



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA**

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 31**

**THIRD SESSION, FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE**

**PRAYER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**10:00 O’CLOCK A.M.**

Immediately following the Prayer and Land Acknowledgement, MLA PANKRATZ rose on a point of order alleging that Bill 233 violated Rule 66 and sub-rule 67(2), as it is a Private Member’s Bill that had potential impact to public revenue, and was therefore out of order and should not be debated.

And Mrs. COOK having spoken to the point of order.

WHEREUPON the Speaker informed the House they would take the matter under advisement.

The House resumed the debate on the proposed motion of Mrs. STONE:

THAT Bill (No. 211) – The Budget Bill Public Accountability Act/Loi sur la participation du public quant aux lois budgétaires, be now read a Second Time and be referred to a Committee of this House.

And the debate continuing,

And leave having been denied to have the matter remain in the name of Hon. Min. MOYES,

And Hon. Mr. SIMARD, Mr. NARTH, Hon. Mr. BUSHIE and MLA BEREZA having spoken,

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

The House resumed the debate on the proposed resolution of Mrs. STONE:

Resolution No. 5: Calling on the Provincial Government to Increase the Personal Tax Exemption

WHEREAS Manitobans are facing an affordability and cost-of-living crisis; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has cancelled the indexation of the Basic Personal Amount and personal income tax brackets, costing Manitobans more money each year going forward; and

WHEREAS since this Provincial Government took office, it has broken its promise to not raise taxes by increasing school taxes, education property taxes, and ending income tax indexation, thus pushing more Manitobans into higher tax brackets; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government is phasing out the Basic Personal Amount for important medical professionals such as doctors and other skilled professionals making Manitoba less competitive for important workers in the health-care system; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has increased taxes on more than 55% of Winnipeg Families and property owners, that amounts to over 130,000 property owners in Winnipeg alone; and

WHEREAS property taxes and other taxes are 19.5 per cent higher since the Provincial Government took office; and

WHEREAS Manitobans now pay the highest taxes in Western Canada and have the highest inflation in the country as grocery prices have risen by 5.9%; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2026 MNP Consumer Debt Index report, half of Manitoba families are two hundred dollars or less a month away from being able to pay their bills and service their debt; and

WHEREAS the previous PC Provincial Government successfully removed over 75,000 lower income Manitobans from the tax rolls by increasing the Basic Personal Amount to \$15,000 between 2016 and 2023; and

WHEREAS, a 2025 Fraser Institute report identified that the lives of families purchasing a home or renting in Winnipeg has become significantly less affordable, requiring a larger share of after-tax income with a quarter of their annual income on rent, or having to save for 13 months to buy an average home in Winnipeg; and

WHEREAS, many Manitoba families are struggling to keep up with the cost of living. Families are struggling to put food on the table and pay their heating and property tax bills, and have less after-tax income.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba be urged to call on the Provincial Government to raise the Basic Personal Amount for provincial income tax to \$30,000.

And the debate continuing,

And MLA DELA CRUZ, Mr. GUENTER, Hon. Mr. MOSES, Mrs. ROBBINS, Hon. Min. MOYES and Mrs. HIEBERT having spoken,

And MLA DEVGAN speaking at 11:55 a.m. The debate was allowed to remain in their name.

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Pursuant to sub-rule 24(7), the division on the proposed motion of MLA LAMOUREUX was deferred to take place today at 11:55 a.m.

THAT Bill (No. 232) – The Autism Strategy Act/Loi sur la stratégie sur l’autisme, be now read a Second Time and be referred to a Committee of this House.

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

**AYE**

BALCAEN	MALOWAY
BEREZA	MARCELINO
BLASHKO	MOROZ
BRAR	MOSES
BUSHIE	MOYES
BYRAM	NARTH
CABLE	NESBITT
COMPTON	OXENHAM
COOK	PERCHOTTE
CORBETT	REDHEAD
CROSS	ROBBINS
DELA CRUZ	SALA
DEVGAN	SANDHU
EWASKO	SCHMIDT
GUENTER	SCHOTT
HIEBERT	SCHULER
JOHNSON	SIMARD
KENNEDY	SMITH
KHAN	STONE
KING	WASYLIW
KOSTYSHYN	WHARTON
LAGASSÉ	WIEBE
LAMOUREUX	WOWCHUK.....46

**NAY**

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The Bill was accordingly read a Second Time and referred to a Committee of this House.

**1:30 O’CLOCK P.M.**

The following Bills were read a First Time and had their purposes outlined:

(No. 203) – The Correctional Services Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les services correctionnels

(Mr. WASYLIW)

(No. 216) – The Elections Amendment Act (Election Day on Saturday)/Loi modifiant la Loi électorale (jour du scrutin fixé à un samedi)

(Mr. WASYLIW)

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MLA COMPTON, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, presented its First Report, which was read as follows:

### **Meetings**

Your Committee met on March 18, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 254 of the Legislative Building.

### **Matters under Consideration**

- **Bill (No. 2)** – The Non-Consensual Distribution of Intimate Images Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la distribution non consensuelle des images intimes
- **Bill (No. 3)** – The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Société d’assurance publique du Manitoba
- **Bill (No. 4)** – The Constitutional Questions Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les questions constitutionnelles
- **Bill (No. 30)** – The Intimate Partner Violence Death Review Committee Act/Loi sur le Comité d’examen des décès causés par de la violence de la part d’un partenaire intime
- **Bill (No. 31)** – The Highway Traffic Amendment Act/Loi modifiant le Code de la route

### **Committee Membership**

- Mr. BALCAEN
- Mr. BEREZA
- MLA COMPTON
- Mrs. SCHOTT
- Hon. Mr. SIMARD
- Hon. Mr. WIEBE

Your Committee elected MLA COMPTON as the Chairperson.

Your Committee elected Mrs. SCHOTT as the Vice-Chairperson.

### **Public Presentations**

Your Committee heard the following two presentations on **Bill (No. 2)** – The Non-Consensual Distribution of Intimate Images Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la distribution non consensuelle des images intimes:

Fernanda Vallejo  
Ben McGillivray

Latinas Manitoba Inc.  
Private citizen

Your Committee heard the following seven presentations on **Bill (No. 3)** – The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Société d'assurance publique du Manitoba:

Mary Johnson	Private citizen
Douglas Houghton	Coalition of Manitoba Motorcycle Groups Inc.
David Grant	Private citizen
Zainab Mansaray	Canada Sierra Leone Friendship Society Inc.
Ben McGillivray	Private citizen
Peggy Barker	Consumers' Association of Canada – Manitoba Branch
Monique Curci	Private citizen

Your Committee heard the following four presentations on **Bill (No. 4)** – The Constitutional Questions Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les questions constitutionnelles:

Paul Moist	Manitoba Federation of Union Retirees
Kevin Rebeck	Manitoba Federation of Labour
Chris Barsanti	Private citizen
Ben McGillivray	Private citizen

Your Committee heard the following two presentations on **Bill (No. 30)** – The Intimate Partner Violence Death Review Committee Act/Loi sur le Comité d'examen des décès causés par de la violence de la part d'un partenaire intime:

Fernanda Vallejo	Latinas Manitoba Inc.
David Grant	Private citizen

Your Committee heard the following two presentations on **Bill (No. 31)** – The Highway Traffic Amendment Act/Loi modifiant le Code de la route:

David Grant	Private citizen
Karen Reimer	Private citizen

### Written Submissions

Your Committee received the following written submission on **Bill (No. 2)** – The Non-Consensual Distribution of Intimate Images Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la distribution non consensuelle des images intimes:

Monique St. Germain	Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc.
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Your Committee received the following three written submissions on **Bill (No. 4)** – The Constitutional Questions Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les questions constitutionnelles:

Chris Turyk	Rainbow Resource Centre
Chris Gamby	Criminal Defense Lawyers Association of Manitoba
Marianne Hladun	Public Service Alliance of Canada – Prairies

### **Bills Considered and Reported**

- **Bill (No. 2)** – The Non-Consensual Distribution of Intimate Images Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la distribution non consensuelle des images intimes

Your Committee agreed to report this Bill with the following amendments:

*THAT Clause 6 of the Bill be amended in the proposed subsection 12(2) by striking out "For certainty, a person has" and substituting "A person may have".*

*THAT Clause 7 of the Bill be amended in the proposed subsection 13(2), in the part before clause (a), by adding "in good faith" after "distribution occurred".*

*THAT Clause 8 of the Bill be amended in the proposed clause 14(1)(b.2) by striking out "remove or de-index" and substituting "remove and, where applicable, de-index".*

- **Bill (No. 3)** – The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Société d'assurance publique du Manitoba

Your Committee agreed to report this Bill without amendment, on a recorded vote of ayes 3, nays 2.

- **Bill (No. 4)** – The Constitutional Questions Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur les questions constitutionnelles

Your Committee agreed to report this Bill without amendment.

- **Bill (No. 30)** – The Intimate Partner Violence Death Review Committee Act/Loi sur le Comité d'examen des décès causés par de la violence de la part d'un partenaire intime

Your Committee agreed to report this Bill without amendment.

- **Bill (No. 31)** – The Highway Traffic Amendment Act/Loi modifiant le Code de la route

Your Committee agreed to report this Bill without amendment.

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

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

### **Meetings**

Your Committee met on March 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Chamber of the Legislative Building.

### Matters under Consideration

- **Bill (No. 5)** – The Accessibility for Manitobans Amendment Act and The Commemoration of Days, Weeks and Months Amendment Act (Access Awareness Week)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l’accessibilité pour les Manitobains et la Loi sur les journées, les semaines et les mois commémoratifs (Semaine de sensibilisation à l’accessibilité)
- **Bill (No. 10)** – The Employment Standards Code Amendment Act (Attachment Leave for Adoption and Surrogacy)/Loi modifiant le Code des normes d’emploi (congé d’attachement en cas d’adoption ou de recours à la gestation pour autrui)
- **Bill (No. 17)** – The Adult Abuse Registry Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur le registre des mauvais traitements infligés aux adultes
- **Bill (No. 23)** – The Advocate for Children and Youth Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur le protecteur des enfants et des jeunes

### Committee Membership

- Mr. BLASHKO
- Ms. BYRAM
- Mr. GUENTER
- Hon. Min. MARCELINO
- Mr. OXENHAM
- MLA PANKRATZ

Your Committee elected MLA PANKRATZ as the Chairperson.

Your Committee elected Mr. BLASHKO as the Vice-Chairperson.

Substitutions received during Committee proceedings:

- Hon. Min. FONTAINE for Hon. Min. MARCELINO

### Public Presentations

Your Committee heard the following five presentations on **Bill (No. 5)** – The Accessibility for Manitobans Amendment Act and The Commemoration of Days, Weeks and Months Amendment Act (Access Awareness Week)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l’accessibilité pour les Manitobains et la Loi sur les journées, les semaines et les mois commémoratifs (Semaine de sensibilisation à l’accessibilité):

Allen Mankewich	Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities
Samuel Unrau	Private citizen
Angie Conrad	Barrier Free Manitoba
Monique Curci	Private citizen
Patrick Stewart	Independent Living Resource Centre

Your Committee heard the following presentation on **Bill (No. 10)** – The Employment Standards Code Amendment Act (Attachment Leave for Adoption and Surrogacy)/Loi modifiant le Code des normes d’emploi (congé d’attachement en cas d’adoption ou de recours à la gestation pour autrui):

Kevin Rebeck	Manitoba Federation of Labour
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Hon. Min. KENNEDY, the Minister of Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism, made a statement regarding Eid al-Fitr.

Mr. KHAN commented on the statement.

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Hon. Mr. SIMARD, the Minister responsible for Francophone Affairs, made a statement regarding March 20, 2026, being Journée internationale de la Francophonie.

Mr. EWASKO commented on the statement.

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Pursuant to sub-rule 28(1), Hon. Min. SALA, Mr. NESBITT, Hon. Mr. MOSES, Mrs. HIEBERT and MLA MALOWAY made Member's statements.

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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.

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.

Mrs. STONE – To urge the Provincial Government to remove education funding and taxation from property taxes and find a fair and equitable way to fund education in Manitoba.

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. WHARTON – 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. SCHULER – To urge the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to undertake safety improvements at the intersection of PTH 75 and PR 305 at Ste. Agathe; and to prioritize measures that will reduce accidents and fatalities, including but not limited to those outlined in the 2022 in-service road safety review.

Mr. PERCHOTTE – To urge the Provincial Government to lobby the Federal Government to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to assist border communities in managing the rise in illegal border crossings into Manitoba; to work closely with federal and local authorities to ensure adequate resources, including funding and support for emergency services, are available to protect local communities; and that immediate measures be taken to dismantle and destroy all human smuggling networks operating in 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.

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. JOHNSON – To urge the Provincial Government to remove the federal carbon tax on home heating bills for all Manitobans to provide them much needed relief.

Mrs. HIEBERT – 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.

Mr. EWASKO – To urge the Provincial Government to remove education funding and taxation from property taxes and find a fair and equitable way to fund education in Manitoba.

**Thursday, March 19, 2026**

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Ms. BYRAM – To urge the Provincial Government to fully implement recommendations in the *Bridging the Gaps* report and immediately implement official policies and procedures that are more respectful and collaborative which also minimize harm faced by families seeking help from Children’s disABILITY Services; and to urge the Minister of Families to arrange for a full review of employment supports provided by Children’s disABILITY Services for children with disabilities aged 12 to 17, including direct consultation with impacted families, and to explore a full spectrum of options to support families, empowering them to choose solutions that best fit their needs.

MLA BEREZA – 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.

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In accordance with the provisions agreed to by the House on November 26, 2025, the House considered the following motion:

THAT the Legislative Assembly accept the findings regarding the Honourable Member for The Maples in the conclusion of the Report of the Ethics Commissioner dated December 4, 2025.

And a debate arising,

And Hon. Min. SANDHU and Mr. JOHNSON having spoken,

And the Question being put. It was agreed to.

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Hon. Mr. WIEBE moved:

THAT Bill (No. 40) – The Elections Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi électorale, 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 MLA BEREZA, Ms. BYRAM and Messrs. EWASKO and NESBITT having questioned the Minister,

And the debate continuing,

And MLA BEREZA having spoken,

And the Question being put. It was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly read a Second Time and referred to a Committee of this House.

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The House then adjourned at 5:00 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. Monday, March 23, 2026.

Hon. Tom LINDSEY,  
Speaker.