around investing in Manitoba today.

* (13:40)

These are people who want to grow, to hire, to innovate, but instead of encouragement, they're met with red tape, indecision and a government that is more interested in photo ops than in fostering real economic opportunity.

Honourable Speaker, the business climate in this province has cooled dramatically. While other provinces are attracting new value-added agriculture projects, new mining exploration and manufacturing investment, Manitoba is being passed by. This NDP government has done nothing to instill confidence, and their so-called net zero plan has only made things worse. It's a plan that is long in slogans but short on science,

one that scares away investors without achieving a single meaningful environmental goal.

The people of La Vérendrye—hard-working farmers, entrepreneurs and families—deserve a government that believes in them, not one that punishes ambition or burdens progress.

Manitoba should be a place where investment feels welcome, where businesses can grow and communities can thrive. But that won't happen until this government stops chasing ideology and starts focusing on outcomes, on jobs, competitiveness and confidence in our economy once again.

I strive for a better Manitoba, and I ask this government to get on board.

Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Dr. Anju Bajaj

MLA Robert Loiselle (St. Boniface): Honourable Speaker, is it with immense pride that I rise today to recognize Dr. Anju Bajaj, an extraordinary Manitoban whose passion for science and education continues to inspire not only our province, but the world. Quelle fierté pour nous tous. *[What a source of pride for all of us.]*

Dr. Bajaj has recently been selected as chairperson for team Canada at the MILSET Expo-Sciences International 2025, taking place in Abu Dhabi from September 27 to October 3. This prestigious event will unite over 1,000 youth from more than 50 countries, showcasing 600 innovative STEM projects. It is truly a global celebration of creativity, collaboration and intercultural exchange—values that resonate deeply with Manitoba's spirit.

Beyond this remarkable honour, Dr. Bajaj is the founder and chair of the national accelerated Bison Regional Science Fair, a transformative initiative that has opened doors for countless youth and Manitobans. Through her leadership, students from our province have excelled at the Canada-Wide Science Fair and earned recognition on international stages. C'est incroyable. *[That's incredible.]*

What sets Dr. Bajaj apart is her unwavering commitment to mentorship and inclusion. She has built networks that empower students and teachers alike, ensuring that young innovators, regardless of background, can reach their highest potential. Her work has positioned Manitoba as a leader in STEM education, and for that, we owe her immense gratitude. Dr. Bajaj's vision reflects the very best of who we are:

innovative, collaborative and determined to create opportunities for the next generation.

On behalf of the Manitoba legislator, I extend heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Bajaj and team Canada. Merci pour votre dévouement et votre passion. *[Thank you for your dedication and passion.]* You remind us that when we invest in youth and science, we invest in a brighter future for all.

I ask all my colleagues to rise to recognize Dr. Bajaj, who is here present in the gallery.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: Prior to oral questions, there are several guests in the gallery that I'd like to introduce.

First, we have seated in the public gallery, from St. John's High School, four grade 12 students under the direction of Amy Wilkinson, and they are guests of the honourable member for St. Johns, the honourable Minister of Families (MLA Fontaine).

We welcome you here today.

Next, we have seated in the public gallery guests Jin Wang Jung *[phonetic]*, Carlos Sousa, Christopher Forfar. And they're guests of the honourable member for Radisson (MLA Dela Cruz).

And we welcome you here today.

And next I'd like to draw the attention of all honourable members to the public gallery, where we have with us today Lloyd Ellice Atchison, Joan Irene Atchison, Trevor Lloyd Atchison, Ronald Glen Willson, Mavis Lee Willson, Angela Dawn Scott and Stephen Robert Scott, who are guests of the honourable member for Spruce Woods (Mrs. Robbins).

And on behalf of all honourable members, we welcome you here today.

ORAL QUESTIONS

BITSA Legislation Tax Increase Concerns

Mrs. Lauren Stone (Midland): Honourable Speaker, this Premier is so afraid of transparency, he is ramming through sneaky tax hikes buried in his rushed budget bill.

While Manitobans are struggling to make ends meet, he is hiking income taxes, education property taxes and PST on small businesses. The sneaky tax hikes will take more than \$400 million out of the pockets of Manitobans. This is a bigger tax increase than his predecessor, Greg Selinger, did when he

increased the PST. But like his predecessor, this Premier has broken his promise to not raise taxes on Manitobans.

Is this Premier so out of touch with reality that he thinks Manitobans won't notice his sneaky tactics?

Hon. Wab Kinew (Premier): Honourable Speaker, since day one, we've been making your life more affordable. The first thing that we did when we took office was that we cut the provincial gas tax so that you save money every time you fill up, and then we made that cut permanent.

We followed that up by cutting personal income taxes, we cut corporate taxes, we cut the payroll tax. Just today, I was very happy to be with the Minister of Housing to announce that we're taking the PST off of new rental unit construction because we know that we need to build more housing to keep your life affordable.

They charged the gas tax every single day that they were in office. They didn't care about you then, they don't care about you now. On this side of the House, we want to work with you so that you can afford to live and afford to dream.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Midland, on a supplementary question.

Mrs. Stone: Honourable Speaker, \$400 million in additional taxes is not affordable for Manitobans. Clearly, this Premier hasn't read his Finance Minister's budget, because this minister is increasing income taxes by \$82 million this year.

He is removing the indexation of income taxes and the basic personal amount, which protects Manitoba workers' wages from inflation and helps low-income Manitobans keep more money in their pockets. It protects our small-business owners and entrepreneurs from financial burden.

Will this Premier admit that he is just no better than his predecessor Greg Selinger, and is increasing taxes on Manitobans?

Mr. Kinew: I come from the school of Gary Doer politics, and we all know what Gary Doer said: Don't raise the price of beer. So we haven't.

In fact, we went and made life more affordable so you can afford to buy an extra six-pack. And when the weekend comes around, with the money that you save from our cut on the gas tax—I had parents at the rink telling me: you know what, I was able to take the kids

to McDonald's on the way here with the money that we saved, which is really, really what it's all about.

On that side of the House, they charged that tax every single day that they were in office. They only care about the rich. That's why Heather Stefanson, this very sitting, was fined, because she broke the law to advance a private interest.

On this side of the House, we care about you. We've cut the gas tax, we cut personal taxes, we cut corporate taxes, we cut the payroll tax and we're going to keep giving you more relief.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Midland, on a final supplementary question.

Mrs. Stone: Honourable Speaker, 90 cents every time you fill up at the pump does not even buy someone a can of soup or a box of Kraft Dinner. That is not a long-term sustainable tax savings measure for Manitobans.

So let's just go through all the broken promises and tax increases that this NDP government is putting on Manitobans. They promised to keep the 50 per cent education property tax rebate, saving Manitobans hundreds and thousands of dollars; they broke that promise and they removed it, putting 55 per cent of Winnipeg property owners in a worse-off position.

They promised to keep indexing income taxes; they broke that promise, they've eliminated that. Now they've—they then promised to keep taxes low for businesses, and have now increased the PST by 7 per cent on cloud computing software.

Why is this Premier ignoring his own promises and ramming through sneaky tax hikes on—

* (13:50)

The Speaker: Member's time is expired.

Mr. Kinew: Honourable Speaker, why is this member ignoring her own constituents? In her own constituency, pretty much nobody pays property taxes on the provincial portion because of the changes that the best Finance Minister in Canada has brought into place.

She's here in the House complaining about the cut to the gas tax. Let's go to Morden. Let's go to Winkler. How do people feel about cutting the gas tax? Pretty sure we know the answer to that, but that's what you get with the PCs. They claim rural at election time, but they all live in the city the rest of the year. I know, because I'm their MLA for the rest of the year.

But when it comes to saving you money, we know that there's more work to do. A cut to the gas tax, a freeze to your hydro rates. We're just getting started. We're building Manitoba better.

Health-Care System Wait Times

Mrs. Kathleen Cook (Roblin): Under the NDP, health care in Manitoba is only getting worse. Diagnostic wait times are up. Surgical wait times are up. HSC has been greylisted for three months ongoing, and this failing Health Minister received a grade of D- from Manitoba nurses.

And now, ER wait times in Winnipeg are at a record high. This is not what the NDP promised Manitobans. Health care is getting worse, not better.

Why, under this Premier, are Manitobans waiting longer than ever to see a doctor?

Hon. Wab Kinew (Premier): Reality check: You want to see a doctor? Pick up your phone, use your new plastic health card, book an appointment at a clinic that's convenient to you right now. You can do that in Winnipeg. You can do that in Steinbach. You can do that in Selkirk. You can do that in Brandon. And the list goes on.

We're talking about fixing health care, which was our core election commitment. Here's what we've done so far: we've hired 3,400 new front-line health-care workers; we've reopened emergency rooms that they closed. She was a staffer to Heather Stefanson when they closed the emergency room in Carberry; we reopened it.

Of course, they don't want to acknowledge that these are all good things because, time after time, whether it's on affordability, whether it's on health care, they're offside with you, the people of Manitoba. We'll let them do them. We'll keep focusing on your priorities—reopening emergency rooms, the new Victoria ER coming in the new year.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Roblin, on a supplementary question.

Home-Care Services Wait Time for Visits

Mrs. Kathleen Cook (Roblin): The numbers don't lie. Under this NDP government, if you go to the emergency room right now, you will be waiting longer than ever before to see a doctor.

Every day, their failures in health care compound. Earlier this year, the NDP centralized home-care

scheduling services against the advice on frontline home-care staff, resulting in chaos, missed visits, cancellations, forcing this minister to go out and do a press conference apologizing for their error and promising to fix it. Yet, home-care scheduling still has not been repatriated to community offices.

I asked the minister this question on Tuesday; they didn't answer.

So I'll ask the Premier: How many Manitobans are still waiting for a visit from a home-care worker and how many months have they been waiting?

Hon. Wab Kinew (Premier): Honourable Speaker, time was, Manitoba was the envy of all of Canada when it came to home care. This wonderful program was started in this province, the keystone province. It was started by the great Ed Schreyer.

Now, what have they done during their time in office? Well, Sterling Lyon tried to cut it. Gary Filmon cut it. Heather Stefanson, Brian Pallister both cut home care.

They come in here crying wolf. They're asking for us to put out the fire while they're hiding the match behind their back.

Here's what we're doing: We've hired hundreds and hundreds of new home-care workers; we're fixing the long-standing systemic and structural issues that they caused with their cuts. And the best part about all of it: you can get a doctor appointment right now using your new plastic health card, booked on the phone at a clinic that's convenient to you.

Under them, it was health care when they wanted it; with us, health care when you want it.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Roblin, on a final supplementary question.

Long-Term Care System Management Concerns

Mrs. Kathleen Cook (Roblin): The Premier gets up and directly contradicts the word of front-line home-care workers and home-care clients who know full well that the chaos was created under this NDP government earlier this year.

Across the health-care system, the NDP record is one of not only failing to make any actual improvements, but actually making things worse. And the long-term-care sector is no different.

I'll table a letter the Premier received this week from Lions personal-care home. It says: How much

longer will your government continue to ignore the growing crisis? It's time to stop delivering speeches and start delivering on promises. I have requested meetings to discuss these concerns and have been ignored. Enough is enough. It's time to act. Unquote.

This Premier's track record is dismal, and Manitobans have had enough.

Is this, too, going to be just another broken promise under the NDP?

Hon. Wab Kinew (Premier): When we're talking about seniors and people who enter a stage in their life where they need that long-term care, for me it's about dignity, it's about compassion and it's about showing respect for the people who gave us the wonderful lives that we enjoy today.

There was such a tragic experience during the pandemic under the former PCs. We had seniors who just—without wanting to say it—went through some very, very difficult things. The reason why? Fewer nurses in the system working in personal-care homes, no beds made—in fact, a loss of personal-care-home beds during their time in office.

For us, we're building. We're building personal-care homes in Lac du Bonnet, we're 'builking'—building personal-care homes in Transcona. We're building personal-care homes in Arborg and in so many places around the province. I know the good seniors of Manitoba want to see a government that puts in work, not a backbench opposition that sits on the sidelines and heckles.

Concern for Taxes and Red Tape in BITSA Impact on Attracting Investment to Manitoba

Mr. Konrad Narth (La Vérendrye): It's now seven months later and we still haven't been given the opportunity to debate the budget bill. With no transparency, investors are left with more uncertainty.

It's no wonder we're being left in the dust by our neighbouring provinces to the west: investment dollars are leaving our province in droves. Our GDP grew by a meagre 1.1 per cent, opposed to Saskatchewan that grew 3.4 per cent. I-B-I-S now ranks us dead last out of 10 provinces. The reason: government's burdensome taxes and endless red tape. Now, with this budget bill, they're just adding more.

Why are they doubling down on what's been failing?

Hon. Jamie Moses (Minister of Business, Mining, Trade and Job Creation): Honourable Speaker, we are investing in the business community by making

sure that we create a strong and economic environment for businesses to invest here. Proof of that is the \$1-billion investment in a new gold mine in northern Manitoba. This is a strong indicator of economic success right here in Manitoba.

But we didn't stop there; we went further, Honourable Speaker. Manitobans should know, and manufacturers should know, that we are taking the PST off of manufacturing equipment. So we give manufacturers opportunity to invest right here in Manitoba and support more workers.

That's how you grow an economy, not the misguided approach of members opposite that failed during their time in government. We will take an approach that focuses on businesses, focuses on investment and focuses on workers for more good jobs right here—

The Speaker: Member's time has expired.

Mr. Narth: I'd like to thank the minister for bringing up the gold mine that this PC government brought forward. It's not just commercial and agribusiness that's going in this province. We've seen mineral exploration abandoned in this province as well: nearly 1,000 jobs in August alone.

Out of 83 jurisdictions, we've dropped from sixth to 34th desirable location for mineral exploration in just two years. That's two years of this failed NDP government. And why? Red tape and taxes hidden in an undebated, irresponsible, last-minute legislation like this budget bill.

Honourable Speaker, how many more jobs will this budget chase away?

Mr. Moses: Well, Honourable Speaker, Manitobans should know that the critical mineral sector—mining sector in Manitoba is very important to us. We shouldn't be taking lessons from the failed former PC government. Their record is that they had three gold—three mines close under their time in government. That is not a record that we want to repeat, where we saw job losses in the critical mineral sector.

The reality is, is that we're investing in the critical mineral space; \$1.2-million investment that we announced last month goes to six exploration companies to find the next set of great projects. Including this week, a \$1-million investment partnership with the Canadian Infrastructure Bank to study infrastructure projects that will enable our critical mineral sector to exceed well into the future.

* (14:00)

This is our record of working together, working in partnership and collaboration—

The Speaker: Member's time has expired.

The honourable member for La Vérendrye, on a final supplementary question.

Mr. Narth: Sixth place under us, 34th place under them for mineral exploration. This isn't a serious government. TikTok and Instagram posts are all fun and games until you blink and the economy's disappeared in front of your eyes.

Honourable Speaker, I ask the minister to get serious and get to work so that in two years, when our PC team takes back government, there's something for hard-working Manitobans and our government to make from the failures of this government.

Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Mr. Moses: Honourable Speaker, we are so serious about growing the economy. What we saw from members opposite was—not serious question from a not serious opposition, who proceeded a not serious, former, failed PC government.

What we want to do, Honourable Speaker, is grow our economy. And we're doing it step by step by working with First Nations, by working with industry to set our critical minerals space ahead.

The only thing that our business industry is concerned about is the kowtowing that members opposite are doing to Donald Trump, the greatest threat to our economy with their tariffs. By thanking Donald Trump, by thanking him for his tariffs, that is the greatest threat to our economy. And Manitobans never want to go back to that, never want to see the PC government bring that approach to growing our economy.

So, instead, we'll—

The Speaker: Member's time has expired.

BITSA Legislation

Concern for Job Losses and Tax Increases

Mr. Josh Guenter (Borderland): Honourable Speaker, under this NDP government, Manitobans are spending more and getting less. Now with this eleventh-hour budget bill, the NDP want to take even more from Manitoba paycheques.

How many more jobs and opportunities is this NDP government intending to chase away with their latest budget failure?

Hon. Adrien Sala (Minister of Finance): Honourable Speaker, for many years, Manitobans did not have a government that was focused on their needs and ensuring that they were responding to the affordability challenges that they were facing.

Finally, two years ago, Manitobans voted in a government that cares about affordability and is focused on that every single day. We started out, of course, by bringing a cut to the gas tax. We froze hydro rates. We brought in a broad middle-class tax cut and, of course, our education property tax changes that are saving Manitobans money across the province.

For years, Manitobans had a government that made life more expensive. Finally, they've got a government that's doing the work of making life more affordable, each and every day.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Borderland, on a supplementary question.

Mr. Guenter: Honourable Speaker, only an NDP government would expect Manitobans to thank them for policies that are making them poorer. This government takes—keeps taking more and doing less. Manitobans are spending more and they're getting less.

Now, with this latest budget bill, they keep coming back for more, skimming back on Manitoba paycheques. In fact, \$82 million more when it comes to personal income taxes.

The question is: How many new taxes have they snuck into their latest budget bill?

MLA Sala: Again, Honourable Speaker, I'll stand up here—we want to talk about sneaky, we could talk about what the members opposite did to ram through hydro rate increases for the first time in this province's history through legislation, ensuring that Manitobans will never know if that hydro rate increase was required.

That's their record: a record of sneakiness, ramming cost increases through, trying to work around the edges to find new and creative ways of raising costs on Manitobans. Finally, Manitobans have a government that's focused on their needs: we're focused on making life more affordable, we're focused on fixing health care, we're focused on fixing education, which they had cut.

We are moving the province ahead and we're going to keep doing that work proudly for Manitobans, each and every day.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Borderland, on a final supplementary question.

Mr. Guenter: Honourable Speaker, in this NDP economy, taxes are up, government revenues are up, grocery prices are up, violent crime is up, health care is up—record health-care wait times. The only thing that's not growing in Manitoba, in this failed NDP economy, are the bank accounts of Manitobans.

Why does this greedy government think Manitoba workers should pay for their failed economic policies?

MLA Sala: Honourable Speaker, under our government, taxes are down, park passes were free this year, hydro rates are down, payroll taxes are down. We're making life more affordable for all families by ensuring every child in this province can get access to universal school nutrition. We made birth control free.

We're making life more affordable on nearly every single front. They made life more expensive for years. They made life harder by, again, cutting health care, cutting child care, cutting education, cutting municipalities. They made the province into a much worse place and, finally, Manitobans have a government that's focused on them, focused on their needs. And, again, we will continue every single day to proudly do that work in service of Manitobans.

Change of Name Amendment Act Timeline to Complete Regulations

Ms. Jodie Byram (Agassiz): Honourable Speaker, Manitobans have a lot of questions that the Minister of Public Service Delivery has to answer to.

On Tuesday, he stated that consultations were ongoing and I quote: We intend to have a spring of 2026 proclamation. But just yesterday, he and this Premier (Mr. Kinew) said the work was done.

Can the minister tell us why the consultations were cancelled when the media called him out?

Hon. Mintu Sandhu (Minister of Public Service Delivery): I want to thank the member for the question.

Our priority is protecting the kids. I want to extend my deepest sympathies to this family for what they are going through. I think this story impacted all parents in Manitoba.

I'm pleased to share that the regulations are now in place to prevent this from happening to other families in this province. I want to assure Manitobans that we are working hard to protect children here in Manitoba.

And we are looking forward to the answer—giving answer to the next question.

Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Agassiz, on a supplementary question.

Ms. Byram: I, too, am looking for an answer. Before entering the Chamber, I checked the consolidated regulations and orders-in-council, and there is still nothing listed in change of name regulations.

So I ask the member opposite: Will the minister table these regulations today, here in the House?

Thank you.

MLA Sandhu: I want to make sure we are protecting Manitoba kids here in Manitoba and across Canada.

Honourable Speaker, the PCs had a chance to do this since 2020; they ignored the advice from Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Out here on this side of the House, we will every day protect the kids, and wherever we have to take the action—if I have to take the action tomorrow on something—I will do it to protect the kids here in Manitoba.

Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Agassiz, on a final supplementary question.

Ms. Byram: For a year and a half, this minister did nothing, but when confronted by the media, he said, another six months, and then, suspiciously and suddenly, regulations were completed the next morning.

If the minister could do it so quickly, why did he sit for a year and a half, and how many more child predators were allowed to change their name while this minister did nothing?

MLA Sandhu: As I said, they had a chance to change this law since 2020 when Alberta and Saskatchewan asked all the provinces to change to protect the kids here in Manitoba and across Canada. What did they do? They did nothing during that time, Honourable Speaker.

On this side of the House, if I have to take any action today to protect the kids, I will do it. If I have to do anything tomorrow, I will do it, and I—*[interjection]*—thank you, Honourable Speaker. And this other side of the House, they are not serious about the kids and then protection of their kids.

And on the other side of the House—*[interjection]*

The Speaker: Order.

MLA Sandhu: —other side of the House, we will take no lessons from them when it's come to protecting kids in Manitoba.

**Point Douglas Constituents
Minister's Availability to Residents**

MLA Jeff Bereza (Portage la Prairie): We know that this Minister of Housing, Homelessness and Addictions doesn't respect her own constituents.

* (14:10)

I table a letter from her own residents' association showing that not only will the minister not meet with them, she has actively blocked them from contacting her office. This is shameful. These are her constituents who are blocked by the minister's office, a public office that any Manitoban should be able to contact.

Honourable Speaker, why is this minister hiding from her own constituents?

Thank you.

Hon. Bernadette Smith (Minister of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness): I know that member likes to create divisiveness, whether it's, you know, with the feds, with the Province, with the City and now with constituents.

I have a great relationship with constituents, with Point Douglas. I have grown up in that constituency. We've, in fact, not blocked any emails. We've been in contact, they can contact our office, I have no issues with meeting with them; I've met with them several times and I'll continue to meet. My office is an open door. I go to lots of organizations in my constituency and everyone knows that I'm available to them.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Portage la Prairie, on a supplementary question.

MLA Bereza: I think the letter speaks for itself. This is common thread with the NDP. The Minister of Families (MLA Fontaine) blocked an entire Indigenous news organization for showing Manitobans who she really is, and foster parents for advocating.

This minister had to be embarrassed into attending a community meeting for her failed drug-injection site, and now—it seems as retribution for getting in the way of that program—the minister has decided the area residents have no voice and aren't worth her time.

Honourable Speaker, who are area residents supposed to come forward to if this minister, their own MLA, is block—

The Speaker: Member's time is expired.

Ms. Smith: You know what, I am so proud of this side of the bench because every single one of our members has an open door to every single Manitoban here in

our province. And everywhere I go, that's what every single person says. They are so thankful to every member on this side.

What I will say to that member on that side is when I go to Portage la Prairie and I meet with constituents in his constituency, they're so happy to see a member from any party come and visit, to hear them out, to meet with them. I don't know where that member is; I know that member likes to send other people on his behalf, but I'm more than happy to come and meet with people in his constituency.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh.

The Speaker: Order.

The honourable member for Portage la Prairie, on a final supplementary question.

MLA Bereza: As this letter says, after months of concern, that the community correspondence has been ignored. Residents have come to this Chamber before; this minister would not meet with them.

Residents shouldn't need media cameras watching to have their MLA listen. It's undemocratic, but not surprising with this failed minister. They are worried about consolidation of services in their neighbourhood, they're scared of a lot of things.

Why do they have to be scared of this minister as well?

Ms. Smith: You know what Manitobans are scared of? Manitobans are scared of the PCs blocking Bill 48. Manitobans have spoken. They are concerned for—*[interjection]*

The Speaker: Order.

Ms. Smith: —folks that are under the influence other than alcohol getting the supports that they need.

That's exactly why this bill came forward. We've listened, we've come to the table. They were asking for six years for that failed PC government to act. They didn't act. We're taking a different approach. We're listening; we're going to get the supports; we're going to help bring safety to our community.

Unlike members opposite who live to create divisiveness, we have an open door, we're listening, we're able to meet with people. We'll meet with anybody in any of their constituency any day.

Homeless Encampments Housing Plan for Winter

MLA Cindy Lamoureux (Tyndall Park): Honourable Speaker, all over Manitoba—including 500 metres from this building—are homeless encampments. Residents have been reaching out as more continue to pop up, in part because they are becoming more visible as leaves fall off trees.

I understand the government has been trying to work with the City in managing these camps and finding compassionate means of housing for people who live in them.

However, with winter coming and with the recent departure of Tessa Blaikie Whitecloud from the government's Your Way Home strategy, what is the plan for those living in encampments to find proper shelter by this winter?

Hon. Bernadette Smith (Minister of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness): I want to thank that member for that very important question. It gives me an opportunity to let the House know that we've housed over 100 folks from encampments. Like, that's a great number to celebrate. These are folks that have been unhoused for a very, very long time. Under the PCs, they sold off housing—hundreds of housing units.

We've brought, you know, hundreds of housing, thousands of housing units online. We're going to continue that work. We're going to continue to support people. We know that people have complex needs, and we're going to continue to make sure that they get their supports that they need so that they can get on a path of recovery, get into jobs, and get the supports that they need to get into a successful life that they envision.

The Speaker: Member's time has expired.

The honourable member for Tyndall Park, on a supplementary question.

Managed Encampment Approach

MLA Lamoureux: Honourable Speaker, Manitobans and constituents shared that these encampments are too close to homes, schools and businesses, that they are growing in size, that there has been drug use and criminal activity spotted, and that there is a lack of feeling safe in one's own community.

It has been suggested to city council that managed encampments—not a new idea—could be a way forward. This is an idea supported by Marion Willis of St. Boniface Street Links, who was quoted in the

Winnipeg Free Press yesterday saying that they would protect the public while, at the same time, protect the interests of those living unsheltered.

What has this government done to explore this option?

Ms. Smith: I want to take this opportunity to thank Tessa for all of her work. She's going to go on to continue great work in building up more housing here in the province. And we're going to continue to work with the sector, including, you know, the City of Winnipeg, municipalities, our federal partners. That's what this is about—growing, building, creating more housing. Housing has been the biggest barrier to getting folks supported.

We know, under the previous government, they didn't provide the proper supports to keep people housed. That's why we saw encampments grow.

We're taking a different approach. We want to make sure people are getting the proper supports and we're going to continue to work with the City and other partners to ensure people get proper supports onto a path of success.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Tyndall Park, on a final supplementary question.

Individuals Experiencing Homelessness Tiny Home Community Model

MLA Cindy Lamoureux (Tyndall Park): Honourable Speaker, the topic of tiny home communities has been raised in the past in this House, even by members of this government while in opposition. We have only one tiny home project near Thunderbird House in Point Douglas that continues to do well.

A group called Schweitzer Village [*phonetic*] brought forward the concept of managed tiny home communities to all levels of government in recent years. I table their information. Their model was based on the successful model of a better tent city in Kitchener, Ontario.

Why has this government not built more tiny home communities to provide better shelter for people experiencing homelessness?

Hon. Bernadette Smith (Minister of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness): What I could say to that member is we've started—we've taken the boards off of our Manitoba Housing. We've taken 20 per cent of our Manitoba Housing units. We've made them Housing First. Members opposite, when they were in government, slashed maintenance by 87 per cent.

We're taking a different approach. We are actually putting in supports into our Manitoba Housing to ensure that people are staying successfully housed. Folks that are coming out of hospital, out of incarceration, kids coming out of care, kids coming out of encampment, we're taking a whole-of-government approach. We're working with the sector. We're ensuring that people are staying successfully housed, that they're getting the supports that they need to get into the sector, to get into jobs, to get to the supports that they need to live a successful life, whether that's getting addiction support—

The Speaker: Member's time has expired.

Temporary Detention of Intoxicated Individuals Passage of Bill 48

Mr. Logan Oxenham (Kirkfield Park): Yesterday, our government voted to make Manitoba safer and to get people the medical care that they need. After days of political games and delays from the PC party, we passed Bill 48, a critical piece of legislation that will get people who are in danger to themselves and to others off the street and into medical care.

* (14:20)

Manitobans asked for safer streets and we delivered. Manitobans asked us to get people medical care and we delivered. Manitobans asked us to take action to stamp out meth addiction in our province and we are delivering.

Can the minister please tell the House more about the importance of Bill 48?

Hon. Bernadette Smith (Minister of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness): I want to thank my colleague for that very important question.

Safer streets, compassionate care; that's what Bill 48 is about. Yesterday our government was joined by Winnipeg's mayor, police, paramedics, firefighters and community organizations on the front lines of the addictions crisis to call on the PCs to immediately pass Bill 48. And thanks to the perseverance of front-line workers and the local leaders who have been advocating for change, we got it done and Bill 48 is becoming law.

Together as one Manitoba we are building a safer tomorrow where people can get the care that they need.

Miigwech.

Vandalism in River Heights Community Request for Action on Public Safety

Mr. Wayne Balcaen (Brandon West): River Heights residents woke up this morning to row upon row upon row of damaged windows smashed out in this area, and I table photos of this for this House. This is an all too common event in this area. The residents are screaming for justice, but what is this government doing? Absolutely nothing.

What is the Minister of Innovation and New Technology, the MLA for River Heights (MLA Moroz), doing to ensure that his constituents are not subject to this violence and vandalism again?

Hon. Matt Wiebe (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): You know, Honourable Speaker, I think most Manitobans know about our very successful retail-crime initiative that directed money to WPS immediately to ensure that businesses felt safe and that they could continue to operate.

But what most people maybe don't realize is that was really about community policing, about getting officers into—onto the streets, into community, and building those relationships. That was a big success, and so that's why we built off of that and we made it permanent: 36 new Winnipeg police officers are on our streets doing this important community building. They're going to protect our communities; they're going to make our streets safer.

Our province is better because of the work of our government.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Brandon West, on a supplementary question.

Mr. Balcaen: Whatever plan this minister is talking about, it certainly isn't working, and I would ask him to talk to the residents of River Heights about this. This government has been in power for over two years and for over two years the criminals have been running the justice system.

Matter of fact, if a person was caught doing this, he would be out faster than people calling the MPI tip line could get any action from this government. So my question is, what is the MLA for River Heights doing for his constituents to make sure this does not happen again?

Mr. Wiebe: You know, I'm not surprised, Honourable Speaker, that the member opposite would be critical of WPS. Why would I not be surprised by that? Because in their actions as the previous government,

they showed what they thought of law enforcement in this province.

Under their watch, there was a net loss of 55 officers in the City of Winnipeg, and that's shameful, Honourable Speaker. But beyond that, they also froze funding for police across this province.

We've taken a different approach: 36 new officers here in the city of Winnipeg; across the province a 30 per cent increase to funding for law enforcement.

We know that if we partner with law enforcement, our communities are going to be safer. We're doing our part. They failed at their job.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Brandon West, on a final supplementary question.

Mr. Balcaen: This is going to keep happening until this government takes real action and actually works to protect Manitobans. It will keep happening until the next election when this party is in—willing to stand up against criminals.

We know that the NDP are all talk and no action. This Premier stands in his place and tries to act tough with the empty bravado and big claims to get people's attention, but under his watch the only thing getting buried is this Premier's head in the sand.

Pedophiles and predators are being released by his justice system, so why can't he admit he isn't the tough guy he plays to the TV cameras?

Hon. Wab Kinew (Premier): Honourable Speaker, the PCs are soft on crime and they're soft in QP. I'll table for the House the regulations that they requested earlier in question period and I will thank them for folding yesterday when it came to Bill 48.

This being the last sitting day before Remembrance Day, I want to take this time to thank our veterans. Freedom has never been free. It has been paid for with the blood of your comrades. It has been paid for by the sweat that you've poured on the battlefield. It has been paid for by the tears of parents getting some awful news back here on the home front.

Every single day that we come to serve people in our democracy, we owe it to you. Every future generation of Manitoban and Canadian who gets to grow up strong and free owes it to you for Remembrance Week, for Remembrance Day, for Indigenous Veterans Day and every single day of the year, we say thank you for your service, thank you for our freedom.

We can never do enough to repay you.

The Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired.

PETITIONS

MRI Machine for Portage Regional Health Facility

Mr. Ron Schuler (Springfield-Ritchot): I wish to present the following petition to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

The background to this petition is as follows:

(1) Thanks to the investment made under the previous PC provincial government as part of the clinical and preventative services plan, construction for the new Portage regional health facility is well under way. The facility and surrounding community would greatly benefit from added diagnostic machinery and equipment, but specifically the addition of an MRI machine.

(2) An MRI machine is a non-invasive medical imaging technique that uses a magnetic field and computer-generated radio waves to create detailed images of organs and tissues in the human body. It is used for disease detection, diagnosis and treatment monitoring.

(3) Portage la Prairie is centrally located in Manitoba and is on the No. 1 Highway in the Southern Health/Santé Sud Health Authority. Currently there is only one MRI machine in the RHA.

(4) An MRI machine located in the Portage regional health facility will reduce transportation costs for patients as well as reduce the burden on stretcher service and ambulance use. It will bring care closer to home and reduce wait times for MRI scans across the province.

(5) Located around Portage la Prairie are the Dakota Tipi, Dakota Plains, Sandy Bay and Long Plain First Nations reserves. Indigenous peoples in Canada disproportionately face barriers in access to services and medical care. An MRI machine located in the Portage regional health facility will bring care closer to their home communities and provide greater access to diagnostic testing.

(6) Located close proximity to the new Portage regional health facility is the Southport airport. This aerodrome has a runway length that is more than adequate to support medical air ambulance services. This would provide the opportunity to transport patients by air from more remote communities to access MRI image services.

(7) The average wait times for Manitobans to receive an MRI scan is currently six to eight months. Having an MRI machine in the Portage regional

health facility will help reduce these wait times for patients and provide better care sooner.

* (14:30)

We petition the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba as follows:

To urge the provincial government to support the investment and placement of an MRI machine in the Portage regional health facility in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.

And this is signed by Barry Glanville, George Mazurat, Cliff McKay and many, many other Manitobans.

Thank you.

Provincial Trunk Highway 45

Mr. Rick Wowchuk (Swan River): I wish to present the following petition.

To the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, these are the reasons for this petition:

Upgrading Provincial Trunk Highway 45 will accelerate economic development as it will enhance connectivity, facilitate efficient transportation and promote economic growth in the region.

MLA Carla Compton, Acting Speaker, in the Chair

(2) Economic development will be further enhanced as improved road infrastructure attracts businesses, encourages investment and creates job opportunities.

(3) Roads meeting the Roads and Transportation Association of Canada, RTAC, standards improve both safety and efficiency, as they can handle heavier loads, reducing the number of trips required for goods transportation.

(4) Safer roads further benefit both commuters and commercial vehicles, minimizing accidents and damage.

(5) Upgrading to RTAC standards ensures resilience to challenges caused by climate change, such as thawing and flooding, which negatively impact road conditions.

(6) Efficient transportation networks contribute to Manitoba's economic competitiveness, as upgraded roads support interprovincial and international goods movement, benefiting both trade and commerce.

We petition the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba as follows:

To urge the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to take the necessary steps to upgrade Provincial Trunk Highway 45 from Russell to Provincial Trunk Highway 10 to meet RTAC standards.

This petition has been signed by many, many, many, many, many Manitobans.

Thank you.

MRI Machine for Portage Regional Health Facility

Mr. Greg Nesbitt (Riding Mountain): I wish to present the following petition to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

The background to this petition is as follows:

(1) Thanks to the investment made under the previous PC provincial government as part of the clinical and preventative services plan, construction for the new Portage regional health facility is well under way. The facility and surrounding community would greatly benefit from added diagnostic machinery and equipment, but specifically the addition of an MRI machine.

(2) An MRI machine is a non-invasive medical imaging technique that uses a magnetic field and computer-generated radio waves to create detailed images of organs and tissues in the human body. It is used for disease detection, diagnosis and treatment monitoring.

(3) Portage la Prairie is centrally located in Manitoba and is on the No. 1 Highway in the Southern Health/Santé Sud Health Authority. Currently there is only one MRI machine in the RHA.

(4) An MRI machine located in the Portage regional health facility will reduce transportation costs for patients as well as reduce the burden on stretcher service and ambulance use. It will bring care closer to home and reduce wait times for MRI scans across the province.

(5) Located around Portage la Prairie are the Dakota Tipi, Dakota Plains, Sandy Bay and Long Plain First Nations reserves. Indigenous peoples in Canada disproportionately face barriers in access to services and medical care. An MRI machine located in the Portage regional health facility will bring care closer to their home communities and provide greater access to diagnostic testing.

(6) Located in close proximity to the new Portage regional health facility is the Southport airport. This aerodrome has a runway length that is more than adequate to support medical air ambulance services.

This would provide the opportunity to transport patients by air from more remote communities to access MRI imaging services.

(7) The average wait times for Manitobans to receive an MRI scan is currently six to eight months. Having an MRI machine in the Portage regional health facility will help reduce these wait times for patients and provide better care sooner.

We petition the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba as follows:

To urge the provincial government to support the investment and placement of an MRI machine in the Portage regional health facility in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.

Honourable deputy Speaker, this petition has been signed by Leonora Heppner, Sabrina Cousins, Kevin Way and many, many, many other fine Manitobans.

Thank you.

Provincial Trunk Highway 34

Mrs. Colleen Robbins (Spruce Woods): Honourable deputy Speaker, I wish to present the following petition to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

The background to this petition is as follows:

(1) Provincial Trunk Highway 34, PTH 34, is a two-lane provincially-provincial primary highway that runs from the US border where it meets with ND 20 to PTH 16 at the town of Gladstone.

(2) PTH 34 runs north-south in the south-central region of the province. It is the main highway for the towns of Crystal City, Pilot Mound and Holland, serving as a main corridor for the semi-trailers, farm equipment, daily drivers and local school bus routes.

A new bridge is currently being constructed over the Assiniboine River at PTH 34, north of Holland, in the RM of Victoria. The bridge serves as an important north-south link over the Assiniboine River between the Trans-Canada Highway and PTH 2.

(4) The deterioration of PTH 34 has raised major concerns due to its narrow shoulders and numerous deep potholes that pose serious safety risks considering farmers often need to use the highway to transport heavy equipment.

* (14:40)

(5) Construction of the new bridge in accordance—current design codes and the RTAC standard, located

on the PTH 34 crossing the Assiniboine River, will support trade and commerce and improve public safety in the area and also accommodate flood events on the Assiniboine River.

We petition the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba as follows:

To urge the provincial government to address the conditions of Provincial Trunk Highway 34, making the necessary upgrades to RTAC standard and to resurface the road once the new bridge has been completed.

This petition has been signed by Philip Weselowski, Lovell Stone and Ti Kipplit [*phonetic*] and many, many more Manitobans.

Thank you.

Medical Assistance in Dying

Mrs. Lauren Stone (Midland): Honourable Speaker, I wish to present the following petition.

These are the reasons for this petition—oh, sorry—to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, these are the reasons for this petition:

(1) Persons struggling with mental health as their sole condition may access medical assistance in dying unless Parliament intervenes.

(2) Suicidality is often a symptom of mental illness, and suicide is the second leading cause of death for Canadians between the ages of 10 and 19.

(3) There have been reports of the unsolicited introduction of medical assistance in dying to non-seeking persons, including Canadian veterans, as a solution for the—their medical and mental health issues.

(4) Legal and medical experts are deeply concerned that permitting Canadians suffering from depression and other mental illnesses to access euthanasia would undermine suicide prevention efforts and risk normalizing suicide as a solution for those suffering from mental illness.

(5) The federal government is bound by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to advance and protect the life, liberty and security of its citizens.

(6) Manitobans consider it a priority to ensure that adequate supports are in place for the mental health of all Canadians.

(7) Vulnerable Manitobans must be given suicide prevention counselling instead of suicide assistance.

(8) The federal government should focus on increasing mental health supports to provinces and improve access to these supports, instead of offering medical assistance in dying for those with mental illness.

We petition the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba as follows:

(1) To urge the provincial government to lobby the federal government to stop the expansion of medical assistance in dying to those for whom mental illness is the sole condition.

(2) To urge the provincial government to lobby the federal government to protect Canadians struggling with mental illness by facilitating treatment, recovery and medical assistance in living, not death.

This is signed by Don Wiebe, Ken Rutter, Cor Lodder and many, many more Manitobans.

Provincial Road 210

Mr. Konrad Narth (La Vérendrye): I wish to present the following petition.

To the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, the background to this petition is as follows:

(1) Provincial Road 210, PR 210, is a 117.3 kilometre–72.8 mile–highway in the Eastman region of Manitoba that connects the towns and communities of Woodridge, Marchand, La Broquerie, Ste. Anne, Landmark, Linden, Île des Chênes and St. Adolphe.

(2) A significant portion of PR 210 also runs through the constituency of La Vérendrye.

(3) PR 210 is a significant commuting route for Eastman families and is also notably used by those in the agriculture, tourism, trade and commerce industries.

(4) The condition of PR 210 from Woodridge to Highway 12 is in an unacceptable state of disrepair.

(5) The planned pavement upgrade was promised more than 20 years ago when it was constructed with a flat surface suitable for pavement but has yet to be completed.

(6) The condition of PR 210 from Woodridge to Highway 12 is in such bad shape that firefighters, police and paramedic services are severely delayed when responding to emergencies.

(7) The Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure as well as the Premier have a duty to respond to infrastructure needs identified by rural communities.

We petition the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba as follows:

(1) To urge the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to prioritize the reconstruction of Provincial Road 210; and

(2) To urge the provincial government to include the stretch of Provincial Road 210 from Woodridge to Highway 12 in its reconstruction plans.

This petition has been signed by Gerald Delorme, Linda Ducharme, Gil Gauthier and many, many other Manitobans.

MRI Machine for Portage Regional Health Facility

MLA Bob Lagassé (Dawson Trail): I wish to present the following petition to the Legislative Assembly.

To the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, the background to this petition is as follows:

(1) Thanks to the investment made under the previous PC provincial government as part of the clinical and preventative service plans, construction for the new Portage regional health facility is well under way. The facility and surrounding community would greatly benefit from added diagnostic machinery and equipment, but specifically the addition of an MRI machine.

(2) An MRI machine is a non-invasive medical imaging technique that uses a magnetic field and computer-generated radio waves to create detailed images of organs and tissues in the human body. It is used for disease detection, diagnosis and treatment monitoring.

* (14:50)

(3) Portage la Prairie is centrally located in Manitoba and is on the No. 1 Highway in Southern Health/Santé Sud Health Authority. Currently there is only one MRI machine in the RHA.

(4) An MRI machine located in the Portage regional health facility will reduce transportation costs for patients as well as reduce the burden on stretcher services and ambulance use. It will bring care closer to home and reduce wait times for MRI scans across the province.

(5) Located around Portage la Prairie are the Dakota Tipi, Dakota Plains, Sandy Bay and Long Plain First Nations reserves. Indigenous peoples in Canada disproportionately face barriers in access to services and medical care. An MRI machine located in the Portage regional health facility will bring care

closer to their home communities and provide greater access to diagnostic testing.

(6) Located in close proximity to the new Portage regional health facility is the Southport airport. This aerodrome has a runway length that is more than adequate to support medical air ambulance services. This would provide the opportunity to transport patients by air from more remote communities to access MRI imaging services.

(7) The average wait times for Manitobans to receive an MRI scan is currently six to eight months. Having an MRI machine in the Portage regional health facility will help reduce these wait times for patients and provide better care sooner.

We petition the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba as follows:

To urge the provincial government to support the investment and placement of an MRI machine in the Portage regional health facility in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.

This petition has been signed by Gerry Dell, Allen den-Dell, Mona Miller and many, many other Manitobans.

Removal of Federal Carbon Tax

Mr. Trevor King (Lakeside): I wish to present the following petition to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, and the background to this petition is as follows:

(1) The federal government has mandated a consumption-based carbon tax, with the stated goal of financially pressuring Canadians to make decisions to reduce their carbon emissions.

(2) Manitoba Hydro estimates that, even with high-efficiency furnace, the carbon tax is costing the average family over \$200 annually, even more for those with older furnaces.

(3) Home heating in Manitoba is not a choice or a decision for Manitobans to make; it is a necessity of life, with an average of almost 200 days below 0°C annually.

(4) The federal government has selectively removed the carbon tax off of home heating oil in the Atlantic provinces of Canada, but has indicated they have no intention to provide the same relief to Manitobans heating their homes.

(5) Manitoba Hydro indicates that natural gas heating is one of the most affordable options available

to Manitobans, and it can be cost prohibitive for households to replace their heating source.

(6) Premiers across Canada, including in the Atlantic provinces that benefit from this decision, have collectively sent a letter to the federal government, calling on it to extend the carbon tax exemption to all forms of home heating, with the exception of Manitoba.

(7) Manitoba is one of the only provincial jurisdictions to have not agreed with the stance that all Canadians' home heating bills should be exempt from the carbon tax.

(8) Provincial leadership in other jurisdictions have already committed to removing the federal carbon tax from their home heating bills.

We petition the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba as follows:

To urge the provincial government to remove the federal carbon tax on home heating bills for all Manitobans to provide them much-needed relief.

And this petition has been signed by Trevor Barnes, Rhonda Cameron, Allan Robertson and many, many Manitobans.

Thank you.

Provincial Trunk Highway 34

Mr. Derek Johnson (Interlake-Gimli): I wish to present the following petition to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

The background of this petition is as follows:

(1) Provincial Trunk Highway 34, PTH 34, is a two-lane provincial primary highway that runs from the US border where it meets with ND 20 to PTH 16 at the town of Gladstone.

(2) PTH 34 runs north-south in the south-central region of the province. It is the main highway for the towns of Crystal City, Pilot Mound and Holland, serving as a main corridor for semi-trailers, farm equipment, daily drivers and local school bus routes.

(3) A new bridge is currently being constructed over the Assiniboine River at PTH 34, north of Holland, in the RM of Victoria. The bridge serves as an important north-south link over the Assiniboine River between the Trans-Canada Highway and PTH 2.

(4) The 'teriation'—the deterioration of PTH 34 has raised major concerns due to its narrow shoulders and numerous deep potholes that pose serious safety

risks considering farmers often need to use the highway to transport heavy equipment.

(5) Construction of a new bridge in accordance with current design codes and the RTAC standard, located on PTH 34 crossing the Assiniboine River, will support trade and commerce and improve public safety in the area, and also accommodate flood events on the Assiniboine River.

We petition the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba as follows:

To urge the provincial government to address the conditions of Provincial Trunk Highway 34, making the necessary upgrades to RTAC standard and resurface the road once the new bridge has been completed.

This petition has been signed by Jerry Sawatzky, Ron and Rick Rivers and many, many, many other fine Manitobans.

Breast Screening

Mrs. Carrie Hiebert (Morden-Winkler): Honourable Speaker—deputy Speaker, I wish to present the following petition to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

The background to this petition is as follows:

(1) Due to the evolving scientific evidence, the Canadian Cancer Society is now urging all provinces and territories to lower their starting age for breast cancer screening to 40.

(2) Based off 2023 treatment standards, it is estimated that screening women annually for breast cancer starting at age 40 will save the Canadian health-care system \$460 million annually.

(3) After non-'melanona'—melanoma skin cancers, breast cancer is the most common form of cancer among Canadian women. One in eight Canadian women will be diagnosed with breast cancer during their lifetime, and one in 36 will die from it. This is three—sorry, this is 30,500 diagnoses and 5,500 deaths every year, and 84 diagnoses and 15 deaths every day.

* (15:00)

(4) Early detection of breast cancer will lead to better outcomes in patients, with better odds of survival and less severe cases. Women in their 40s who have access to mammograms have a 44 per cent lower mortality rate from breast cancer than those who don't receive screening.

(5) Every other province and territory in Canada has already lowered the breast cancer screening age or announced their intention to do so. Other provinces in Canada have already commenced the work of explaining—sorry—expanding screening programs and hiring additional technologists into their public health-care system.

(6) Manitoba is currently behind the rest of the country and has no formal plan to increase its screening capacity or lower the breast cancer screening age.

(7) Lowering the breast cancer screening age to 40 in Manitoba will reduce long-term costs to health-care systems because cancers that are caught earlier are typically less complicated to treat.

We petition the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba as follows:

To urge the provincial government to immediately put forward a plan to increase breast screening—cancer screening capacity and lower breast screening age to 40.

This petition has been signed by Tara Braun, Emily Steinke and Tina Bergen and many, many other Manitobans.

MRI Machine for Portage Regional Health Facility

Mr. Kelvin Goertzen (Steinbach): I wish to present the following petition to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

And the background to this petition is as follows:

(1) Thanks to the investment made under the previous PC provincial government as part of the clinical and preventative services plan, construction for the new Portage regional health facility is well under way. The facility and the surrounding community would greatly benefit from added diagnostic machinery and equipment, but specifically the addition of an MRI machine.

(2) An MRI machine is a non-invasive medical imaging technique that uses a magnetic field and computer-generated radio waves to create detailed images of organs and tissues in the human body. It is used for disease detection, diagnosis and treatment monitoring.

(3) Portage la Prairie is centrally located in Manitoba and is on the No. 1 Highway in the Southern Health/Santé Sud RHA Health Authority. Currently there is only one MRI machine in the RHA.

(4) An MRI machine located in the Portage regional health facility will reduce transportation costs for patients as well as reduce the burden on stretcher service and ambulance use. It will bring care closer to home and reduce wait times for MRI scans across the province.

(5) Located around Portage la Prairie are the Dakota Tipi, Dakota Plains, Sandy Bay and Long Plain First Nations reserves. Indigenous peoples in Canada disproportionately face barriers in access to services and medical care. An MRI machine located in the Portage regional health facility will bring care closer to their home communities and provide greater access to diagnostic testing.

(6) Located in close proximity to the new Portage regional health facility is the Southport airport. This aerodrome has a runway length that is more than adequate to support medical air ambulance services. This would provide the opportunity to transport patients by air from more remote communities to access MRI imaging services.

(7) The average wait times for Manitobans to receive an MRI scan is currently six to eight months. Having an MRI machine in the Portage regional health facility will help reduce these wait times for patients and provide better care sooner.

We petition the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba as follows:

To urge the provincial government to support the investment and placement of an MRI machine in the Portage regional health facility in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.

And honourable acting Speaker, this petition is signed by Heather Warman, Melanie Moran, Debbe Copeland and many other fine Manitobans.

The Acting Speaker (Carla Compton): So any—seeing no further petitions, we will move on to grievances.

GRIEVANCES

Mr. Wayne Balcaen (Brandon West): Ten minutes probably will not be enough time for this, but I will try and pack it in as quick as I can.

And I would implore the Premier (Mr. Kinew), the Minister of Families (MLA Fontaine), the Minister of housing, homelessness and addictions and the MLA for Brandon East to take note of this request, but more so all of Cabinet, because the request is going to come down to one of their pillars, is that feeding the people in our communities and making sure that food

stability is there for not only people in Winnipeg, but for people in Brandon and all rural areas as well.

Honourable Speaker, Brandon has seen an influx and an increase in the number of homelessness and addictions happening within our city, and with this comes food insecurity. I would like to thank Helping Hands in Brandon for stepping up to the plate and making sure that those individuals are served hot, fresh meals every single day during the week and making sure that bagged lunches are provided for individuals who can't make it there—or even provide it to Seventh Street Health Access Centre, where this government, the present government, funds some of the organization there.

So they're taking the pressure off of Seventh Street Health Access Centre. And I would like to shout out to the board as well as to the individuals that are involved with Helping Hands: Andrea Epp, who is the chair of the board of directors; and their executive director, Angela Braun; fellow board members Gillian Leech, Aida Tahhan Harrison, Chris Sobchuk, Jordan Sisson, Jason Wilson, Kori Gordon, Melissa Rushton, Lisa Andrew, Dan Lange. Thank you, each and every one of you, for stepping up to the plate and making sure that Brandon is well-served when it comes to hot meals for those needing meals in our communities and that are suffering food insecurity.

Helping Hands delivers this through 117 on 7th St in Brandon, and serves lunches between 11:30 and 1 p.m. daily. They have a staff of only four dedicated individuals that make sure that these hot meals and bagged lunches are brought forward each and every day for these people that need it within our community.

And we've seen this growing number of people requiring these services, because as encampments here in Winnipeg get shut down, people have been shuttered to Brandon and moved on to Brandon, and they're dealing with the issues there. So I thank them for their service and for making sure that on this limited staff and on their limited budget, they're able to deliver these services.

Honourable deputy Speaker, over 46,000 hot meals were served last year by Helping Hands in Brandon, and this year they're on track to be over 51,000—an increase of 5,000 over last year; and year after year after year, these numbers continue to grow.

Also, they started a bagged-lunch program to help individuals in the community, and they so far have served, in 2025, 4,250 bagged lunches and they still have to tally up November and December for this

number. So they are filling a huge gap within the Brandon area and the Brandon district.

So, you know, I certainly thank the work that's being done, but we have to move into some of the costs that this organization is facing, and their funding comes from the City of Brandon, where they get—I believe it's approximately \$23,000 to \$30,000, and they get something similar from the United Way of Brandon & District, renamed now to the United Way that serves Brandon and Portage area.

However, we all know that these funds have to be requested each year, and it's not stable, ongoing, predictable funding to help feed the individuals in our community that require it.

* (15:10)

So having served on the board of directors for the United Way of Brandon & District at that time, I spent six years there and I know that each time we looked at funding request—and they continue year after year after year for the United Way, and they have to prioritize these donations. So the funding from the United Way could end up not being provided to Helping Hands if there's other critical areas that keep surfacing within Brandon.

The same application has to go through to the City of Brandon each year for this funding. So, honourable deputy Speaker, my ask is that, coming up to the Throne Speech here, I certainly hope that Helping Hands in Brandon is on the Throne Speech list of somewhere that can help out with a promise for future funding and future dollars that come to this organization.

Just this past year, Helping Hands had to replace the roof on their building. This is the place that serves 50,000 people each year in the city of Brandon a hot meal and provides 5,000 bagged lunches. That roof repair was over \$225,000. That absolutely depleted their reserve funds for anything that they can do.

They are one crisis away—one crisis away from having to decide on their future and how they can continue this much-needed service in the city of Brandon. Honourable deputy Speaker, \$225,000 in repairs this year, and I know in previous years from my volunteer time at Helping Hands that they had a commercial oven that went down, and they had to replace that as well.

What's important to realize, honourable deputy Speaker, and for members of the Cabinet and members of government, is that this is all from community funds, people that are philanthropic that step forward

that want to see the betterment of Brandon—again, with some funding from the City and from the United Way, but zero funding from this government. This government has provided zero dollars to Helping Hands in Brandon.

Expecting 5,000 more hot meals to be served this year expanded to 5,000 bagged lunches that are going out, and when we look just down the way, our food hamper use has gone up by over 600 in the city of Brandon. All of this with zero funding from this government.

So I would implore the Premier (Mr. Kinew), the Minister of Families (MLA Fontaine), the Minister of homelessness, addictions and housing, as well as the MLA for Brandon East, the minister for Municipal Relations to come together and collaborate on this. It is really a non-partisan issue. It's an issue of serving all Manitobans, people that have come from all different communities to Brandon to make Brandon their home. They're also suffering this food insecurity.

So we need to have stable and predictable funding, not only to hear this in the upcoming Throne Speech, but to see in our next budget dollars for Helping Hands in Brandon. A good start would be \$225,000 to replenish their contingency on their infrastructure; but on a side note, that could be a one-time fix. They need stable funding, predictable funding, ongoing funding that is going to ensure that they don't have to close the doors, so that this Brandon proud community can continue to serve everybody that is there.

The food donations that come into the Helping Hands have unfortunately seen a considerable drop over this past year because of an app that came on where grocery stores are able to put together an app called helping heroes, I believe it is, where they show reduced costs and people can go to the stores and purchase. This obviously is a good thing for consumers, but it's impacting the donations that come into Helping Hands.

So once again, honourable deputy Speaker, I would implore this government to sit together at their caucus table and to discuss this and make sure that there is sustainable funding for Helping Hands.

Mrs. Lauren Stone (Midland): I am pleased to rise today to debate BITSA. But wait, I'm not actually debating BITSA because this NDP government is refusing to debate their own budget bill.

So instead, today, I rise on a grievance because this NDP government has shown once again that when the time comes to be accountable to Manitobans,

they hide. They are avoiding accountability, they're dodging debate and they're ramming through sneaky tax hikes on Manitobans.

The NDP have refused to debate their own budget implementation bills. Bill 46, BITSA, was 'introduced' months ago in the spring, but they have waited until the last possible moments of this session as we hit today's backstop, and are avoiding debate and questions from our side of the House altogether. They are refusing to go through the comprehensive committee process and Q & A. And as the NDP continues to try to ram through sneaky tax hikes on Manitobans, the NDP are refusing the public the opportunity to voice their concerns through public presentations.

Budget bills are the most important piece of legislation that a government brings forward. It outlines spending priorities, it outlines how hard-working Manitobans' tax dollars are utilized and it outlines the financial operations of government and the public sector. However, instead of standing in the House to defend their own budget, they have shut down debate and accountability altogether.

This is exactly why last year our team brought forward a private member's bill, the budget bill and accountability act, to ensure transparency and accountability to Manitobans on all financial matters and budget bills. It would have ensured transparency and accountability on taxpayer dollars by following the process that is set out for every other bill that comes forward to this Manitoba Legislature.

Government needs to be accountable in how they spend Manitobans' hard-earned dollars and they need to be transparent in the ways that they are doing it. Manitobans, they expect—Manitobans from across the province, from all corners, expect their elected officials to face tough questions, especially as it relates to tax dollars, and especially at a time when families are struggling to make ends meet. With almost half of Manitobans reporting that they are within \$200 of insolvency, now is not the time to ram through tax hikes.

Manitobans cannot afford to pay their bills, they are struggling to pay their mortgages, they're struggling to pay to heat their homes and they cannot afford to put food on the table for their families. And yet, this minister is ignoring all that. This minister and this NDP government are trying to ram through tax hikes, \$400 million since they came into office which is equivalent to the PST hike that predecessor Greg Selinger did a number of years ago.

Manitobans are struggling, yet this government is saddling them with those sneaky tax hikes, back-to-back deficits, borrowing, increased debt, all on the backs of Manitobans, our children, our grandchildren and future generations.

We now have \$80 billion of gross debt within this province, yet this NDP government has added \$8.6 billion in additional spending. They're running back-to-back deficits and adding generations of debt. The minister is failing to balance the books, he's failed to control his spending and he's failing to keep taxes low as we are seeing in the budget bill that we will be voting on later today.

In fact, C.D. Howe, a reputable institution, gave this minister and this government a D- on fiscal accountability and transparency, which was dead last in the entire country. The Auditor General last year stated in last year's financial statements that there was an unprecedented number of errors in financial accounting. So that's this record of this Finance Minister and this NDP government: wrong projections, back-to-back deficits, unprecedented errors and a D- in financial accountability and transparency.

* (15:20)

Experts are saying that this minister can't balance the books. They don't believe that he can balance the books in a year or two years or even beyond that. Credible institutes are ranking this government dead last in finances. And the AG, the Auditor General, is finding unprecedented errors in his accounting and transparency.

But yet, what's this NDP government doing? They're collecting hundreds of millions of dollars in sneaky tax hikes on the backs of Manitobans, which in his budget, is making it harder for families to make ends meet.

Last week, Meyers Norris Penny consumer index reported—Manitobans reported 43 per cent were \$200 away from insolvency—\$200 away. Every single tax hike puts Manitobans closer to the brink of bankruptcy and not being able to afford their bills and put food on their tables for their families.

That report also noted that 26 per cent of Manitobans have reduced utility consumption, yet this minister is hiking hydro rates by 12 per cent; 21 per cent say they're eating less to save money and one in five are delaying and skipping important medical, dental and prescription needs.

This NDP is making it harder to make ends meet for working Manitobans, who will now pay more in taxes under this NDP government.

So let's just go through what some of those sneaky tax hikes are that we are seeing in the budget bill that we will be voting on later today.

They're removing indexation of income taxes; in other words, a sneaky tax hike on Manitobans. This brings us back to the old days of the former NDP government of bracket creep. By removing indexation, this NDP government is pushing Manitobans into a higher tax bracket. So any sort of wage increases will not be felt by the—by a Manitoban because they will not have as much money in their pockets because they are now having to pay taxes in a higher income tax bracket.

This is \$82 million of revenue, of a tax hike that this NDP is now taking from Manitobans.

What else have they done? Well, \$350 million in additional education property taxes on the backs of Manitobans. We saw this in last year's budget bill when they removed the former PC government's 50 per cent education property tax rebate. Well, we all saw how that worked out for this NDP earlier this year: a sloppy roll-out; Manitobans missing their \$1,500 credit; 55 per cent of Winnipeg properties that are worse off under this NDP government's new property tax scheme, which was confirmed by the City of Winnipeg taxation and assessment branch.

They didn't account for the general assessment that happens every two years. You'd think the Minister of Finance (MLA Sala) would have known that a general assessment on property taxes happens every two years. You'd also think that the Minister of Finance would know that property values are in fact increasing in the province of Manitoba. You also think that he would know that school divisions would be hiking their taxes and their mill rates across the entire province.

This is exactly the position that this NDP government has put Manitobans in as a result of their sloppy tax roll-out and their sneaky tax hikes.

What else have they done? Well, in this budget bill that we're going to be voting on later today, they're actually increasing the PST on small businesses through the retail sales tax, another sneaky tax introduced through BITSA is a tax on small business and entrepreneurs despite ongoing trade wars, which is crushing business and consumer confidence and an embarrassing 1.1 real GDP growth, the worst in the country.

Businesses can't afford more tax hikes. Yet they're putting a PST on cloud-computing software. It's 2025. We all use cloud-computing software. Businesses are using cloud-computing software. Yet this NDP is capitalizing on that fact and charging a PST on those cloud-computing software.

The move is expected to tax businesses and generate for this NDP government \$4 million annually, but this was quietly snuck in to the budget bill that they refuse to defend and that they refuse to debate.

This NDP's budget and budget bill, as we've seen, is filled with sneaky tax hikes, sloppy planning and generations and generations of debt—\$80 billion of gross debt on Manitobans, tax hikes that are hurting Manitoba families, sneaky tax hikes that are hurting Manitoba businesses.

Manitobans are struggling. They are living in a cost-of-living crisis. They are struggling to put food on the table for their families. Yet this NDP has chosen that now is the time to introduce sneaky tax hikes that are hurting Manitobans across the board.

Manitobans are, unfortunately, paying the price for this NDP's sloppy fiscal planning and sneaky tax hikes.

Thank you, deputy honourable Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Carla Compton): So seeing no further grievances, we will move on with orders of the day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Continued)

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. Nahanni Fontaine (Minister of Families): Can you please call the start of concurrence and third reading of Bill 40, An Act Respecting "O Canada" and Other Observances and Land and Treaty Acknowledgements in Schools (Education Administration Act and Public Schools Act Amended); followed by Bill 12, the housing and renewal corporation amendment; followed by Bill 8, The Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Control Amendment Act; followed by Bill 23, The Public Interest Expression Defence Act; followed by Bill 30, The Election Financing Amendment and Elections Amendment Act.

The Acting Speaker (Carla Compton): So it has been announced that the House will now consider concurrence and third reading of the following bills: 40, 12, 8, 23 and 30.

CONCURRENCE AND THIRD READINGS— AMENDED BILLS

Bill 40—An Act respecting "O Canada" and Other Observances and Land and Treaty Acknowledgements in Schools (Education Administration Act and Public Schools Act Amended)

The Acting Speaker (Carla Compton): Therefore, we will now begin concurrence and third reading of Bill 40, An Act Respecting "O Canada" and Other Observances and Land and Treaty Acknowledgements in Schools (Education Administration Act and Public Schools Act Amended).

Hon. Tracy Schmidt (Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning): I move, seconded by the Minister of Families (MLA Fontaine), that Bill 40, An Act Respecting "O Canada" and Other Observances and Land and Treaty Acknowledgements in Schools (Education Administration Act and Public Schools Act Amended); Loi sur les activités scolaires soulignant notamment l'« O Canada » et la reconnaissance des territoires et des traités (modification de la Loi sur l'administration scolaire et de la Loi sur les écoles publiques), as amended and reported from the Standing Committee on Justice, be concurred in and now read for a third time and passed.

Motion presented.

MLA Schmidt: It's my honour and privilege to speak to rise to Bill 40. Bill 40 is intended to modernize our observances in schools, to bring them into 2025 and to ensure that our observances in our public schools reflect and respect every child and who we all are as Manitobans.

Firstly, Bill 40 removes the part of the act that mandates religious exercise in the classroom. The courts here in Manitoba decided that was unconstitutional back in 1992. We are finally taking it out.

Secondly, Bill 40 affirms and legislates patriotic observances, including O Canada, Remembrance Day and citizenship exercises. Bill 40 will enshrine into legislation that every day in every public school, O Canada will be played and respected because perhaps now more than ever, our youth need to be united and take pride in their country and everything that it stands for.

Furthermore, previous regulations provided that Remembrance Day must be observed on only the last day of school before November 11. Schools, veterans alike have been asking government for a change to

this regulation to allow greater flexibility on which day Remembrance Day is observed to allow for the co-ordination of veterans and legions to participate meaningfully in as many schools as they can.

They've asked, our government is listening and we will enshrine it into law.

Bill 40 also requires that school boards establish policies regarding land and treaty acknowledgements, like so many school and school divisions have done already, and like many schools are practising. In fact, honourable deputy Speaker, there is maybe no space where we see the work of truth and reconciliation under the guidance of the late Justice Murray Sinclair more clearly and abundantly than in Manitoba schools. This goes well beyond land and treaty acknowledgements.

* (15:30)

We see in schools across Manitoba: land-based learning, powwow clubs, Indigenous language courses, and we are on the precipice of seeing the very first Indigenous immersion language programs here in Manitoba.

I want to take a moment to thank all school leaders, educators and, most importantly, the kids for their leadership on—and their work on reconciliation. We're going to make sure this good work does not slide backwards, and we're going to make sure that treaty and land acknowledgments are the law here in Manitoba in our schools.

And finally, yes, honourable deputy Speaker, Bill 40 removes the requirement to sing God Save the King every day. Manitobans know that this fell out of common practice decades ago. Schools have independently made and affirmed those decisions for years, year after year, for a variety of reasons, some of which are important for this Chamber and all Manitobans to consider.

But first let's be clear, honourable deputy Speaker: nothing about Bill 40 bans God Save the King. That's just a vision being sowed by the opposition, who would prefer if Manitobans would just fight with each other so they don't notice the other corruption and failures plaguing their party.

We've heard them mischaracterize this bill and mislead Manitobans that this is some attempt to ban the song or to discount the monarchy. Nothing could be further from the truth. If a school community or classroom teacher decides it makes sense for their students, please, by all means, sing God Save the King.

But, honourable deputy Speaker, I'd like to bring us back quickly to the work of reconciliation being done in our classrooms across our province, why we do that work and why we do land and treaty acknowledgments.

I said this at committee, honourable deputy Speaker, but it is important for me to say this again in this Chamber: treaty and land acknowledgements are a powerful tool to bring to light the terrible history of colonialism, including the racist policy of residential schools and the impacts that that history has on Indigenous people of this land that we now call Manitoba.

Those impacts are still felt today, honourable deputy Speaker. We can see them and we can hear them all around us.

If we are listening and if we are committed to that truth and reconciling that truth so that Canadians and Manitobans can walk together on a brighter path towards the future, if we are going to acknowledge that and acknowledge the real and ongoing intergenerational harms of those colonial policies, including the policy of residential schools where kids were stolen from their families, forced to abandon their culture, their language, their ceremonies, their ways of seeing and knowing the world, stolen from their communities, from their nations and forced to pledge allegiance to a Crown that inflicted harm upon them, if we are going to acknowledge this truth and the harms that flow from it, then we can absolutely understand why some schools in some school communities for some classrooms, they deserve the freedom to choose against that as a daily practice.

Bill 40 gives them the freedom to choose, and we expect that those choices will always be guided—always—with the best interests of children at the heart of those decisions so that every day each and every child in Manitoba knows that they matter, that they belong, that they are safe and included and respected in their schools. That is at the cornerstone of all of our work as a government, all of my work as minister. It is at the heart of Bill 40.

I look forward to the unanimous support of the community—of this House.

Thank you very much, honourable deputy Speaker.

Mr. Wayne Ewasko (Lac du Bonnet): Thank you, honourable acting deputy Speaker, for that wonderful introduction, and it gives me great pleasure today to stand.

I appreciate our Opposition House Leader for negotiating Bill 40 to get up prior to the deadline of 4 o'clock because it gives me a few extra minutes to put on the record in regards to Bill 40 and also the proposed amendments.

It's reassuring, actually, today, acting deputy Speaker, which is—I should abbreviate that a little bit, but anyways that's what we'll go for the afternoon—it's all good—to hear the minister stand up and speak from some new talking messages that she's been given from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Learning, because that was not necessarily the case going into this bill when she brought this bill forward earlier on in regards to allowing God Save the King to be sung. They're taking it out of the act, but as the minister put forward, for those school divisions, schools, parents, guardians, that are out there watching this afternoon and into the future, you still absolutely can put forward God Save the King and sing it as you wish. So you've heard it here second, first from the Education Minister today which was a corrected record from her past speeches that she's done.

But this isn't the first time, honourable acting deputy Speaker. We've heard the minister say one thing in committee and then come back and talk to whoever is directing traffic over there in the Kinew government, and then they've asked her to soften the tone—you know, change the tune a little bit. And so that's what we've heard today, so I thank the minister for putting additional words on the record.

It is—you know, unfortunately, it was upsetting that the few amendments, friendly amendments that were brought forward for Bill 40 were rejected by this minister. But, again, what we've seen day in and day out, now including with Bill 40, including other bills that have come through, you know, as most recently as the Bill 225 put forward by the MLA for Tyndall Park, the minister's all about getting the credit. And we've seen that time and time again on many announcements that's come forward.

And so, what we've also witnessed here, honourable acting deputy Speaker, is that we've also asked—since we're talking about land acknowledgements, we're talking about O Canada, we're talking about God Save the King—we've seen initiatives brought forward by our side, the opposition party—for now, I mean we're still about two years away from forming government again—but we've put forward to the government the idea of singing O Canada here in the Chamber.

Many of us have gone to public school system—through the public school system, or the school system here in Manitoba or other provinces within the great country of Canada, and I don't know of any school that does not sing O Canada. So I think that some of what the minister's putting forward is a little redundant, trying to cover up for some of her missteps over the last little bit that she's, you know, inherited the portfolio.

And so what we've done is we've asked for O Canada to be sung sometime throughout the day when we're here in session. And so what we've watched, realized, seen first-hand on a day-to-day basis here, we on this side of the House have stood up and sang O Canada, and many of the members opposite on the government benches would get up and walk out of the Chamber after the Speaker is gone.

And that's fine for me to say because it's after the Speaker is gone, and so that's okay because, of course, everybody could technically ask the Speaker to release those tapes—those videotapes showing that.

It's just most recently in the last few days that the Premier (Mr. Kinew) has all of a sudden found his love of the monarchy again and the country and has stuck around after session, and it—you know, and sung O Canada with us; I think he's singing, anyways.

So with that point, what I will do is I will table—and this is for the House and this is for all members within the Chamber and specifically the government side who—you know, including the Education Minister, who's bringing forward Bill 40, talking about land acknowledgments, singing O Canada and God Save the King, who is absolutely one of the ones who actually stands up when we're started the singing of the anthem, O Canada, and walks out the Chamber after the Speaker is gone during the singing of O Canada.

Not all the members on the government side does that, honourable acting deputy Speaker. Some of them hang out and actually join in the singing with us, and then after we're done singing O Canada, our national anthem of Canada—and then we do a round of applause.

So for the House, I'm tabling a copy of the lyrics to O Canada and also God Save the King. It's double-sided, saving those wonderful trees in Manitoba, honourable acting deputy Speaker. And that will be hopefully photocopied by the government benches and shared with their members because, I mean, we on this side of the House, we know both of them.

* (15:40)

So back to it. So the minister's talking about land acknowledgement and making sure that school divisions are setting up policy to make sure that there's land acknowledgments in our schools and I think, being a former Education minister, I don't think it would have been a bad thing to necessarily not recreate the wheel and send the school divisions—the education partners—a copy of the land acknowledgments, ones either that we say here in the Manitoba Legislature or others and of course talk to the various areas within this great province of ours, north, east, south and west, talk to the various First Nations, Manitoba Red River Métis Federation, the Inuit Association, of course, and get their two cents on what they'd like to see for their area schools in regards to land acknowledgements.

I know that we brought forward, when we still were in government, many of the land acknowledgments, and I remember when they first started, of course, you couldn't just do that, you of course, I'd like to think that we worked quite closely with our Indigenous partners and came up with land acknowledgments and then over time, you know, we adjusted them at certain levels, different words and deferent—definitely pronunciations.

And so I think that's definitely a great move, that we're moving forward on that. But again, I think you could send the—as the Education Minister, and I know that, you know, she's copied many things that not only myself and my predecessors on the Progressive Conservative side, when we were Education ministers, she's copied many of those things, so that's good. So I'm—know that she's listening at times, so she'll take this suggestion and maybe get some land acknowledgments templates, I guess, sent to the various school divisions so that she doesn't continue downloading things onto the backs of school divisions like they did on the education property tax, honourable acting deputy Speaker.

Another topic, of course, that we on this side of the House came up with was the document Mamàhtawisiwin to make sure that all schools were working towards truth and reconciliation, checking off many of the recommendations coming from the Truth and Reconciliation council and committee.

Definitely it was a step in the right in right direction. Is there more work to do? Absolutely there's more work to do. Am I confident that this minister's going to be able to do some of that work? No. Not entirely. But the nice thing is, is that we've this Education Minister copy a lot of the things from the past, so

hopefully that some of the good things that she'll continue going.

From what I do understand is that the work on the early childhood education document, which is just going to be basically pretty much copied of the Mamāhtawisiwin, which I'm sure the minister will be taking credit for that, which she will deservedly so, because it's, of course, was not completed by the time we had left government. So I'm glad to see that she's carrying on with that and that the early childhood education, the Manitoba Child Care Association is on board with that.

I look forward to seeing additional things coming forward in education, many of the things, again, that were copied on the good announcements that we've done. Honourable acting deputy Speaker, I've shared the tabling of the documents. I know that sounds like some of the current ministers, they're running out of a little bit of steam here.

But that probably comes from the fact that I noticed yesterday, and it's on Hansard and the record, where the Premier (Mr. Knew) was grandstanding a little bit again and basically taking on all the questions from his ministers. So yesterday the Manitoba taxpayers paid quite a few dollars and cents in regards to the ministers' salaries and saw the Premier answer all the questions and didn't allow his ministers to get up.

And another thing, honourable acting deputy Speaker, it's interesting that when we talk about private members' time. So today we're talking about Bill 40, and that's what we're doing, we're talking about, you know, the protecting the Royal Anthem. And the minister put on the record that she, in fact, is protecting the anthem and that people can sing it and do—use it as much as they want in their schools and school divisions if they so choose.

So that's great that she clarified that from her notes from the spring. So, An Act respecting "O Canada" and Other Observances and Land and Treaty Acknowledgements in Schools (The Education Administration Act and Public Schools Act Amended), Bill 40.

So as I was mentioning that in this great Chamber of ours, we do have times of private members' time. And this morning when we were talking about private members' business, you know, not unlike Bill 40, where Bill 40 and other bills, government bills, are brought forward to the Chamber by ministers.

The Speaker in the Chair

And when we talk about private members' time when bills and resolutions are brought forward, private members' time is private members' business. And so it's interesting, and if I was a backbenching MLA on the government side, I would feel a little slighted because it seems that just because the Premier grandstanded yesterday and continues to be a showman instead of a statesman—takes all the questions, doesn't allow the ministers to get up and answer the questions—so what do they do?

They—the ministers take it out on their backbench MLAs. And the ministers stand up during private members' time and goes on these diatribes of totally off topic, on bills. Unlike Bill 40, where, I mean, it will be interesting when I do sit down if there's other members that will stand and put a few words on the record.

Mr. Tyler Blashko, Deputy Speaker, in the Chair

I'm actually thinking, honourable Speaker, now honourable Deputy Speaker—holy moly, you guys—you people—people, people, government people, I don't know. Who's in the Chair? It's good—honourable Deputy Speaker, that's who's in the Chair; we're moving forward.

Okay, need one of those GPSs or those navigators or the same navigator and GPS that the government side needs to know when they're leaving the Perimeter of Winnipeg, because they don't know where they're going once they hit the—hit outside the Perimeter. It's interesting.

Anyways, back to the government bills and specifically Bill 40: government members, ministers, bring forward the legislation and we debate it. We're into third reading of Bill 40. Much like what I was saying earlier, it's sort of a bit of a slap in the backbench MLAs on the government side's faces where they're not allowed—I'm assuming—by the direction of either the failed Families Minister or the Premier himself, that basically says, okay, well, Ministers, you know what? The Premier took all the time to go on his diatribe during question period and other times. He's not allowing the ministers to get up and talk at the appropriate times, so then that trickles down.

I think that's what's happening, honourable Deputy Speaker. I think that's what's happening. I think the toxic environment that we've heard many times from the member for Fort Garry (Mr. Wasyliv) that happens in the NDP caucus and on their team, I think this is—

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

I'd invite the member to bring his comments back to Bill 40, which is An Act respecting "O Canada" and Other Observances and Land and Treaty Acknowledgements in Schools (Education Administration Act and Public Schools Act Amended).

Mr. Ewasko: Thank you, honourable Deputy Speaker, for that advice, and I'm definitely not challenging the words of the acting Deputy Speaker.

* (15:50)

I've been talking now to Bill 40, talking about O Canada, talking about God Save the King, talking about land acknowledgements. I've been doing that for almost 17 minutes now, and I will continue putting a few words on the record in regards to this very important debate on third reading.

So we on this side of the House are absolutely in support of this bill moving forward, especially because this Education Minister finally put it on the record that schools, school divisions, can create their own policies and do what they want with God Save the King.

Of course they're going to work on their land acknowledgements, and now the minister, patting herself on the back, is saying to the schools, oh, you have to sing O Canada. Well, okay, I mean, schools have been singing O Canada for many, many, many, many years. The first, second and third renditions of O Canada, and as Deputy Speaker may or may not be aware, I've also tabled the document of the lyrics to both God Save the King and O Canada.

And so back to a little bit of talking about how government business and specifically Bill 40 comes about, but then also that private members' time. We've seen what's been happening on the government benches, where the Premier (Mr. Kinew) talks down to his ministers, the ministers talk down to their MLAs and so forth. And I think that's exactly what has been happening, that toxic environment that the member for Fort Garry (Mr. Wasyliw) has mentioned many, many times. We're seeing it on a day-to-day basis here, honourable—oh, well, there you go.

The Speaker in the Chair

Honourable Speaker, there we go. Welcome, that's good.

Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to put a few words on the record on Bill 40 here this afternoon.

I'd almost—as a couple of my colleagues have suggested, maybe I should start over, but I know that the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker and the acting deputy Speaker will all, when they're interested in seeing what I've said, they'll pick up Hansard. They can either take a look on YouTube or they can pick up Hansard to see the debate on Bill 40, which is An Act respecting "O Canada" and Other Observances and Land and Treaty Acknowledgements in Schools (Education Administration Act and Public Schools Act Amended), where the minister, when she first brought this bill forward, was talking about getting rid of God Save the King.

I think then, at that time, that was about the same time that the Premier was going around patting himself on the back on how he loves the King, and matter of fact, I think the Premier even received one of the King's medals, and then we as representatives here had the pleasure to give out a couple medals, as well, to constituents.

And so it is sort of interesting, Honourable Speaker, when we talk about singing O Canada, when we talk about singing God Save the King, Bill 40, which is all pertinent to Bill 40, I'm just watching to see who's advising who.

But anyway, so, staying on topic—and so that's why I've tabled the documents, the lyrics. Because as I've shared, when we talk about mandating O Canada—that's what Bill 40's doing, mandating O Canada, which, again, nobody on the opposition side is against that whatsoever. Why is that? Well, because we already sing O Canada in schools. Whether it's public school, private school, we sing O Canada. Why? Because we love this country, Honourable Speaker.

We on this side of the House, Honourable Speaker, in regards to O Canada, had brought forward a suggestion that we sing O Canada here in the Chamber. It was a resolution talking about various different, you know, bills brought forward by government, bills brought forward by opposition. A resolution so that we in this Chamber sing O Canada on a day-to-day basis, and I've just had to point out the fact that on one hand, the Education Minister, using Bill 40, has mandated schools to sing O Canada, yet here in the Chamber, once the—at the end of session, when the Speaker leaves the Chamber, we on this side of the House stand up and sing O Canada.

What happens to the government benches? And the Speaker has actually the tape of this, the government benches clear out, until the last few days.

All of a sudden the Premier (Mr. Kinew) has found some kind of love with the monarchy again and Canada and has started to sing. That's great. We want to see that spread throughout the government benches, multiply and more of you join in singing O Canada and to be showing your true allegiance to this great country of ours: O Canada.

And maybe—maybe—I mean, I know we sang God Save the King a couple times; we probably will be doing it shortly. You know, sometime between now and the future when these bills pass, we'll be singing God Save the King.

It's a good thing, Honourable Speaker, that because of Bill 40—and we're talking about O Canada, God Save the King and land acknowledgements—that I brought forward and tabled the lyrics so that everybody in this great Chamber of ours, later on, when we bring in the Lieutenant Governor to assent to the bills that are passing, including Bill 40—of course this is going to pass—we will sing not only O Canada, all of us will sing O Canada. I'm seeing a *comme ci, comme ça* from a couple members in here, but we'll see how that works out, and also God Save the King.

I think, you know, it's one of those moments where we're near the end of session and I think this is one of those we're-coming-together moments—

An Honourable Member: Kumbaya.

Mr. Ewasko: —and I think maybe—maybe—a Kumbaya moment, as one of the members had said. Either way, I look forward to singing O Canada all together and God Save the King. And, just in case you missed it, those people watching at home and those people here in the Chamber, I've tabled the lyrics so that there's no excuse from the government benches to not sing and not know the words.

Land acknowledgements, of course: I've mentioned previously, and for the benefit of not only the Speaker but others in this Chamber, that we had brought forward the various land acknowledgements, you know, in our seven and a half years of being in government, and then working closely with our partners in education but specifically our Indigenous partners, to make sure that we get it right.

As the Education Minister can attest, and I don't think anybody would argue with this, in regards to truth and reconciliation, we've come a long way but we've got so much—we got so much farther to go, deputy Speaker. And I think, you know, because of some of your guidance here in the Chamber, I think

we've also moved forward positively quite a few steps, Honourable Speaker.

So I'm talking about, again, O Canada, God Save the King and land acknowledgements. We know that 27 Manitobans had received the King's coronation medal from the Premier; the Premier himself received one from the Governor General. So there's no excuse. There's no excuse that in this Chamber that we're not singing O Canada and God save the Queen when we see fit—God Save the King, I apologize.

I think it's our duty. I think when we get elected as an MLA here in Manitoba, it's pretty straightforward. Might not be to a few, but maybe they should take a read on what they've signed up for, that we are part of the Commonwealth. It's just a fact.

Canada is a great place to live. Manitoba has got its challenges for the last little bit, but Manitoba still is a great place to live, work and raise a family. And that's our job on this side of the House, the opposition, is to hold the government to account for some of their missteps that they've been doing over the last just over two years.

We're going to be wrapping up this session sometime between now and the future. And—

* (16:00)

The Speaker: Order, please.

CONCURRENCE AND THIRD READINGS

The Speaker: The time being 4 p.m., I'm now interrupting debate to put the question on the remaining concurrence and third reading motion on designated bills without further debate or amendment, except for the debate provisions allowed under section 2(22) for each such bill: the minister, critic from the official opposition and each independent member may speak for a maximum of 10 minutes per bill.

If such a bill has been previously called for debate, only those eligible who have not yet—who have yet to speak to the bill may do so before the question will be put. The House will not adjourn until all applicable questions have been put and royal assent has been granted.

In accordance with our rules and matter—all matters of privilege and points of order are deferred until after these actions have been concluded.

We will now consider bills in the order listed on the Order Paper.

Bill 8—The Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Control Amendment Act

The Speaker: So we will now go to Bill 8—and I just get the—my Order Paper. All right, we'll get to the right page and away we go.

So we will now go to concurrence and third reading of Bill 8, The Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Control Amendment Act.

The honourable Opposition House Leader.

The honourable member for Brandon East (Mr. Simard) should dress before he gets on camera.

Hon. Matt Wiebe (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): I move, seconded by the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning (MLA Schmidt), that Bill 8, The Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Control Amendment Act, reported from the Standing Committee on Justice, be concurred in and now be read for a third time and passed.

Motion presented.

Mr. Wiebe: I'm pleased to rise in the House, put some words on the record about a bill that I know will keep our communities safer and ultimately keep liquor out of the hands of young people in Manitoba.

Safety for all Manitobans is a priority for this government, and by addressing some of the root causes of crime and focusing on prevention, we have the potential to divert youth away from the criminal justice system. And I do believe that this bill will do just that.

This bill before the House will give the government the broad ability to create regulations on The Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Control Act to restrict eligibility for liquor service licences from specific kinds of businesses in specific areas.

It will enable the Province to prohibit liquor service licences from being issued to the kinds of businesses that attract minors, such as convenience stores in urban areas. Under the current regulatory framework, general liquor service licences are issued to businesses such as restaurants and bars where liquor is consumed on site.

Some convenience stores now sell food for consumption in dining areas within their premises, and this allows them to hold a liquor service licence. But we know that minors are known to frequent these convenience stores. My own kids, I know many of the folks in my neighbourhood, this is the place where kids go and then they would be allowed to see these

adult customers purchasing and consuming liquor in their presence.

Bill 8 will allow government to restrict the eligibility for liquor service licences and designate specific kinds of businesses in certain areas as being ineligible for this type of licence.

Young people, like I said, they like to gather at these convenience stores. They purchase snacks; they purchase drinks; they get a Slurpee. And these stores rely on these businesses, but we also need to make sure that we are protecting the youth that enter their stores. If they're attracting them in there, we need to make sure that they're being protected.

So let's be clear: this type of business is incompatible with liquor service. By introducing legislation that provides a legal mechanism to restrict liquor service, we'll be able to reinforce protections for minors. We'll keep liquor out of corner stores in urban areas. We're going to make communities safer and we're going to help protect youth in our province.

Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Mrs. Colleen Robbins (Spruce Woods): I rise today to speak against Bill 8, which amends The Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Control Act. I cannot see any real purpose for this bill other than to restrict consumer choice, limit free enterprise and undermine businesses in Manitoba at a time when they're already struggling.

Bill 8 reduces choice for Manitobans. It prohibits certain businesses, such as convenience stores, from ever being eligible for a liquor service licence. Consumers should decide where they want to spend their money, not the government.

This comes at the worst possible time: inflation is—foodflation is squeezing families, US tariffs are hitting our businesses and Canada is in a technical recession. Bill 8 makes things worse by limiting competition.

Bill 8 tells businesses they are not trusted. It creates uncertainty by allowing rules to be changed overnight at the whim of a Cabinet. Businesses cannot thrive when government picks winners and losers.

The NDP say they're worried about liquor sales near schools, but they had no problem putting up a government-sanctioned drug injection site across the street from a high school. That is not consistent policy.

In cities, Liquor Marts are the main source of alcohol; in rural Manitoba, small, private stores. And groceries have been—long sold alcohol responsibly. That system works. Yet, the NDP now claim that a

corner store in an urban area selling alcohol would somehow be the downfall of society. This is not about public safety. The reality is, the NDP do not want competition for the Liquor Marts.

Bill 8 shields a government monopoly while pretending to protect communities. Municipalities already have zoning tools to decide where businesses should operate; Bill 8 strips that authority away and it hands it to the minister and LGCA. This is unnecessary centralization.

At a time when Manitoba needs more opportunities, more investments and more consumer choice, Bill 8 closes the door instead of opening them. It risks costing jobs, businesses and growth.

Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

I rise to speak to this Bill 8, The Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Control Amendment Act, on the surface that this may look like a technical change or a small administrative adjustment to Manitobans' liquor laws, but in reality, it's a clear example of government overreach that will hurt small businesses, reduce consumer choice and send a terrible message to Manitobans who are trying to build a life and a business in this province.

What this bill does is quite simple: it gives the Minister of Justice (Mr. Wiebe) and the Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Authority the power to ban certain class of businesses, such as a convenience store or a quick service restaurant, from ever getting a liquor service licence in 'specific' areas. This bill does not just pause application, it hands sweeping powers to the Cabinet to decide which businesses will be allowed to serve liquor and which ones will not.

The government has already made it clear that their intent is to stop convenience stores, particularly those 7-Elevens, from offering limited beverage alcohol service in their food service areas.

Let's be honest, Honourable Speaker: this is not about safety or community or well-being, it's about the NDP deciding who they think is the right kind of business owner and who is not. It is about control and ideology, not evidence.

* (16:10)

This government said it's concerned about convenience stores near schools serving alcohol but, at the same time, they're, as I said already, they were going to have a drug injection site right across from a school. They say one thing about protecting youth, and then they do a complete opposite. This is staggering.

The truth is that the government does not trust Manitobans to make responsible choices. They do not trust small-business owners to run responsible, well-regulated operations. They do not trust municipalities to use zoning and planning tools to decide what makes sense for their own communities. Instead, they want to make the decision themselves from the Cabinet table with no consultation, no local input and no consideration for the people who have already invested their money, their time and their dreams into the small businesses.

The Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries Corporation and the LGCA have a long history of working with local governments to ensure that liquor service is regulated responsibly. These are already strict rules in place. You cannot serve liquor to minors. You cannot sell alcohol to intoxicated individuals. You cannot operate without food service, washrooms and designated dining areas.

Those rules exist for a reason. They work, and they have served Manitobans well for decades. But instead of trusting the system that already works, this government wants to invent new powers that will let them pick winners and losers. Under Bill 8 the minister can, with a single stroke of a pen, declare that an entire class of businesses in a given area is banned from ever obtaining a liquor licence. That means today it might be convenience stores, tomorrow it could be the small-town grocery stores, diners or even community co-ops. It's a blank cheque for arbitrary decision making.

The minister's already issued a directive to the LGC to stop processing liquor service applications for convenience stores. That directive was issued months before this bill was ever introduced. In other words, the government had already made up its mind long before Manitobans had a chance to weigh in. They paused the system first, and now we're changing the law to justify their own actions after the fact.

This is not democracy. It's supposed to—this is not how democracy is supposed to work—sorry. This bill will not improve public safety. It will not protect you. It will not strengthen communities. What it will do is limit consumer choice, reduce competition and create uncertainty for small business at a time when they can least afford it.

Small businesses across Manitoba are struggling right now. They are dealing with record high inflation, rising interest rates and the lingering effects. Food prices are through the roof. Many restaurant owners and family-run business are just barely breaking even. These are the people this bill targets.

When you talk to a small-business owner, they'll tell you that they need most is predictability. They can handle tough conditions if they know the rules of the game are fair and consistent. What they cannot handle is uncertainty. They cannot handle government that changes the rules overnight because of political pressure or ideology.

Many of these small businesses are owned by new Canadians who have come to Manitoba to invest, to work hard and to contribute to their communities. They are people who believe in this province and want to build a future here. They have opened convenience stores and small restaurants and family diners. They have created jobs, paid taxes and become part of the fabric of their neighbourhoods.

Now this government is telling them that their kind of business is not good enough to hold a liquor licence. They are saying that if you own a small convenience store or a quick service restaurant, you are not the right kind of entrepreneur for this government.

The minister seems to think that serving beer with a meal is acceptable in a fine dining restaurant but not a family-style diner attached to a gas station. What message does that send to hard-working Manitobans? It says that if you're not part of the elite dining establishment, your customers do not deserve the same respect.

This is not fairness; this is discrimination, plain and simple. The government is picking winners and losers based on their own biases about what constitutes a proper establishment. It is insulting to the business owners who are simply trying—

The Speaker: Order, please.

The question before the House is concurrence and third reading of Bill 8, The Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Control Amendment Act.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Honourable Members: Agreed.

Some Honourable Members: No.

The Speaker: I hear a no.

Voice Vote

The Speaker: All those in favour, please say aye.

Some Honourable Members: Aye.

The Speaker: All those opposed, please say nay.

Some Honourable Members: Nay.

The Speaker: In my opinion, the Ayes have it.

Mr. Derek Johnson (Official Opposition House Leader): On division, Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: The motion is accordingly passed, on division.

DEBATE ON CONCURRENCE AND THIRD READINGS

Bill 12—The Housing and Renewal Corporation Amendment Act

The Speaker: So now we will move on to consider concurrence and third reading of Bill 12, The Housing and Renewal Corporation Amendment Act.

The minister and the critic have already spoken on this bill.

And, seeing no other speakers, the question before the House is concurrence and third reading of Bill 12, The Housing and Renewal Corporation Amendment Act.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Honourable Members: Agreed.

Some Honourable Members: No.

The Speaker: I hear a no.

Voice Vote

The Speaker: All those in the Chamber—all those in favour of the motion, please say aye.

Some Honourable Members: Aye.

The Speaker: All those opposed, please say nay.

Some Honourable Members: Nay.

The Speaker: My opinion, the Ayes have it.

Mr. Derek Johnson (Official Opposition House Leader): On division, Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: The motion is accordingly passed, on division.

CONCURRENCE AND THIRD READINGS— AMENDED BILLS *(Continued)*

Bill 23—The Public Interest Expression Defence Act

The Speaker: We will now move on to Bill 23, concurrence and third reading of Bill 23, The Public Interest Expression Defence Act.

Hon. Matt Wiebe (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): I move, seconded by the Minister for Families, that Bill 23, The Public Interest Expression Defence Act, as amended and reported from the Standing Committee on Justice, be concurred in and now be read for a third time and passed.

Motion presented.

Mr. Wiebe: I'm very pleased to rise to put a few words on the record at third reading in support of this legislation that will make it harder for large corporations or powerful individuals to silence and intimidate opposing parties or critics that stifle public debate. This bill will establish anti-SLAPP legislation in Manitoba.

SLAPP, as you know, Honourable Speaker, is an acronym for strategic lawsuit against public participation, and we know that these lawsuits can be used as a mechanism to silence or deter participation in debates of issues of public interest. A SLAPP typically takes the form of a meritless lawsuit brought on by an individual or corporation against an opposing party or critic that is intended to silence or intimidate them, deplete their resources or just stifle public debate.

In addition to news organizations, SLAPPs are commonly brought against citizens who publicly comment on health and environmental violations, the citizens who circulate petitions or otherwise engage in public information campaigns; we need to protect those actions.

And, indeed, we heard from many of the citizens during committee who have been engaged in this kind of action, specifically on the environment for whom this legislation is important and this would benefit. But, presently, unfortunately, there has been no legislation in Manitoba that specifically deals with the treatment of SLAPP lawsuits, and we heard how effective these lawsuits have been in silencing less powerful individuals.

While the Court of King's Bench rules and provisions in the King—The Court of King's Bench Act could be used to address SLAPPs, there are no—there are inherent challenges in relying on these remedies alone. And so a Uniform Law Conference of Canada working group noted that evidence should suggest that the common law and civil legal remedies that respond to these abusive lawsuits are not easy to obtain in practice and that action needed to be taken.

* (16:20)

The bill stipulates that a defendant in a proceeding may bring a motion to dismiss that proceeding on the grounds that it arises from the expression made by the defendant on a matter of public interest. And if a judge is satisfied that the defendant has sufficiently proven this, the burden would then shift to the plaintiff to prove that the claim shouldn't be dismissed.

The bill protects the expression by groups and individuals with preventing harm. It ensures that legal actions without—with merit can proceed, but discourages those lawsuits intended solely to suppress public discourse.

We should not allow fear to silence voice that advocates for transparency, for accountability, and above all, for justice. So let's pass this bill. Let's protect public engagement. Let's help the justice system become more accessible and fair. And let's help those who wish to fight for truth in our communities.

Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Mr. Wayne Balcaen (Brandon West): On Bill 23, we did not feel that it was important to rush this bill.

When people's legal rights are involved, governments must take the time to consult and to review very carefully. That is why we paused on this bill, so we can hear from Manitobans and assess how this legislation might work in practice.

There are also defamation lawsuits currently before the courts, and some of those cases could potentially fall within the scope of anti-SLAPP legislation. It would have been reckless to charge ahead without understanding those implications.

On this side of the House, we like to pause and make sure it's done right. We'll leave the recklessness to the NDP government. We took time to review the state of the law and we had time to consult. And now, here we are with Bill 23.

But let me be clear. While this bill is a step forward, it does not fully address the issues it attempts to correct. It offers a start but not a full solution.

Honourable Speaker, much of the concern around SLAPP suits come from how organizations respond when the problems are raised. Too often, when accountability and transparency are lacking, the public has no other choice but to bring these issues forward.

When institutions are mismanaged, when oversight fails and when legitimate concerns are ignored,

Manitobans are left with only one recourse: to speak up publicly. That act of speaking up is not just an exercise in free expression and free speech; it's a civic duty. It's part of holding power to account.

If those voices are silenced through heavy-handed litigation, Manitobans lose a critical safeguard. Communities lose their ability to shine a light on wrongdoing, on waste, or on mismanagement and the result is less accountability, not more.

That is why anti-SLAPP legislation matters. But this is also why Bill 23 feels so incomplete. Yes, it acknowledges the problem. Yes, it sets out a framework for dealing with strategic lawsuits against public participation. But it does not fully answer the question of how to protect Manitobans who are compelled to speak out.

Free expression must be balanced with legitimate rights of individuals to defend their reputations, but the balance struck here is certainly not clear enough. It leaves gaps and uncertainties that will inevitably be tested in the courts.

Bill 23 is a beginning but not an end. It gestures at the principle of protecting free debate, but it does not deliver the certainty that Manitobans deserve. Manitobans need assurances that their rights to raise concerns publicly will be defended. They need to know that mismanagement and lack of accountability cannot be hidden behind expensive lawsuits designed to imitate—intimidate and silence.

This bill begins that conversation, but it certainly does not end it. The work of protecting free expression, ensuring accountability and respecting legitimate legal rights remains unfinished. And for that reason, Honourable Speaker, Bill 23 is a first step, but we and I will continue to press for stronger, clearer protections that Manitobans truly need.

Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: The question before the House is concurrence and third reading of Bill 23, the public interest—no—Bill 23, The Public Interest Expression Defence Act.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?
[Agreed]

The motion is accordingly passed.

CONCURRENCE AND THIRD READINGS

(Continued)

Bill 30—The Election Financing Amendment and Elections Amendment Act

The Speaker: We will now move on to concurrence and third reading of Bill 30, The Election Financing Amendment and Elections Amendment Act.

Hon. Matt Wiebe (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): I move, seconded by the Minister of Finance (MLA Sala), that Bill 30, The Election Financing Amendment and Elections Amendment Act, reported from the Standing Committee on Justice, be concurred in and now read for a third time and passed.

Motion presented.

Mr. Wiebe: I'm pleased to rise today to put some words on the record in support of this legislation that will make our elections more accessible. It will make our campaigns more ethical and it will hold political parties accountable for their actions during campaigns. This bill will make amendments to both The Elections Financing Act and The Elections Act to address issues regarding contributions, advertising, voting at returning offices and strengthening penalties for offences around knowingly promoting or publishing false or damaging information.

You'll remember, Honourable Speaker, during the 2023 provincial election campaign, that we heard from Manitobans directly who took issue with the despicable ads that were run by the opposition during that campaign and how much they affected those who were targeted in those advertisements. These are real people and real families that were targeted and vulnerable people in our society, like our kids.

It's so, so important for us to focus on ethical campaigning, and it's absolutely paramount in a free and fair democracy. So we must actively fight against disinformation and bad faith attacks that are being made by parties and candidates on individuals, on groups or on candidates themselves.

Democracy is incredibly important; I think we can all agree on that. And at a time when democracy is so under threat, here in Canada but throughout the world, we all have to stand together to protect our electoral processes and our hard-earned democratic rights from adverse influence.

Not only that, we also have a duty to hold our own political parties to a higher standard, and what this bill does is ensure that our elections based—remain based in reality and based fact.

New offences are also being created that punish impersonation and the publishing of false statements. This includes banning of so-called deepfakes, which are videos that are being used to—being digitally altered and used by parties to appear as another person, often as a malicious tool to spread disinformation or false information.

Artificial intelligence has changed the world that we live in, and the technology's evolving so quickly, and the ability to create content that uses the likeness of others has become so easy.

So, many of us worry about this effect that it has on our elections, and that's the goal of this bill. The legislation will give voters and party members the tools necessary to hold politicians accountable by requiring parties to establish a code of conduct that includes a complaint procedure for their advertising. So this means that when any party, no matter their political stripe, engages in unethical advertising, there must be a mechanism for their members to hold them accountable, and that's what this code of conduct will do.

* (16:30)

We're also making it easier and more accessible for Manitobans to vote by expanding advanced voting options to include returning offices on Sunday and the Monday before the election. We're giving voters the freedom to choose when and where they vote, and a guarantee that they'll be able to vote.

We also want to make the ability to contribute to the political process more accessible, more democratic for everyone. That's why the legislation lowers the personal contribution limit from its current value of \$6,000 to \$5,000. This ensures that all Manitobans can participate in the electoral process equally and fairly and to bring us in line with most other jurisdictions.

We are protecting the integrity of our elections. We've introduced new offence provisions around false statements and impersonation of elected officials. We are strengthening the accountability measures so that parties like the party opposite cannot, you know, bring these kinds of bills—or these kinds of advertisements forward anymore without any kind of accountability. They laugh at this, they think it's a joke.

Our democracy is no joke. We're going to protect it at every turn. I hope members opposite stand with us in this important legislation.

Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Mr. Wayne Balcaen (Brandon West): In the limited time that I have to respond to this, I can't go all the

way into all of the issues of this bill. But I would like to remind Manitobans, people watching, the government benches, that we brought forward three amendments that would strengthen this bill. We weren't opposed to it; we wanted to strengthen this bill and make sure that it was followed by all parties.

So I'd just like to mention those amendments that we brought forward, Honourable Speaker, so that they're put on the record once more about how reasonable we were being with our recommendations and how unreasonable this government was voting each and every one of them down.

So under section 61.1 subsection 4, we wanted to do an amendment to clause 9. And this amendment clarified that it should have been the Chief Electoral Officer or the commissioner, rather than political parties themselves, who will be responsible for investigating complaints made under a party's code of ethics. As originally drafted, complaints would go directly to the political party being accused, forcing parties to act as both judge and defendant in their own case.

That set-up undermines fairness, transparency and public trust. Transferring this responsibility to Elections Manitoba and the commissioner would've ensured that complaints are handled by an independent body that already has the training, mandate and procedures in place for these investigations. And I know the NDP is happy to investigate their own party, because then they can take these complaints and take out their broom and sweep it under the carpet. That is what you get when you have legislation such as this.

It would've created consistency with other parts of The Election Financing Act which entrusts enforcement to neutral authorities rather than to partisan organizations. This amendment would've strengthened the bill by protecting all parties equally and ensuring Manitobans can have confidence that ethic complaints will be handled fairly, objectively and without political interference or abuse of process.

Now, I'll add again, Honourable Speaker, this amendment was brought forward, and you know who voted it down? The NDP benches.

Our next amendment, Honourable Speaker, was under section 182.1, an amendment to clause 30. This amendment would've added a knowledge and intent requirement to the offence of a—of publishing or distributing false or misleading election information.

As written, the original provision unintentionally penalizes campaign volunteers or workers who unknowingly distribute inaccurate material prepared by others.

For example, a volunteer dropping off flyers could mistakenly deliver materials to both sides of a street, not realizing that one side belongs to a different polling division with a separate voting location.

That volunteer would have no knowledge that the information they were handing out was incorrect, yet they could still be found in violation of the law. This amendment would have ensured that only those who acted knowingly or recklessly were liable, while protecting individuals who act in good faith under the direction of a candidate or registered political party.

Honourable Speaker, elections are fast-paced environments where honest mistakes happen, and this change would have recognized that intent matters; by distinguishing between deliberate misinformation and accidental errors, the law remains strong where it should be against those who intentionally mislead voters but are fair towards those who participate responsibly. It would have strengthened this bill by maintaining accountability while protecting fairness and encouraging continued civic involvement.

Again, this amendment was brought forward, and who voted it down, Honourable Speaker? The NDP.

The last amendment we brought forward to strengthen this bill and to make it more fair was section 37.1; was an amendment to the indexing of contribution limits. This amendment would have restored inflation indexing for political contribution limits, resetting the cap at \$5,000 and providing for automatic annual adjustments based on the January 2026 consumer price index.

Over time, inflation erodes the real value of contribution limits, thus reducing the ability of Manitobans to support the candidates, parties and causes that they believe in. Indexing ensures that civic participation remains fair and accessible so the ordinary citizen can continue to play a meaningful role in the democratic process.

It also provides consistency with other provisions in provincial law, such as the inflation adjustment for auditor fees. This amendment was practical, it was fair, it was democratic; it ensured that the rights of Manitobans to engage politically keeps pace with the cost of living, and that participation in public life remains open to everyone, not just those with greater financial means.

All of these amendments, Honourable Speaker, were voted down by this NDP government. They say they want to work together, but we have witnessed this time and time and time again: it's their way or the

highway. Highways, I might add, that are in deep need of repair and maintenance under this government.

Thank you, honourable deputy Speaker.

The Speaker: The question before the House is concurrence and third reading of Bill 30, The Election Financing Amendment and Elections Amendment Act.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?
[Agreed]

CONCURRENCE AND THIRD READINGS— AMENDED BILLS

(Continued)

Bill 40—An Act respecting "O Canada" and Other Observances and Land and Treaty Acknowledgements in Schools (Education Administration Act and Public Schools Act Amended)

The Speaker: We will now consider concurrence and third reading of Bill 40, An Act respecting "O Canada" and Other Observances and Land and Treaty Acknowledgements in Schools (Education Administration Act and Public Schools Act Amended).

* (16:40)

The minister and the critic have already spoken on this bill, and seeing no other speakers, the question before the House, then, is concurrence and third reading of Bill 40, An Act respecting "O Canada" and Other Observances and Land and Treaty Acknowledgements in Schools, education administration act and public schools amendment act.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?
[Agreed]

The motion is accordingly passed.

Now we will—all right. We will now move on to—the House will resolve into Committee of Supply to consider departmental Estimates.

The honourable Deputy Speaker, please take the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

The Chairperson (Tyler Blashko): Order, please.

Will the Committee of Supply please come to order.

For the information of all members, our rule 2(1) provides in part that where all required actions for the business of supply in the Committee of Supply have not been completed 60 minutes prior to the usual

adjournment hour on the last Thursday sitting prior to the Remembrance Day week, the provisions outlined in rule 2(24) are to apply. Therefore, the hour being 4 p.m., I am interrupting proceedings to put the question without debate or amendment on all remaining resolutions before this section of the Committee of Supply.

I am therefore going to call in sequence the resolutions on the following departments: Public Service Delivery, Transportation and Infrastructure, Emergency Expenditures, Municipal and Northern Relations, Agriculture, Labour and Immigration, Finance, Executive Council, Tax Credits, Enabling Appropriations, Employee Pensions and Other Costs, Public Service Commission, Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures, Legislative Assembly, Education and Early Childhood Learning, Families, Environment and Climate Change, Innovation and New Technology, Advanced Education and Training.

At this point, we will allow virtual members to unmute their mics so they can respond to the questions on the resolutions.

PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY

The Chairperson (Tyler Blashko): We will now consider the resolutions for the Department of Public Service Delivery.

* (16:50)

Resolution 8.1: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$3,086,000 for Public Service Delivery, Financial and Strategic Management, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 8.2: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$10,798,000 for Public Service Delivery, Capital Programs, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 8.3: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$123,154,000 for Public Service Delivery, Asset Management, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 8.4: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$21,439,000 for Public Service Delivery, Procurement and Supply Chain, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 8.5: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$16,030,000 for Public Service Delivery, Consumer Protection, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 8.6: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$95,421,000 for Public Service Delivery, Capital Assets, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

We will now consider the resolutions for the Department of Transportation.

For the information of the committee, there are no monies allocated for resolution 8.7 this year, so there does not need to be a vote on this resolution.

We will now consider the resolutions for the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure—sorry, that now concludes the departmental Estimates for Public Service Delivery.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Chairperson (Tyler Blashko): We will now consider the resolutions for the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Resolution 15.1: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$3,601,000 for Transportation and Infrastructure, Finance and Administration, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 15.2: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$26,339,000 for Transportation and Infrastructure, Corporate Services, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 15.3: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$5,652,000 for Transportation and Infrastructure, Infrastructure Capital Projects, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 15.4: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$165,924,000 for Transportation and Infrastructure, Transportation Operations, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 15.5: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$32,928,000 for Transportation and Infrastructure, Engineering and Technical Services, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 15.6: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$9,039,000 for Transportation and Infrastructure, Emergency Management, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 15.7: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$595,000,000 for Transportation and Infrastructure, Capital Assets, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

That concludes the departmental Estimates—the Estimates for the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure.

EMERGENCY EXPENDITURES

The Chairperson (Tyler Blashko): We will now consider the resolutions for the Department of Emergency Expenditures.

Resolution 27.1: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$50,000,000 for Emergency Expenditures, Emergency Expenditures, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

And that concludes the departmental Estimates for Emergency Expenditures.

MUNICIPAL AND NORTHERN RELATIONS

The Chairperson (Tyler Blashko): We will now consider the resolutions for the Department of Municipal and Northern Relations.

Resolution 13.1: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$16,305,000 for Municipal and Northern Relations, Administration and Finance, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 13.2: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$5,687,000 for Municipal and Northern Relations, Community Planning and Development, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 13.3: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$26,707,000 for Municipal and Northern Relations, Municipal and Northern Support Services, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 13.4: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$694,140,000 for Municipal and Northern Relations, Community Funding, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 13.5: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,512,000 for municipal relations, Capital Assets, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 13.6: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$104,200,000 for Municipal and Northern Relations, Loans and Guarantees Programs, for the fiscal—[interjection] I'll reread the number, yes—a sum not exceeding \$104,200,000 for Municipal and Northern Relations, loans guarantees programs, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 13.7: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$50,000 for Municipal and Northern Relations, Other Reporting Entities Capital Investment, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

And that concludes the departmental Estimates for Municipal and Northern Relations.

AGRICULTURE

The Chairperson (Tyler Blashko): We will now consider the resolution for the department—the resolutions for the Department of Agriculture.

Resolution 3.1: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$4,419,000 for Agriculture, Financial and Administrative Services, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 3.2: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$167,279,000 for Agriculture, Risk Management, Credit and Income Support Programs, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 3.3: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$24,952,000 for Agriculture, Industry Advancement, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 3.4: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$16,691,000 for Agriculture, Agriculture Production, Innovation and Resilience, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

* (17:00)

Resolution 3.5: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$14,493,000 for Agriculture, Strategic Planning, Policy and Programs, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 3.6: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$2,511,000 for Agriculture, Capital Assets, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 3.7: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$247,430,000 for Agriculture, Loans and Guarantees Program, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

And that concludes the departmental Estimates for the Department of Agriculture.

LABOUR AND IMMIGRATION

The Chairperson (Tyler Blashko): We will now consider the resolutions for the Department of Labour and Immigration.

Resolution 11.1: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,452,000 for Labour and Immigration, Administration, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 11.2: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$25,637,000 for Labour and Immigration, Labour, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 11.3: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$12,063,000 for Labour and Immigration, Immigration, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

And that concludes the departmental Estimates for the Department of Labour and Immigration.

FINANCE

The Chairperson (Tyler Blashko): We will now consider the resolutions for the Department of Finance.

Resolution 7.1: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$9,022,000 for Finance, Administration and Finance, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 7.2: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,815,000 for Finance, Corporate Services, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 7.3: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$2,901,000 for Finance, Finance Policy and Research, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 7.4: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$9,136,000 for Finance, Communications and Engagement, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 7.5: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$2,469,000 for Finance, Treasury, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 7.6: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$16,488,000 for Finance, Taxation, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 7.7: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$10,329,000 for Finance, Treasury Board Secretariat, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 7.8: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,643,000 for Finance, Community and Economic Development Secretariat, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 7.9: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$3,039,000 for Finance, Intergovernmental Affairs, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 7.10: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$10,556,000 for Finance, Manitoba Indigenous Reconciliation Secretariat, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 7.11: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$265,000,000 for Finance, Other Reporting Entities Capital Investment, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

And that concludes the departmental Estimates for the Department of Finance.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Chairperson (Tyler Blashko): We will now consider the resolutions for the Department of Executive Council.

Resolution 2.1: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$3,634,000 for Executive Council, General Administration, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

And that concludes the departmental Estimates for Executive Council.

TAX CREDITS

The Chairperson (Tyler Blashko): We will now consider the resolutions for the Department of Tax Credits.

Resolution 33.1: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$398,260,000 for Tax Credits, Tax Credits, Fees and Other Costs, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

And that concludes the departmental Estimates for Tax Credits.

ENABLING APPROPRIATIONS

The Chairperson (Tyler Blashko): We will now consider the resolutions for the Department of Enabling Appropriations.

Resolution 26.1: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$555,731,000 for Enabling Appropriations, Internal Service Adjustments, Contingencies and Limited-Term Funding, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 26.2: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$40,000,000 for Enabling Appropriations, Green and Carbon Reduction Fund for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 26.3: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$150,000,000 for Enabling Appropriations, Capital Assets—Internal Service Adjustments and Contingencies, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 26.4: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$325,000,000 for Enabling Appropriations, Loans and Guarantees—Internal Service Adjustments and Contingencies, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 26.5: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$249,000,000 for Enabling Appropriations, Other Reporting Entities Capital Investment–Internal Service Adjustments, Contingencies and Limited-Term Funding, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

And that concludes the departmental Estimates for Enabling Appropriations.

EMPLOYEE PENSIONS AND OTHER COSTS

The Chairperson (Tyler Blashko): We will now consider the resolutions for the Department of Employee Pensions and Other Costs.

Resolution 6.1: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$29,101,000 for Employee Pensions and Other Costs, Employee Pensions and Other Costs, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

And that concludes the departmental Estimates for Employee Pensions and Other Costs.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

The Chairperson (Tyler Blashko): We will now move on to consider the resolutions for the Department of Public Service Commission.

* (17:10)

Resolution 17.1: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$30,803,000 for Public Service Commission, Public Service Commission, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

And that concludes the departmental Estimates for Public Service Commission.

**NATURAL RESOURCES AND
INDIGENOUS FUTURES**

The Chairperson (Tyler Blashko): We will now consider the resolutions for the Department of Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures.

Resolution 25.1: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$7,510,000 for Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures, Administration and Finance, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 25.2: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$17,479,000 for Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures, Indigenous Economic Partnerships, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 25.3: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$33,984,000 for Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures, Natural Resource Stewardship, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 25.4: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$78,716,000 for Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures, Conservation and Wildfire Services, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 25.5: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$7,454,000 for Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures, Capital Assets, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 25.6: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$67,500,000 for Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures, Loans and Guarantees Program, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

And that concludes our departmental Estimates for Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The Chairperson (Tyler Blashko): We will now consider the resolutions for the Department of Legislative Assembly.

Resolution 1.1: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$13,364,000 for Legislative Assembly, Other Assembly Expenditures, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 1.2: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$8,592,000 for Legislative Assembly, Office of the Auditor General, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 1.3: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$5,808,000 for Legislative Assembly, Office of the Ombudsman, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 1.4: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$3,015,000 for Legislative Assembly, Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 1.5: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$8,530,000 for Legislative Assembly, Office of the Advocate for Children and Youth, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 1.6: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$662,000 for Legislative Assembly, Office of the Ethics Commissioner, Lobbyist Registrar, Information and Privacy Adjudicator, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 1.7: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,986,000 for Legislative Assembly, Capital Assets, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

And that concludes our departmental Estimates for Legislative Assembly.

EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING

The Chairperson (Tyler Blashko): We will now consider the resolutions for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Learning.

Resolution 16.1: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$3,421,000 for Education and Early Childhood Learning, Administration and Finance, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 16.2: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$28,005,000 for Education and Early Childhood Learning, Student Achievement and Inclusion, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 16.3 RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$14,411,000 for Education and Early Childhood Learning, Bureau de l'éducation française, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 16.4: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$5,329,000 for Education and Early Childhood Learning, Indigenous Excellence in Education, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 16.5: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$13,816,000 for Education and Early Childhood Learning, System Performance and Accountability, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 16.6: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,936,910,000 for Education and Early Childhood Learning, Support to Schools, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 16.7: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$4,983,000 for Education and Early Childhood Learning, Corporate Services, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 16.8: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$503,370,000 for Education and Early Childhood Learning, Early Learning and Child Care, for the fiscal year ending in—ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 16.9: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$116,586,000 for Education and Early Childhood Learning, Costs Related to Capital Assets of Other Reporting Entities, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 16.10: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$20,665,000 for Education and Early Childhood Learning, Capital Assets, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 16.11: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$174,335,000 for Education and Early Childhood Learning, Other Reporting Entities Capital Investment, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

And that concludes the departmental Estimates for Education and Early Childhood Learning.

FAMILIES

The Chairperson (Tyler Blashko): We will now consider the resolutions for the Department of Families.

Resolution 9.1: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$6,626,000 for Families, Administration and Finance, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 9.2: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$103,839,000 for Families, Community Services and Supports, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 9.3: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,518,965,000 for Families, Policy, Programs and Legislation, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

* (17:20)

Resolution 9.4: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$535,832,000 for Families, Child and Youth Services, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 9.5: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$9,016,000 for Families, Digital, Organization and Strategy, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 9.6: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$53,038,000 for Families, Women and Gender Equity Manitoba, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

And that concludes our departmental Estimates for the Department of Families.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Chairperson (Tyler Blashko): We will now consider the resolutions for the Department of Environment and Climate Change.

Resolution 12.1: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$8,853,000 for Environment and Climate Change, Finance and Shared Services, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 12.2: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$30,539,000 for Environment and Climate Change, Environmental Stewardship, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 12.3: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$3,419,000 for Environment and Climate Change, Climate Action and Energy Innovation, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 12.4: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$22,847,000 for Environment and Climate Change, Water Stewardship, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 12.5: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$42,901,000 for Environment and Climate Change, Parks and Trails, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 12.6: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$10,130,000 for Environment and Climate Change, Capital Assets, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

And that concludes our departmental Estimates for Environment and Climate Change.

INNOVATION AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

The Chairperson (Tyler Blashko): We will now consider the resolutions for the Department of Innovation and New Technology.

Resolution 18.1: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,189,000 for Innovation and New Technology, Administration and Finance, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 18.2: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$63,841,000 for Innovation and New Technology, Digital and Technology Solutions, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 18.3: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$2,860,000 for Innovation and New Technology, Cyber Security, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 18.4: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$65,200,000 for Innovation and New Technology, Enterprise Resource Planning Modernization Program, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 18.5: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$22,473,000 for Innovation and New Technology, Public Safety Communication Services, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 18.6: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$11,065,000 for Innovation and New Technology, Innovation, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 18.7: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$5,200,000 for Innovation and New Technology, Capital Assets, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

That concludes our departmental Estimates for Innovation and New Technology.

ADVANCED EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Chairperson (Tyler Blashko): We will now consider the resolutions for the Department of Advanced Education and Training.

Resolution 44.1: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$4,071,000 for Advanced Education and Training, Administration, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 44.2: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$900,438,000 for Advanced Education and Training, Advanced Education, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 44.3: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$93,070,000 for Advanced Education and Training, Student Access and Success, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 44.4: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$120,498,000 for Advanced Education and Training, Loans and Guarantees Programs, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolution 44.5: RESOLVED that there be granted to His Majesty a sum not exceeding \$42,500,000 for Advanced Education and Training, Other Reporting Entities Capital Investment, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2026.

Resolution agreed to.

That concludes our departmental Estimates for Advanced Education and Training.

This completes the Estimates of all remaining departments before this section of Supply.

This also concludes our consideration of the Estimates in the section of the Committee of Supply meeting in the Chamber. That concludes the business before the committee.

Committee rise and call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION

The Speaker: Order, please.

Committee Report

Mr. Tyler Blashko (Chairperson): Honourable Speaker, the Committee of Supply has considered and adopted certain resolutions.

I move, seconded by the honourable member for Burrows (Mr. Brar), that the report of the committee be received.

Motion agreed to.

The Speaker: The motion is accordingly passed.

We will now move on to—the House will resolve into Committee of Supply.

The honourable Deputy Speaker, please take the Chair.

* (17:30)

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

The Chairperson (Tyler Blashko): Will the Committee of Supply please come to order.

Concurrence Motion

Hon. Nahanni Fontaine (Government House Leader): I move that the Committee of Supply concur in all Supply resolutions relating to the Estimates of Expenditure for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026, which have been adopted at this session, whether by a section of the Committee of Supply or by the full committee.

Motion presented.

The Chairperson: This motion is in order. As the hour is past 4 p.m., there is no debate on this motion.

Shall the motion pass? *[Agreed]*

This concludes the business before us.

Committee rise.

Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION

The Speaker: Order, please.

Committee Report

Mr. Tyler Blashko (Chairperson): Honourable Speaker, the Committee of Supply has adopted a motion regarding concurrence in Supply.

I move, seconded by the honourable member for Thompson (MLA Redhead), that the report of the committee be received.

Motion agreed to.

Concurrence Motion

Hon. Nahanni Fontaine (Government House Leader): I move, seconded by the Minister for Justice, that the House concur in the report of the Committee of Supply respecting concurrence in all Supply resolutions related to the Estimates of expenditure for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026.

Motion agreed to.

Supply Motion

Hon. Adrien Sala (Minister of Finance): I move, seconded by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Wiebe), that there be granted to His Majesty for the public service of the province for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026, out of the consolidated fund, the sums of \$19,611,654,000 as set out in part A, Operating Expenditure; and \$893,116,000 as set out in part B, Capital Investment; and \$939,628,000 as set out in part C, Loans and Guarantees; and \$1,408,835,000 as set out in part D, Capital Investments by Other Reporting Entities of the Estimates.

The Speaker: It has been moved by the honourable Minister of Finance, seconded by the honourable Minister of Justice, that there be granted to His Majesty for the public service of the province for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026, out of the consolidated fund, the sums of \$19,611,654,000 as set out in part A, Operating Expenditure; and \$893,116,000 as set out in part B, Capital Investment; and \$939,628,000 as set out in part C of Loans and Guarantees; and \$1,408,835,000 as set out in part D, Capital Investments by Other Reporting Entities.

Is it the pleasure of the House—of the Estimates, sorry.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?
[Agreed]

The motion is accordingly carried.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**Bill 52—The Appropriation Act, 2025**

Hon. Adrien Sala (Minister of Finance): I move, seconded by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Kostyshyn), that Bill 52, The Appropriation Act, 2025; Loi de 2025 portant affectation de crédits, be now read a first time and be ordered for second reading immediately.

Motion agreed to.

The Speaker: The motion is accordingly passed.

SECOND READINGS

Bill 52—The Appropriation Act, 2025

Hon. Adrien Sala (Minister of Finance): I move, seconded by the Minister of Families (MLA Fontaine), that Bill 52, The Appropriation Act, 2025; Loi de 2025 portant affectation de crédits, be now read a second time and be referred to Committee of the Whole.

Motion presented.

The Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Honourable Members: Agreed.

Some Honourable Members: No.

The Speaker: Agreed and so ordered. *[interjection]* Oh. I hear a no.

Voice Vote

The Speaker: All those in favour of the motion, please say aye.

Some Honourable Members: Aye.

The Speaker: All those opposed, please say nay.

Some Honourable Members: Nay.

The Speaker: In my opinion, the Ayes have it.

Recorded Vote

Mr. Derek Johnson (Official Opposition House Leader): I request a recorded vote, Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: A recorded vote has been called; please call in the members.

* (18:30)

Order, please.

The question before the House is second reading of Bill 52, The Appropriation Act, 2025.

Division

A RECORDED VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

Ayes

Asagwara, Blashko, Brar, Bushie, Cable, Chen, Compton, Corbett, Cross, Dela Cruz, Devgan, Fontaine, Kennedy, Kinew, Kostyshyn, Loiselle, Maloway, Marcelino, Moroz, Moses, Moyes, Naylor, Oxenham, Pankratz, Redhead, Sala, Sandhu, Schmidt, Schott, Simard, Smith, Wiebe.

Nays

Balcaen, Bereza, Byram, Cook, Ewasko, Goertzen, Guenter, Hiebert, Johnson, King, Lagassé, Lamoureux, Narth, Nesbitt, Piwniuk, Robbins, Schuler, Stone, Wharton, Wowchuk.

Clerk (Mr. Rick Yarish): Ayes 32, Nays 20.

The Speaker: The motion is accordingly passed.

* (18:40)

Bill 46—The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2025

The Speaker: We will now move on to Bill 46, The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2025.

Hon. Adrien Sala (Minister of Finance): I move, seconded by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Kostyshyn), that Bill 46, The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2025; Loi d'exécution du budget de 2025 et modifiant diverses dispositions législatives en matière de fiscalité, be now read a second time and be referred to a committee of this House.

Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor has been advised of the bill—*[interjection]* I'm just reading the documents—Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor has been advised of the bill, and I table the message.

The Speaker: It has been moved by the Minister of Finance, seconded by the Minister of Agriculture, that Bill 46, The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2025, be now read a second time and be referred to a committee of this House.

Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor has been advised of the bill, and the message has been tabled.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Honourable Members: Agreed.

Some Honourable Members: No.

The Speaker: I hear a no.

Voice Vote

The Speaker: All those in the Chamber in favour, please say aye.

Some Honourable Members: Aye.

The Speaker: All those opposed, please say no—nay.

Some Honourable Members: Nay.

The Speaker: I believe the Ayes have it.

Recorded Vote

Mr. Derek Johnson (Official Opposition House Leader): A recorded vote, please.

The Speaker: A recorded vote has been called for, call in the members.

* (18:50)

The Speaker: Order, please.

The question before the House is Bill 46, the budget implementation and tax amendments act, 2025.

Division

A RECORDED VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

Ayes

Asagwara, Blashko, Brar, Bushie, Cable, Chen, Compton, Corbett, Cross, Dela Cruz, Devgan, Fontaine, Kennedy, Kostyshyn, Loiselle, Maloway, Marcelino, Moroz, Moses, Moyes, Naylor, Oxenham, Pankratz, Redhead, Sala, Sandhu, Schmidt, Schott, Simard, Smith, Wiebe.

Nays

Balcaen, Bereza, Byram, Cook, Ewasko, Goertzen, Guenter, Hiebert, Johnson, King, Lagassé, Lamoureux, Narth, Nesbitt, Piwniuk, Robbins, Schuler, Stone, Wharton, Wowchuk.

Clerk (Mr. Rick Yarish): Ayes 31, Nays 20.

The Speaker: The motion is accordingly passed.

Bill 51—The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (2)

The Speaker: We will now move on to Bill 51, the budget implementation and tax structures—statutes amendment act, 2025 (2).

Hon. Adrien Sala (Minister of Finance): I move, seconded by the Minister for Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism, that Bill 51, The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (2); Loi no. 2 d'exécution du budget de 2025 et modifiant diverses dispositions législatives en matière de fiscalité, be now read a second time and be referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor has been advised of the bill, and I table the message.

The Speaker: It has been moved by the honourable Minister of Finance, seconded by the honourable

Minister of Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism (MLA Kennedy), that Bill 51, The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2025(2), be now read a second time and be referred to a Committee of the Whole.

Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor has been advised of the bill, and the message has been tabled.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion? *[Agreed]*

The motion is accordingly passed.

Mr. Derek Johnson (Official Opposition House Leader): Is there will to see it unanimous?

The Speaker: Is there will of the House to see the vote as unanimous? *[Agreed]*

The vote is recorded as being unanimous.

* * *

The Speaker: The House will now resolve into Committee of the Whole to consider and report on Bill 52, The Appropriation Act, 2025; Bill 46, the budget and tax statutes amendment act, 2025; and Bill 51, the budget and tax statutes amendment act, 2025(2), for concurrence and third reading.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, please take the Chair.

* (19:00)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Chairperson (Tyler Blashko): The Committee of the Whole will come to order to consider the following bills: Bill 52, The Appropriation Act, 2025; Bill 46, The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2025; Bill 51, The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (2).

Bill 52—The Appropriation Act, 2025

The Chairperson: We will now proceed with clause by clause of Bill 52, The Appropriation Act, 2025.

During the consideration of this bill, the enacting clause and the title are postponed until all of the clauses have been considered in their proper order.

Clause 1—pass.

Shall clause 2 pass?

Some Honourable Members: Pass

An Honourable Member: No.

The Chairperson: I hear a no.

Voice Vote

The Chairperson: All those in favour, please say aye.

Some Honourable Members: Aye.

The Chairperson: All those opposed, please say nay.

Some Honourable Members: Nay.

The Chairperson: In my opinion, the Ayes have it.

 The—clause 2 is accordingly passed.

* * *

The Chairperson: Shall clause 3 pass?

Some Honourable Members: Pass.

An Honourable Member: No.

The Chairperson: I hear a no.

Voice Vote

The Chairperson: All those in favour, please say aye.

Some Honourable Members: Aye.

The Chairperson: All those opposed, please say nay.

Some Honourable Members: Nay.

The Chairperson: In my opinion, the Ayes have it.

 Clause 3 is accordingly passed.

* * *

The Chairperson: Shall clause 4 pass?

Some Honourable Members: Pass.

Some Honourable Members: No.

The Chairperson: I hear a no.

Voice Vote

The Chairperson: All those in favour, please say aye.

Some Honourable Members: Aye.

The Chairperson: All those opposed, please say nay.

Some Honourable Members: Nay.

The Chairperson: In my opinion, the Ayes have it.

 Clause 4 is accordingly passed.

* * *

The Chairperson: Shall clause 5 pass?

Some Honourable Members: Pass.

The Chairperson: I hear a no.

Voice Vote

The Chairperson: All those in favour, please say aye.

Some Honourable Members: Aye.

The Chairperson: All those opposed, please say nay.

Some Honourable Members: Nay.

The Chairperson: In my opinion, the Ayes have it.

 Clause 5 is accordingly passed.

* * *

The Chairperson: Shall clause 6 pass?

Some Honourable Members: Pass.

Some Honourable Members: No.

The Chairperson: I hear a no.

Voice Vote

The Chairperson: All those in favour, please say aye.

Some Honourable Members: Aye.

The Chairperson: All those opposed, please say nay.

Some Honourable Members: Nay.

The Chairperson: In my opinion, the Ayes have it.

 Shall—clause 6 is accordingly passed.

* * *

The Chairperson: Shall clause 7 pass?

Some Honourable Members: Pass.

Some Honourable Members: No.

The Chairperson: I hear a no.

Voice Vote

The Chairperson: All those in favour, please say aye.

Some Honourable Members: Aye.

The Chairperson: All those opposed, please say nay.

Some Honourable Members: Nay.

The Chairperson: In my opinion, the Ayes have it.

 Clause 7 is accordingly passed.

* * *

The Chairperson: Clause 8—pass; clause 9—pass; clause 10—pass; schedule—pass; enacting clause—pass; title—pass. Bill be reported.

**Bill 46—The Budget Implementation and
Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2025**

The Chairperson: We shall now proceed with clause by clause of Bill 46, The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2025.

During the consideration of this bill, the enacting clause and the title are postponed until all other clauses have been considered in their proper order.

Also, if there is agreement from the committee, the Chair will call clauses in blocks that conform to pages, with the understanding that we will stop at any particular clause or clauses where members may have comments, questions or amendments to propose.

Is that agreed? *[Agreed]*

Shall—okay. So there won't be comments or questions, but we will call it in blocks.

Clauses 1 and 2—pass; clauses 3 through 6—pass; clauses 7 and 8—pass.

Shall clauses 9 through 11 pass?

Some Honourable Members: Pass.

Some Honourable Members: No.

The Chairperson: I hear a no.

Clause 9—pass.

Shall clause 10 pass?

An Honourable Member: Yes.

An Honourable Member: Recorded vote. I stood; I guess I didn't have to, but recorded vote, please.

The Chairperson: So clause 10 has passed—*[interjection]* Clause 9 has passed.

So shall clause 10 pass?

Some Honourable Members: Pass.

The Chairperson: Clause—

Recorded Vote

An Honourable Member: I request a recorded vote.

The Chairperson: A recorded vote has been requested, call in the members.

* (19:10)

Order.

The question before the House is shall clause 10 of Bill 46 pass.

Division

A RECORDED VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

Ayes

Balcaen, Bereza, Brar, Bushie, Byram, Chen, Compton, Cook, Corbett, Cross, Dela Cruz, Devgan, Ewasko, Fontaine, Goertzen, Guenter, Hiebert, Johnson, Kennedy, Khan, Kinew, King, Kostyshyn, Lagassé, Loiselle, Maloway, Marcelino, Moroz, Moses, Moyes, Narth, Naylor, Nesbitt, Oxenham, Pankratz, Piwniuk, Redhead, Robbins, Sala, Sandhu, Schmidt, Schott, Schuler, Simard, Smith, Stone, Wharton, Wiebe, Wowchuk.

Deputy Clerk (Mr. Tim Abbott): Ayes 49, Nays 0.

The Chairperson: Clause 10 for Bill 46 is accordingly passed.

* * *

The Chairperson: Just for clarity for everyone, that was a question before the committee and not a question before the House.

Shall clause 11 pass?

Some Honourable Members: Pass.

Recorded Vote

An Honourable Member: Mr. Chair, I'd like a recorded vote on clause 11.

The Chairperson: A recorded vote has been requested on clause 11. Call in the members.

* (19:20)

Order. The question before the committee is shall clause 11 of Bill 46 pass.

Division

A RECORDED VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

Ayes

Balcaen, Bereza, Brar, Bushie, Byram, Chen, Compton, Cook, Corbett, Cross, Dela Cruz, Devgan, Ewasko, Fontaine, Goertzen, Guenter, Hiebert, Johnson, Kennedy, Khan, Kinew, King, Kostyshyn, Lagassé, Loiselle, Maloway, Marcelino, Moroz, Moses, Moyes, Narth, Naylor, Nesbitt, Oxenham, Pankratz, Piwniuk, Redhead, Robbins, Sala, Sandhu, Schmidt, Schott, Schuler, Simard, Smith, Stone, Wharton, Wiebe, Wowchuk.

Deputy Clerk: Ayes 49, Nays 0.

The Chairperson: Clause 11 of Bill 46 is accordingly passed.

* * *

The Chairperson: Shall clauses 12 through 15 pass?

Some Honourable Members: Pass.

Some Honourable Members: No.

The Chairperson: I hear a no.

Clause 12—pass; clause 13—pass.

Shall clause 14 pass?

Some Honourable Members: Pass.

Some Honourable Members: No.

The Chairperson: I hear a no.

Voice Vote

The Chairperson: All those in favour, please say aye.

Some Honourable Members: Aye.

The Chairperson: All those opposed, please say nay.

Some Honourable Members: Nay.

The Chairperson: In my opinion, the Ayes have it.

Clause 14—

Recorded Vote

An Honourable Member: I'd like a recorded vote.

The Chairperson: There's a recorded vote request for clause 14. Please call in the members.

* (19:30)

Order.

The question before the committee is, shall clause 14 of Bill 46 pass?

Division

A RECORDED VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

Ayes

Asagwara, Brar, Bushie, Chen, Compton, Corbett, Cross, Dela Cruz, Devgan, Fontaine, Kennedy, Kinew, Kostyshyn, Loiselle, Maloway, Marcelino, Moroz, Moses, Moyes, Naylor, Oxenham, Pankratz, Redhead, Sala, Sandhu, Schmidt, Schott, Simard, Smith, Wiebe.

Nays

Balcaen, Bereza, Byram, Cook, Ewasko, Goertzen, Guenter, Hiebert, Johnson, Khan, King, Lagassé, Narth, Nesbitt, Piwniuk, Robbins, Schuler, Stone, Wharton, Wowchuk.

Deputy Clerk: Ayes 30, Nays 20.

The Chairperson: Clause 14 of Bill 46 is accordingly passed.

* * *

The Chairperson: Shall clause 15 pass?

Some Honourable Members: Pass.

Some Honourable Members: No.

The Chairperson: I hear a no.

Voice Vote

The Chairperson: All those in favour, please say aye.

Some Honourable Members: Aye.

The Chairperson: All those opposed, please say nay.

Some Honourable Members: Nay.

The Chairperson: In my opinion, the Ayes have it.

Recorded Vote

An Honourable Member: Can we have a recorded vote, please?

The Chairperson: A recorded vote has been requested; please call in the members.

The question before the committee is, shall clause 15 of Bill 46 pass?

Division

A RECORDED VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

Ayes

Asagwara, Brar, Bushie, Cable, Chen, Compton, Corbett, Cross, Dela Cruz, Devgan, Fontaine, Kennedy, Kinew, Kostyshyn, Loiselle, Maloway, Marcelino, Moroz, Moses, Moyes, Naylor, Oxenham, Pankratz, Redhead, Sala, Sandhu, Schmidt, Schott, Simard, Smith, Wiebe.

Nays

Balcaen, Bereza, Byram, Cook, Ewasko, Goertzen, Guenter, Hiebert, Johnson, Khan, King, Lagassé, Narth, Nesbitt, Piwniuk, Robbins, Schuler, Stone, Wharton, Wowchuk.

Deputy Clerk: Ayes 31, Nays 20.

The Chairperson: Clause 15 of Bill 46 is accordingly passed.

* (19:40)

* * *

The Chairperson: Clauses 16 and 17—pass; clauses 18 and 19—pass; clauses 20 and 21—pass; clauses 22 and 23—pass; clauses 24 and 25—pass; clauses 26 and 27—pass; clauses 28 through 31—pass; clauses 32 through 35—pass.

Shall clauses 36 and 37 pass?

Some Honourable Members: Pass.

Some Honourable Members: No.

The Chairperson: I hear a no.

Clause 36—pass.

Shall clause 37 pass?

Some Honourable Members: Pass.

Some Honourable Members: No.

The Chairperson: I hear a no.

Voice Vote

The Chairperson: All those in favour, please say aye.

Some Honourable Members: Aye.

The Chairperson: All those opposed, please say nay.

Some Honourable Members: Nay.

The Chairperson: In my opinion, the Ayes have it.

Recorded Vote

An Honourable Member: A recorded vote.

The Chairperson: A recorded vote has been requested. Please call in the members.

The question before the committee is, shall clause 37 of Bill 46 pass?

Division

A RECORDED VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

Ayes

Asagwara, Brar, Bushie, Cable, Chen, Compton, Corbett, Cross, Dela Cruz, Devgan, Fontaine, Kennedy, Kostyshyn, Loiselle, Maloway, Marcelino, Moroz, Moses, Moyes, Naylor, Oxenham, Pankratz, Redhead, Sala, Sandhu, Schmidt, Schott, Simard, Smith, Wiebe.

Nays

Balcaen, Bereza, Byram, Cook, Ewasko, Goertzen, Guenter, Hiebert, Johnson, Khan, King, Lagassé, Narth, Nesbitt, Piwniuk, Robbins, Schuler, Stone, Wharton, Wowchuk.

Deputy Clerk: Ayes 30, Nays 20.

The Chairperson: Clause 37 of Bill 46 is accordingly passed.

* * *

* (19:50)

The Chairperson: Shall clause 38 and 39 pass?

Some Honourable Members: Pass.

Some Honourable Members: No.

The Chairperson: I hear a no.

Shall clause 38 pass?

Some Honourable Members: Pass.

Some Honourable Members: No.

The Chairperson: I hear a no.

Voice Vote

The Chairperson: All those in favour, please say aye.

Some Honourable Members: Aye.

The Chairperson: All those opposed, please say nay.

Some Honourable Members: Nay.

The Chairperson: In my opinion, the Ayes have it.

Recorded Vote

Mrs. Lauren Stone (Midland): A recorded vote, please.

The Chairperson: A recorded vote has been requested. Please call in the members.

The question before the committee is, shall clause 38 from Bill 46 pass?

Division

A RECORDED VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

Ayes

Asagwara, Brar, Bushie, Cable, Chen, Compton, Corbett, Cross, Dela Cruz, Devgan, Fontaine, Kennedy, Kostyshyn, Loiselle, Maloway, Marcelino, Moroz, Moses, Moyes, Naylor, Oxenham, Pankratz, Redhead, Sala, Sandhu, Schmidt, Schott, Simard, Smith, Wiebe.

Nays

Balcaen, Bereza, Byram, Cook, Ewasko, Goertzen, Guenter, Hiebert, Johnson, Khan, King, Lagassé, Narth, Nesbitt, Piwniuk, Robbins, Schuler, Stone, Wharton, Wowchuk.

Deputy Clerk: Ayes 30, Nays 20.

The Chairperson: Clause 38 of Bill 46 is accordingly passed.

* * *

The Chairperson: Clause 39—pass; clauses 40 through 43—pass.

Shall clauses 44 and 45 pass?

Some Honourable Members: Pass.

The Chairperson: Clauses 44 and—

An Honourable Member: No.

The Chairperson: No? Okay.

I heard a no.

Shall clause 44 pass?

Some Honourable Members: Pass.

The Chairperson: Clause—

An Honourable Member: Is it the will the House call that unanimous?

The Chairperson: The honourable member for Midland.

Mrs. Stone: Is it the will of the House to call that clause unanimous?

The Chairperson: Is it the will of the House to call clause 44 unanimous? *[Agreed]*

Clause 44 is passed unanimously.

Shall clause 45 pass?

Some Honourable Members: Pass.

An Honourable Member: No.

The Chairperson: I hear a no.

Shall—the honourable member for Midland.

Mrs. Stone: Is it will of the House to call clause 45 unanimous?

The Chairperson: Is it the will of the House to call clause 45 unanimous? *[Agreed]*

Clause 45 is passed unanimously.

Clause 46—pass; clause 47—pass; clause 48—pass.

Shall clauses 49 and 50 pass?

Some Honourable Members: Pass.

An Honourable Member: No.

The Chairperson: I hear a no.

Clause 49—pass.

Shall clause 50 pass?

Some Honourable Members: Pass.

An Honourable Member: No.

The Chairperson: I hear a no.

Voice Vote

The Chairperson: All those in favour, please say aye.

Some Honourable Members: Aye.

The Chairperson: All those opposed, please say nay.

Some Honourable Members: Nay.

The Chairperson: In my opinion, the Ayes have it.

Mrs. Stone: On division.

The Chairperson: Clause 50 is passed, on division.

* * *

The Chairperson: Clause 51—pass; clause 52—pass; schedule—pass; enacting clause—pass; title—pass. Bill be reported.

Bill 51—The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (2)

The Chairperson: We will now proceed with clause by clause of Bill 51, The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (2).

During the consideration of this bill, the enacting clause and the title are postponed until all other clauses have been considered in their proper order.

Clause 1—pass; clause 2—pass; clause 3—pass; clause 4—pass; clause 5—pass; clause 6—pass; clause 7—pass; schedule—pass; enacting clause—pass; title—pass. Bill be reported.

That concludes the business before us.

Committee rise and call in the Speaker.

* (20:00)

IN SESSION

The Speaker: Order please.

Committee Report

Mr. Tyler Blashko (Chairperson): Honourable Speaker, the Committee of the Whole has considered the following: Bill 52, The Appropriation Act, 2025; Bill 46, The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2025; as well as Bill 51, The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (2), and reports the same without amendment.

I move, seconded by the honourable member for Transcona (MLA Corbett), that the report of the committee be received.

Motion presented.

The Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Honourable Members: Agreed.

Some Honourable Members: No.

The Speaker: I hear a no.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?
[Agreed]

The motion is accordingly passed.

CONCURRENCE AND THIRD READINGS

(Continued)

Bill 52—The Appropriation Act, 2025

The Speaker: We will now move on to concurrence and third reading.

Hon. Adrien Sala (Minister of Finance): I move, seconded by the Minister for Business, Trade, Mining and Job Creation, that Bill 52, The Appropriation Act, 2025; Loi de 2025 portant affectation de crédits, reported from the Committee of the Whole, be concurred in and be now read for a third time and passed.

Motion presented.

The Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Honourable Members: Agreed.

Some Honourable Members: No.

The Speaker: I hear a no.

Voice Vote

The Speaker: All those in favour, please say aye.

Some Honourable Members: Aye.

The Speaker: All those opposed, please say nay.

Some Honourable Members: Nay.

The Speaker: In my opinion, the Ayes have it.

Mr. Derek Johnson (Official Opposition House Leader): On division, please, Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: The motion is accordingly passed, on division.

Bill 46—The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2025

The Speaker: We will now move on to Bill 46, the budget implementation and tax statutes amendment act.

Hon. Adrien Sala (Minister of Finance): I move, seconded by the Minister for Labour and Immigration, that Bill 46, The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2025; Loi d'exécution du budget de 2025 et modifiant diverses dispositions législatives en matière de fiscalité, reported from the Committee of the Whole, be concurred in and be now read for a third time and passed.

Motion presented.

The Speaker: All those in favour of the motion—is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Honourable Members: Agreed.

Some Honourable Members: No.

The Speaker: All those in the House—I hear a no.

Voice Vote

The Speaker: All those in the House in favour of the motion, please say aye.

Some Honourable Members: Aye.

The Speaker: All those opposed, please say nay.

Some Honourable Members: Nay.

The Speaker: In my opinion, the Ayes have it.

Recorded Vote

Mr. Derek Johnson (Official Opposition House Leader): A recorded vote, please.

The Speaker: A recorded vote has been called. Please call in the members.

* (20:30)

Order, please.

The question before the House is concurrence and third reading of Bill 46, The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2025.

Division

A RECORDED VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

Ayes

Asagwara, Blashko, Brar, Bushie, Cable, Chen, Compton, Corbett, Cross, Dela Cruz, Devgan, Fontaine, Kennedy, Kinew, Kostyshyn, Loiselle, Maloway, Marcelino, Moroz, Moses, Moyes, Naylor, Oxenham, Pankratz, Redhead, Sala, Sandhu, Schmidt, Schott, Simard, Smith, Wiebe.

Nays

Balcaen, Bereza, Byram, Cook, Ewasko, Goertzen, Guenter, Hiebert, Johnson, Khan, King, Lagassé, Lamoureux, Narth, Nesbitt, Piwniuk, Robbins, Schuler, Stone, Wharton, Wowchuk.

Clerk (Mr. Rick Yarish): Ayes 32, Nays 21.

The Speaker: The motion is accordingly passed.

Bill 51—The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (2)

The Speaker: We will now move on to Bill 51, the budget implementation and tax statutes amendment act (2).

Hon. Adrien Sala (Minister of Finance): I move, seconded by the Minister of Finance—or, sorry, the Minister of Health, that Bill 51, The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (2); Loi n° 2 d'exécution du budget de 2025 et modifiant diverses dispositions législatives en matière de fiscalité, reported from the Committee of the Whole, be concurred in and be now read for a third time and passed.

Motion presented.

* (20:40)

The Speaker: All those in—is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion? *[Agreed]*

Recorded Vote

Mr. Derek Johnson (Official Opposition House Leader): Recorded vote, please, Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: A recorded vote has been requested. Please call in the members.

Order, please.

The question before the House is concurrence and third reading of Bill 51, The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (2).

Division

A RECORDED VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

Ayes

Asagwara, Balcaen, Bereza, Blashko, Brar, Bushie, Byram, Cable, Chen, Compton, Cook, Corbett, Cross, Dela Cruz, Devgan, Ewasko, Fontaine, Goertzen, Guenter, Hiebert, Johnson, Kennedy, Khan, Kinew, King, Kostyshyn, Lagassé, Lamoureux, Loiselle, Maloway, Marcelino, Moroz, Moses, Moyes, Narth, Naylor, Nesbitt, Oxenham, Pankratz, Piwniuk, Redhead, Robbins, Sala, Sandhu, Schmidt, Schott, Schuler, Simard, Smith, Stone, Wharton, Wiebe, Wowchuk.

Clerk (Mr. Rick Yarish): Ayes 53, Nays 0.

The Speaker: The motion is accordingly passed.

* * *

The Speaker: That—is now time for—this concludes the business of the House. We will now prepare for royal assent.

* (20:50)

ROYAL ASSENT

Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms (Rob Lockhart): Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor.

Her Honour Anita R. Neville, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Manitoba, having entered the House and being seated on the throne, The Honourable Speaker addressed Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor in the following words:

The Speaker: Your Honour:

The Legislative Assembly of Manitoba asks Your Honour to accept the following bill:

Clerk Assistant (Ms. Vanessa Gregg):

Bill 52 – The Appropriation Act, 2025; Loi de 2025 portant affectation de crédits

Clerk (Mr. Rick Yarish): In His Majesty's name, the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Manitoba thanks the Legislative Assembly and assents to this bill.

The Speaker: Your Honour:

At this sitting of the Legislative Assembly has passed certain bills that I ask Your Honour to give assent to.

Clerk Assistant (Ms. Vanessa Gregg):

Bill 8 – The Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Control Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur la réglementation des alcools, des jeux et du cannabis

Bill 12 – The Housing and Renewal Corporation Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Société d'habitation et de rénovation

Bill 23 – The Public Interest Expression Defence Act; Loi visant à défendre l'expression sur des questions d'intérêt public

Bill 30 – The Election Financing Amendment and Elections Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur le financement des élections et la Loi électorale

Bill 40 – An Act respecting "O Canada" and Other Observances and Land and Treaty Acknowledgements in Schools (Education Administration Act and Public Schools Act Amended); Loi sur les activités scolaires soulignant notamment l'« Ô Canada » et la reconnaissance des territoires et des traités (modification de la Loi sur l'administration scolaire et de la Loi sur les écoles publiques)

Bill 46 – The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2025; Loi d'exécution du budget de 2025 et modifiant diverses dispositions législatives en matière de fiscalité

Bill 48 – The Protective Detention and Care of Intoxicated Persons Act; Loi sur la détention des personnes agissant sous l'influence d'une substance intoxicante aux fins de protection et de prestation de soins

Bill 51 – The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (2); Loi n° 2 d'exécution du budget de 2025 et modifiant diverses dispositions législatives en matière de fiscalité

Bill 208 – The Manitoba Small Business Month Act (Commemoration of Days, Weeks and Months Act Amended); Loi sur le Mois de la petite entreprise au Manitoba (modification de la Loi sur les journées, les semaines et les mois commémoratifs)

Bill 210 – The Indigenous Veterans Day Act (Commemoration of Days, Weeks and Months Act Amended); Loi sur la Journée des anciens combattants autochtones (modification de la Loi sur les journées, les semaines et les mois commémoratifs)

Bill 225 – The Public Schools Amendment Act (Early Reading Screening); Loi modifiant la Loi sur les écoles publiques (dépistage précoce des difficultés en lecture)

Bill 234 – The Pride Month Act (Commemoration of Days, Weeks and Months Act Amended); Loi sur le Mois de la fierté (modification de la Loi sur les journées, les semaines et les mois commémoratifs)

Clerk (Mr. Rick Yarish): In His Majesty's name, Her Honour assents to these bills.

Her Honour was then pleased to retire.

God Save the King was sung.

O Canada was sung.

* * *

* (21:00)

The Speaker: The hour being past 5 p.m., this House is adjourned and stands adjourned until Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 1:30, or at the call of the Speaker.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, November 6, 2025

CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS			
Tabling of Reports		Homeless Encampments	
Fontaine	3455	Lamoureux	3464
		Smith	3464
Members' Statements		Individuals Experiencing Homelessness	
Remembrance Day		Lamoureux	3464
Pankratz	3455	Smith	3464
Lloyd Atchison		Temporary Detention of Intoxicated Individuals	
Robbins	3455	Oxenham	3465
		Smith	3465
Ian Fillingham		Vandalism in River Heights Community	
Moroz	3456	Balcaen	3465
Business Climate in Manitoba		Wiebe	3465
Narth	3456	Kinew	3466
Oral Questions		Petitions	
Dr. Anju Bajaj		MRI Machine for Portage Regional Health Facility	
Loiselle	3457	Schuler	3466
BITSA Legislation		Provincial Trunk Highway 45	
Stone	3457	Wowchuk	3467
Kinew	3458	MRI Machine for Portage Regional Health Facility	
Health-Care System		Nesbitt	3467
Cook	3459	Provincial Trunk Highway 34	
Kinew	3459	Robbins	3468
Home-Care Services		Medical Assistance in Dying	
Cook	3459	Stone	3468
Kinew	3459	Provincial Road 210	
Long-Term Care System		Narth	3469
Cook	3459	MRI Machine for Portage Regional Health Facility	
Kinew	3460	Lagassé	3469
Concern for Taxes and Red Tape in BITSA		Removal of Federal Carbon Tax	
Narth	3460	King	3470
Moses	3460	Provincial Trunk Highway 34	
BITSA Legislation		Johnson	3470
Gunter	3461	Breast Screening	
Sala	3461	Hiebert	3471
Change of Name Amendment Act		MRI Machine for Portage Regional Health Facility	
Byram	3462	Goertzen	3471
Sandhu	3462	Grievances	
Point Douglas Constituents		Balcaen	3472
Bereza	3463	Stone	3473
Smith	3463		

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Continued)

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Concurrence and Third Readings—Amended Bills

Bill 40—An Act respecting "O Canada" and Other Observances and Land and Treaty Acknowledgements in Schools (Education Administration Act and Public Schools Act Amended)	
Schmidt	3476
Ewasko	3477

Concurrence and Third Readings

Bill 8—The Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Control Amendment Act	
Wiebe	3482
Robbins	3482

Debate on Concurrence and Third Readings

Bill 12—The Housing and Renewal Corporation Amendment Act	3484
--	------

Concurrence and Third Readings—Amended Bills *(Continued)*

Bill 23—The Public Interest Expression Defence Act	
Wiebe	3485
Balcaen	3485

Concurrence and Third Readings *(Continued)*

Bill 30—The Election Financing Amendment and Elections Amendment Act	
Wiebe	3486
Balcaen	3487

Concurrence and Third Readings—Amended Bills *(Continued)*

Bill 40—An Act respecting "O Canada" and Other Observances and Land and Treaty Acknowledgements in Schools (Education Administration Act and Public Schools Act Amended)	3488
--	------

Committee of Supply

Public Service Delivery	3489
Transportation and Infrastructure	3489
Emergency Expenditures	3490
Municipal and Northern Relations	3490
Agriculture	3491

Labour and Immigration	3491
Finance	3491
Executive Council	3492
Tax Credits	3492
Enabling Appropriations	3492
Employee Pensions and Other Costs	3493
Public Service Commission	3493
Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures	3493
Legislative Assembly	3493
Education and Early Childhood Learning	3494
Families	3495
Environment and Climate Change	3495
Innovation and New Technology	3496
Advanced Education and Training	3496

Committee Report

Blashko	3497
---------	------

Committee of Supply

Concurrence Motion	
Fontaine	3497

Committee Report

Blashko	3497
---------	------

Concurrence Motion

Fontaine	3497
----------	------

Supply Motion

Sala	3497
------	------

Introduction of Bills

Bill 52—The Appropriation Act, 2025	
Sala	3497

Second Readings

Bill 52—The Appropriation Act, 2025	
Sala	3498
Bill 46—The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2025	
Sala	3498
Bill 51—The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (2)	
Sala	3499

Committee of the Whole

Bill 52–The Appropriation Act, 2025 3499

Bill 46–The Budget Implementation and Tax
Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 3501

Bill 51–The Budget Implementation and Tax
Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (2) 3504

Committee Report

Blashko 3504

Concurrence and Third Readings

(Continued)

Bill 52–The Appropriation Act, 2025
Sala 3505

Bill 46–The Budget Implementation and Tax
Statutes Amendment Act, 2025
Sala 3505

Bill 51–The Budget Implementation and Tax
Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (2)
Sala 3506

Royal Assent

Bill 52 – The Appropriation Act, 2025 3506

Bill 8 – The Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis
Control Amendment Act 3507

Bill 12 – The Housing and Renewal Corporation
Amendment Act 3507

Bill 23 – The Public Interest Expression Defence
Act 3507

Bill 30 – The Election Financing Amendment and
Elections Amendment Act 3507

Bill 40 – An Act respecting "O Canada" and Other
Observances and Land and Treaty
Acknowledgements in Schools (Education
Administration Act and Public Schools Act
Amended) 3507

Bill 46 – The Budget Implementation and Tax
Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 3507

Bill 48 – The Protective Detention and Care of
Intoxicated Persons Act 3507

Bill 51 – The Budget Implementation and Tax
Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (2) 3507

Bill 208 – The Manitoba Small Business Month
Act (Commemoration of Days, Weeks and
Months Act Amended) 3507

Bill 210 – The Indigenous Veterans Day Act
(Commemoration of Days, Weeks and Months
Act Amended) 3507

Bill 225 – The Public Schools Amendment Act
(Early Reading Screening) 3507

Bill 234 – The Pride Month Act (Commemoration
of Days, Weeks and Months Act Amended) 3507

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<http://www.manitoba.ca/legislature/hansard/hansard.html>