



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 73

SECOND SESSION, FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

PRAYER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

10:00 O'CLOCK A.M.

In accordance with Rule 34, the Government House Leader announced that the Private Member's resolution titled "Advancing Manitoba's Economic Future Through Provincial-Federal Collaboration in Churchill" will be considered on the next Tuesday of Private Members' Business.

Mr. WASYLIW moved:

THAT Bill (No. 211) – The Local Elections Voter Eligibility Act (Various Acts Amended)/Loi sur l'admissibilité des électeurs aux élections locales (modification de diverses lois), be now read a Second Time and be referred to a Committee of this House.

And a debate arising,

And Mr. WASYLIW having spoken,

And MLA DELA CRUZ, Mr. BALCAEN and MLA CORBETT having questioned the Member,

In accordance with Rule 25, the debate was interrupted at 10:25 a.m. to put the Second Reading Question on Selected Bill (No. 211).

And the Question being put. It was negatived.

Mr. WASYLIW moved:

THAT Bill (No. 230) – The Grocery Store Food Waste Prevention Act/Loi sur la prévention du gaspillage alimentaire dans les épiceries, be now read a Second Time and be referred to a Committee of this House.

And a debate arising,

And Mr. WASYLIW having spoken,

And Hon. Min. NAYLOR and Mr. NARTH having questioned the Member,

And the debate continuing,

And MLA PANKRATZ having spoken,

In accordance with Rule 25, the debate was interrupted at 10:55 a.m. to put the Second Reading Question on Selected Bill (No. 230).

And the Question being put. It was negatived.

The House resumed the debate on the proposed motion of MLA LOISELLE:

THAT Bill (No. 218) – The Climate Action Month Act (Commemoration of Days, Weeks and Months Act Amended)/Loi sur le Mois de lutte contre les changements climatiques (modification de la Loi sur les journées, les semaines et les mois commémoratifs), be now read a Second Time and be referred to a Committee of this House.

And the debate continuing,

And Mr. KING speaking at 11:00 a.m. The debate was allowed to remain in their name.

Mr. WASYLIW moved:

Resolution No. 21: Manitoba Needs to Address the Cost of Living Crisis

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has lost 5,000 jobs in the month of August; and

WHEREAS Manitoba continues to lead the country in the fastest growing grocery store prices; and

WHEREAS Manitoba has the fastest growing rents in the country despite being a rent-controlled province; and

WHEREAS Manitoba has the third lowest minimum wage in the country; and

WHEREAS one in four working Manitobans, or 170,000 people, earn less than a living wage and are overwhelmingly women with young children and/or newcomers to Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government continues to ignore the rising costs of public transit and add to the financial burden of parents who already pay exorbitant fees for private childcare, by increasing tuition on students and underfunding public education.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to immediately reduce the costs of living for Manitobans by creating a plan which will reduce the costs of rental housing, groceries, public transit, and public school fees, and will also bring in a tuition freeze for post-secondary students and provide for the immediate building of new childcare spaces.

And a debate arising,

And Mr. WASYLIW having spoken,

And MLA LOISELLE and Mmes. STONE and ROBBINS having questioned the Member,

And the debate continuing,

And Hon. Min. SANDHU, Mrs. STONE, Hon. Min. KENNEDY and Mrs. ROBBINS having spoken,

And MLA COMPTON speaking at 12:00 p.m. The debate was allowed to remain in their name.

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

MLA CROSS, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social and Economic Development, presented its Sixth Report, which was read as follows:

Meetings

Your Committee met on October 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 255 of the Legislative Building.

Matters under Consideration

- **Bill (No. 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)

Committee Membership

- Hon. Mr. BUSHIE
- MLA CROSS
- Hon. Min. FONTAINE
- MLA LOISELLE
- Mr. PERCHOTTE
- Mrs. ROBBINS

Your Committee elected MLA CROSS as the Chairperson.

Your Committee elected MLA LOISELLE as the Vice-Chairperson.

Non-Committee Members Speaking on Record

- MLA PANKRATZ

Public Presentations

Your Committee heard the following two presentations on **Bill (No. 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)

Randi Gage
Justin Woodcock

Private citizen
Private citizen

Bills Considered and Reported

- **Bill (No. 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)

Your Committee agreed to report this Bill without amendment.

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

The Speaker tabled:

Report on Amounts Paid or Payable to Members of the Assembly for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025.

(Sessional Paper No. 74)

Hon. Min. SCHMIDT, the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning, made a statement regarding Neelin High School.

Mr. BALCAEN commented on the statement.

Pursuant to sub-rule 28(1), Ms. LATHLIN, Mr. PERCHOTTE, Hon. Mr. SIMARD and Messrs. JOHNSON and OXENHAM made Member's statements.

During Oral Questions, the Speaker interjected and requested that the words "simply not true", spoken by the Honourable Minister of Families, be withdrawn.

WHEREUPON Hon. Min. FONTAINE withdrew her remarks.

Following Oral Questions, the Speaker made the following ruling:

Following the Land Acknowledgement on October 2, 2025, the Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition rose on a matter of privilege alleging that comments made by the Honourable First Minister during Oral Questions on October 1, 2025, were defamatory and impeded his ability to ask questions. The Member concluded his remarks by moving:

THAT the Member for Fort Rouge be compelled to retract [their] remarks, apologize, and the matter be referred to the Standing Committee of the Legislative Affairs for further consideration.

The Honourable Minister of Justice spoke to the matter before I took it under advisement.

As the House knows, for a matter of privilege to be ruled a *prima facie* case, the Member must demonstrate that the issue has been raised at the earliest opportunity, while also providing sufficient evidence that the privileges of the House have been breached.

On the condition of timeliness, the Member raised the matter at the beginning of the sitting day following the incident in question, so I would rule that he has met the test of timeliness with his submission.

Regarding the second condition of whether a *prima facie* case was demonstrated, the Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition argued that, in his comments, the Premier undermined standards of decorum in this House. Specifically, the Member suggested that the Premier defamed him and undermined his character through the comments made in Question Period on October 1, 2025, inferring that the First Minister's comments impeded his ability to fulfill his duties as a Member of this Assembly.

In raising this matter, the Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition noted that Members are entitled to the privilege of freedom of speech in this place. The importance of that fact cannot be understated in the context of this ruling. I will expand on that point by referencing a passage from page 92 of the third edition of *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*:

"Freedom of speech permits Members to speak freely in the Chamber during a sitting or in a committee meeting during meetings while enjoying complete immunity from prosecution or civil liability for any comment they might make. This freedom is essential for the effective working of the House..."

In ruling on a question of privilege in 1984, House of Commons Speaker Bosley confirmed that:

"The privilege of a Member of Parliament when speaking in the House or in a committee is absolute, and that it would be very difficult to find that any statement made under the cloak of parliamentary privilege constituted a violation of that privilege."

I will also note that, when moving his motion at the end of his submission, the Leader of the Official Opposition failed to name a seconder. A seconder is required for most motions moved in this House, and I would remind all Members to bear this in mind in the future.

Given the underlying principle of freedom of speech granted by our rights as elected Members under parliamentary privilege, I do not believe the Premier's comments form the basis of a breach of privilege, and I would therefore rule that a *prima facie* case of privilege was not established in this case.

Having said that, I will again remind Members that, as a group, we should be doing better in governing our behaviour in this place. Echoing those sentiments, in a quote from 1987 referenced on pages 97 and 98 of the third edition of *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, Speaker Parent emphasized the need for Members to use great care in exercising their right to speak freely in the House when he said:

"Paramount to our political and parliamentary systems is the principle of freedom of speech, a member's right to stand in this House unhindered to speak [their] mind. However, when debate in the House centres on sensitive issues, as it often does, I would expect that members would always bear in mind the possible effects of their statements and hence be prudent in their tone and choice of words."

I urge all Members to remember these sentiments when speaking in this place, and I thank you all for your attention to this ruling.

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

Mr. KHAN – 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.

MLA BEREZA – To urge the Provincial Government to support the investment and placement of a CT scanner machine in the Neepawa Health Centre in Neepawa, Manitoba.

Mr. JOHNSON – 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.

Mr. SCHULER – 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.

Mrs. STONE – To urge the Government of Manitoba to immediately work with the Prairie Rose School Division to begin the process of replacing the gymnasium facilities at the Elm Creek School, in consultation with parents and the community.

Mr. WOWCHUK – 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.

Mr. PERCHOTTE – To urge the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to prioritize the reconstruction of Provincial Road 210; and to urge the Provincial Government to include the stretch of Provincial Road 210 from Woodridge to Highway 12 in its reconstruction plans.

Mr. WHARTON – 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.

Mr. NESBITT – 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.

Mrs. ROBBINS – 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.

Mr. GUENTER – 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; and to protect Canadians struggling with mental illness by facilitating treatment, recovery, and medical assistance in living, not death.

Mrs. COOK – To urge the Provincial Government to proceed with the planned renovation and expansion of Phoenix School without further delay.

Mr. PIWNIUK – 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.

Mr. NARTH – To urge the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning to immediately bring back the three portable classrooms to help alleviate the stress and overcrowding classrooms; and to urge the Provincial Government to reinstate the expansion project for Green Valley School.

MLA LAGASSÉ – To urge the Provincial Government to immediately implement work on renovating the intersection of Provincial Trunk Highways 12 and 210, to keep area residents and travellers safe.

Ms. BYRAM – To urge the Provincial Government to support the investment and placement of a CT scanner machine in the Neepawa Health Centre in Neepawa, Manitoba.

Mr. KING – 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. 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. BALCAEN – 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.

Mrs. HIEBERT – To urge the Provincial Government to cancel drug-injection sites in the Point Douglas community, including the proposed location at 200 Disraeli Freeway; and to legislate that no future site will be proposed without community support.

Hon. Mr. WIEBE moved:

THAT Bill (No. 49) – The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation Amendment Act (2)/Loi n° 2 modifiant la Loi sur la Société d'assurance publique du Manitoba, be now read a Second Time and be referred to a Committee of this House.

And a debate arising,

And Hon. Mr. WIEBE having spoken,

And Messrs. KING, BALCAEN and NARTH and Ms. BYRAM having questioned the Minister,

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

And the debate continuing,

And Mr. KING having spoken,

And Mr. BALCAEN 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 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 15, 2025.

Hon. Tom LINDSEY,
Speaker.