



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 35

SECOND SESSION, FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

PRAYER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

Immediately following the Prayer and Land Acknowledgement, the Speaker interjected to request that unparliamentary words spoken by the Honourable Member for The Pas-Kameesak during debate on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, be withdrawn.

WHEREUPON Ms. LATHLIN withdrew those words.

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

(No. 207) – The Public Schools Amendment Act (Teaching Experience of Principals)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les écoles publiques (expérience des directeurs en enseignement)

(Mr. WASYLIW)

MLA MALOWAY, Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, presented its Third Report, which was read as follows:

Meetings

Your Committee met on March 26, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Chamber of the Legislative Building.

Matters under Consideration

- Auditor General's Report – Operations of the Office: Performance for the year ended March 31, 2021
- Auditor General's Report – Operations of the Office: Performance for the year ended March 31, 2022
- Auditor General's Report – Operations of the Office for the year ended March 31, 2023
- Auditor General's Report – Operations of the Office for the year ended March 31, 2024

Committee Membership

- Mr. BRAR
- MLA CHEN
- MLA COMPTON
- MLA DELA CRUZ
- MLA DEVGAN
- Mr. GUENTER (*Chairperson*)
- MLA LAMOUREUX
- MLA MALOWAY (*Vice-Chairperson*)
- Mr. NESBITT
- Mr. OXENHAM
- Mrs. STONE

Officials Speaking on Record

- Tyson Shtykalo, Auditor General of Manitoba

Reports Considered and Passed

Your Committee considered and passed the following reports as presented:

- Auditor General's Report – Operations of the Office: Performance for the year ended March 31, 2021
- Auditor General's Report – Operations of the Office: Performance for the year ended March 31, 2022
- Auditor General's Report – Operations of the Office for the year ended March 31, 2023
- Auditor General's Report – Operations of the Office for the year ended March 31, 2024

On motion of MLA MALOWAY, the Report of the Committee was received.

Hon. Min. FONTAINE, the Minister responsible for Women and Gender Equity, made a statement regarding March 31, 2025, being the Two-Spirit and Transgender Day of Visibility.

Mr. PERCHOTTE and, by leave, MLA LAMOUREUX commented on the statement.

Pursuant to sub-rule 28(1), Hon. Min. KENNEDY, Mr. JOHNSON, MLA CHEN, Mr. BALCAEN and Hon. Min. MARCELINO made Member's statements.

In accordance with Rule 34, the Opposition House Leader announced that the Private Member's resolution titled "O Canada" will be considered on the next Thursday of Private Members' Business.

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

Mr. EWASKO – To urge the Provincial Government to take immediate and decisive action on bail reform to address serious deficits in enforcement by utilizing all available provincial mechanisms to strengthen warrant enforcement, increasing bail supervision, and opposing release of offenders, thus ensuring that repeat violent offenders are held accountable and that public safety is prioritized over leniency; and to lobby the Federal Government to immediately repeal provisions of the Criminal Code that allow for the continued victimization of law-abiding Manitobans while granting repeat offenders additional rights.

Mr. JOHNSON – To urge the Provincial Government to restore funding and commence construction on the personal-care home in Arborg immediately to ensure that this essential project proceeds without further delay.

Mr. KING – To urge the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to immediately restore funding to the PR227 paving project; and to keep the Provincial Government's commitment to Manitobans to carry out all of the projects, as outlined in the 2023 Multi-year Infrastructure Investment Strategy, in their totality, to the same scope and in accordance with already stated timelines.

The House resumed debate on the proposed motion of Hon. Min. SALA:

THAT this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government.

And the debate continuing,

And Mr. EWASKO having spoken,

And Mr. EWASKO moved an amendment as follows:

THAT the motion be amended by deleting all of the words after "House" and substituting:

regrets that this budget neglects the priorities of Manitobans by:

- (a) failing to address the rising costs that Manitobans are facing today by collecting over a billion dollars more in taxes and other fees while Cabinet Ministers receive a pay increase; and
- (b) failing to offer a strategy to address the Chinese and American tariffs impacting Manitoba's agriculture producers and businesses; and
- (c) failing to deliver a new education funding model, which in turn has resulted in a historic rise in education property taxes for Manitoban homeowners; and
- (d) failing to commit to lowering the education tax for Manitoba businesses; and
- (e) failing Manitoba parents by cutting childcare funding by hundreds of millions of dollars; and

- (f) failing to address the Provincial Government's "Bail Reform" policy when it comes to violent criminals and repeat offenders; and
- (g) failing to increase investment in the RCMP in Manitoba and law enforcement as a whole; and
- (h) failing to invest in the protection of Manitobans from violent crime; and
- (i) failing to address the diagnostic and surgical wait time backlog; and
- (j) failing to produce a meaningful plan to recruit, train, and retain health-care workers in Manitoba; and
- (k) failing to support Manitoba's local sports, heritage, and creative sectors by eliminating the previous Provincial Government's "Arts, Culture and Sport in Community" funding program; and
- (l) failing to justify cuts to the Urban/Hometown Green Team and the Building Sustainable Communities Fund, and neglecting to adequately fund local community projects and organizations; and
- (m) failing to provide necessary funding to maintain and repair Manitoba roads; and
- (n) failing to make cost-efficient and timely progress on major infrastructure projects, instead causing unnecessary delays and budget overruns; and
- (o) failing to come forward with a meaningful plan to address the many issues in Manitoba's vulnerable communities; and
- (p) failing to prioritize new school builds, resulting in exponential cost increases on Manitobans, and
- (q) failing to make effective use of government resources by disregarding years of collaborative work already conducted by the previous Provincial Government on numerous initiatives, such as a new public-school funding model, a comprehensive critical minerals strategy, an Indigenous excellence in education policy, a strategy to recruit and retain French-speaking educators, and consultations on Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin channels projects; and
- (r) failing to provide the necessary investment to recruit and train needed conservation officers in Manitoba; and
- (s) failing to prioritize the expansion of Manitoba conservation offices; and
- (t) failing to provide a realistic plan to balance the budget by 2027.

As a consequence, the Provincial Government has thereby lost the confidence of this House and the people of Manitoba.

Thursday, March 27, 2025

WHEREUPON the Speaker ruled the amendment in order,

And the debate continuing on the amendment,

And Messrs. BLASHKO and KING, Mrs. SCHOTT and Mr. BALCAEN having spoken,

And Mr. REDHEAD speaking at 5:00 p.m. The debate was allowed to remain in their name.

The House then adjourned at 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 a.m. Friday, March 28, 2025.

Hon. Tom LINDSEY,
Speaker.