



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 29

FIRST SESSION, THIRTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

PRAYER

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

The following petitions were presented and read:

Mrs. TAILLIEU – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request the Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation to consider making the completion of the dividing of the Trans Canada Highway in Headingley in 2008 an urgent Provincial Government priority and to consider evaluating whether any other steps can be taken to improve motorist safety while the dividing of the Trans Canada Highway in Headingley is being completed. (N. Baccaert, C. Unrau, D. Weiten and others)

Mr. SCHULER – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Provincial Government to consider adequate funding for the PAA on a long-term basis to ensure that the current retired teachers, as well as all future retirees, receive a fair COLA. (B. Hull, R. Desserre, A. Desserre and others)

Mr. BRIESE – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request the Minister of Health to consider the feasibility of a joint health centre, including an emergency room, to service Neepawa, Minnedosa and the surrounding area and to consider sustaining health care services in this area by working with local physicians and the Assiniboine Regional Health Authority on this initiative. (R. Collins, B. Baker, K. Beaumont and others)

Mrs. ROWAT – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request the Premier to consider amending and strengthening section 52 of The Child and Family Services Act to allow for the greater protection of children in care from exploitation and to consider urging the Federal Government to raise the age of protection to a minimum of sixteen years of age. (K. Prince, J. Kent, A. Dumas and others)

Mr. MAGUIRE – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to request the Minister of Health to consider taking serious action to fill the nursing vacancies at personal care homes in the Town of Virden and to consider reopening the beds that have been closed as a result of this nursing shortage and to consider prioritizing the needs of those seniors that have been moved out of their community by committing to move those individuals back into Virden as soon as beds become available. (B. Scott, J. Johnston, J. Wood and others)

Mr. LAMOUREUX – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Premier to consider attending the November 5th public meeting at the Munroe Public Library which is located in his constituency. (M. Villagracia, G. Anig, H. Tamondong and others)

Hon. Mr. ASHTON presented:

Annual Report of The Public Utilities Board for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2007.
(Sessional Paper No. 118)

Pursuant to Rule 26(1), Mrs. DRIEDGER, Ms. BLADY, Messrs. EICHLER and DEWAR and Hon. Mr. GERRARD made Members' Statements.

In accordance with Rule 27, Mr. GOERTZEN rose on Grievances.

Mr. MCFADYEN moved the following Opposition Day Motion:

WHEREAS Manitoba Hydro has been directed, against its advice, by the NDP government to construct a third high voltage BiPole transmission line ("BiPole III") down the west side of Lake Winnipegosis instead of the East Side of Lake Winnipeg; and

WHEREAS the western route (The "NDP Detour") is more than 400 km longer than the eastern route recommended by Manitoba Hydro experts (the "Recommended Route"); and

WHEREAS the NDP Detour will lead to an unnecessary debt of at least \$400 million related to the capital cost of line construction alone, to be left to future generations of Manitobans; and

WHEREAS the NDP Detour will result in increased line losses due to friction leading to losses of energy sales of between \$250 million and \$1 billion over the life of the project; and

WHEREAS the added debt and lost sales created by the NDP Detour will make every Manitoba family at least \$3000 poorer; and

WHEREAS the unnecessary line losses created by the NDP Detour will also result in a lost opportunity to displace dirty coal generated electricity, which will create added and unnecessary Greenhouse Gas Emissions ("GHGs") equivalent to an additional 40,000 cars on our roads; and

WHEREAS the abandonment of the Recommended Route takes away significant economic development opportunities for east side first nation communities that are currently among the poorest in Canada; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's leading constitutional expert says it is possible that the Recommended Route can co-exist with a UNESCO designation on the east side of Lake Winnipeg; and

WHEREAS Xcel Energy, a major Manitoba Hydro customer, has said that power sales will not be impacted by the line location; and

WHEREAS Manitoba Hydro President and CEO Bob Brennan has stated that the Recommended Route is the preferred option from the company's perspective; and

WHEREAS former NDP MLA Elijah Harper has stated that east side communities are "devastated" by the Government's decision to abandon the Recommended Route, leaving them in "poverty in perpetuity"; and

WHEREAS Manitoba Keewatinook Ininew Okimowin ("MKO"), an organization that represents Northern Manitoba First Nations Chiefs has stated that the government has acted unilaterally to abandon the Recommended Route without consultation with northern first nations, despite repeated requests by MKO for consultations.

AND WHEREAS the Premier has stated that avoiding a conflict with Robert Kennedy Jr., who is on record as opposing any and all future Hydro development, is a reason to choose the NDP Detour.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to abandon the NDP Detour on the basis that it will result in massive financial, economic, environmental and social damage to Manitoba; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider proceeding with the Recommended Route, subject to necessary regulatory approvals.

And a debate arising,

And Mr. MCFADYEN, Hon. Mr. DOER, Mrs. MITCHELSON, Hon. Mr. SELINGER, Mr. BOROTSIK, Hon. Mr. ROBINSON, Mr. MAGUIRE, Hon. Messrs. ASHTON, GERRARD and STRUTHERS and Mrs. ROWAT having spoken,

And the Question being put. It was negatived, on the following division:

YEA

BRIESE	LAMOUREUX
DERKACH	MAGUIRE
DRIEDGER	MCFADYEN
DYCK	MITCHELSON
EICHLER	PEDERSEN
FAURSCHOU	ROWAT
GERRARD	SCHULER
GOERTZEN	STEFANSON
GRAYDON	TAILLIEU 18

NAY

ALLAN	MALOWAY
ALTEMEYER	MARCELINO
ASHTON	MARTINDALE
BLADY	MCGIFFORD
BJORNSON	MELNICK
BRAUN	NEVAKSHONOFF
BRICK	OSWALD
CHOMIAK	REID
DEWAR	ROBINSON
DOER	RONDEAU
HOWARD	SARAN
IRVIN-ROSS	SELBY
JENNISSEN	SELINGER
JHA	STRUTHERS
KORZENIOWSKI	SWAN
LEMIEUX	WOWCHUK..... 33
MACKINTOSH	

The House then adjourned at 4:34 p.m. until 10:00 a.m. Thursday, November 1, 2007.

Hon. George HICKES,
Speaker.