



Second Session — Thirty-Third Legislature

of the

Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

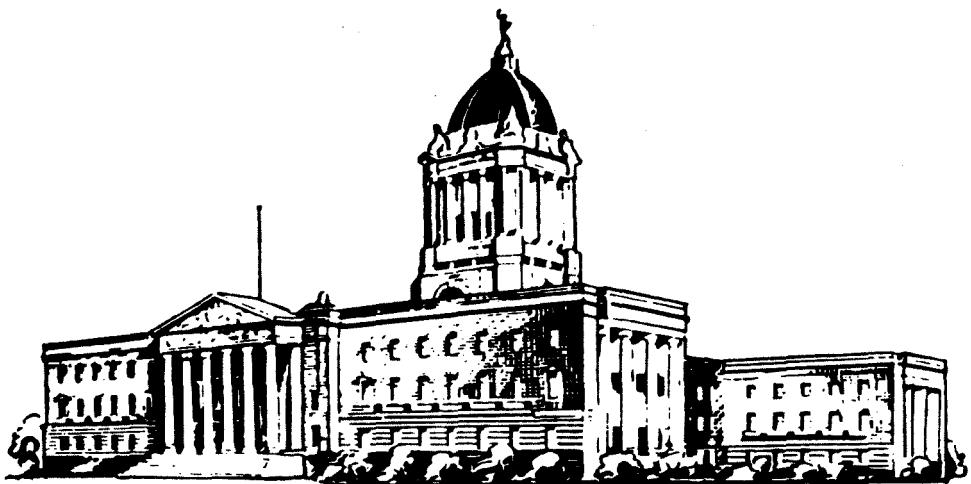
STANDING COMMITTEE

on

PRIVATE BILLS

36 Elizabeth II

*Chairman
Mr. M. Dolin
Constituency of Kildonan*



VOL. XXXV No. 1 - 10:00 a.m., THURSDAY, 9 JULY, 1987.



MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Third Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PARTY
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	NDP
BAKER, Clarence	Lac du Bonnet	NDP
BIRT, Charles T.	Fort Garry	PC
BLAKE, David R. (Dave)	Minnedosa	PC
BROWN, Arnold	Rhineland	PC
BUCKLASCHUK, Hon. John M.	Gimli	NDP
CARSTAIRS, Sharon	River Heights	LIBERAL
CONNERY, Edward J.	Portage la Prairie	PC
COWAN, Hon. Jay	Churchill	NDP
CUMMINGS, J. Glen	Ste. Rose	PC
DERKACH, Len	Roblin-Russell	PC
DESGARDINS, Hon. Laurent L.	St. Boniface	NDP
DOER, Hon. Gary	Concordia	NDP
DOLIN, Marty	Kildonan	NDP
DOWNEY, James E.	Arthur	PC
DRIEDGER, Albert	Emerson	PC
DUCHARME, Gerry	Riel	PC
ENNS, Harry J.	Lakeside	PC
ERNST, Jim	Charleswood	PC
EVANS, Hon. Leonard S.	Brandon East	NDP
FILMON, Gary	Tuxedo	PC
FINDLAY, Glen M.	Virden	PC
HAMMOND, Gerrie	Kirkfield Park	PC
HARAPIAK, Hon. Harry M.	The Pas	NDP
HARAPIAK, Hon. Leonard E.	Swan River	NDP
HARPER, Hon. Elijah	Rupertsland	NDP
HEMPHILL, Hon. Maureen	Logan	NDP
JOHNSTON, J. Frank	Sturgeon Creek	PC
KOSTYRA, Hon. Eugene	Seven Oaks	NDP
KOVNATS, Abe	Niakwa	PC
LECUYER, Hon. Gérard	Radisson	NDP
MACKLING, Q.C., Hon. Al	St. James	NDP
MALOWAY, Jim	Elmwood	NDP
MANNESS, Clayton	Morris	PC
MCCRAE, James C.	Brandon West	PC
MERCIER, Q.C., G.M.J. (Gerry)	St. Norbert	PC
MITCHELSON, Bonnie	River East	PC
NORDMAN, Rurik (Ric)	Assiniboia	PC
OLESON, Charlotte L.	Gladstone	PC
ORCHARD, Donald W.	Pembina	PC
PANKRATZ, Helmut	La Verendrye	PC
PARASIUK, Hon. Wilson	Transcona	NDP
PAWLEY, Q.C., Hon. Howard R.	Selkirk	NDP
PENNER, Q.C., Hon. Roland	Fort Rouge	NDP
PHILLIPS, Hon. Myrna A.	Wolseley	NDP
PLOHMAN, Hon. John	Dauphin	NDP
ROCAN, C. Denis	Turtle Mountain	PC
ROCH, Gilles (Gil)	Springfield	PC
SANTOS, Conrad	Burrows	NDP
SCHROEDER, Q.C., Hon. Victor	Rossmere	NDP
SCOTT, Don	Inkster	NDP
SMITH, Harvey	Ellice	NDP
SMITH, Hon. Muriel	Osborne	NDP
STORIE, Hon. Jerry T.	Flin Flon	NDP
URUSKI, Hon. Bill	Interlake	NDP
WALDING, D. James	St. Vital	NDP
WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Hon. Judy	St. Johns	NDP

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS

Thursday, 9 July, 1987

TIME — 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION — Winnipeg, Manitoba

CHAIRMAN — Mr. M. Dolin (Kildonan)

ATTENDANCE — QUORUM - 6

Members of the Committee present:

Hon. Messrs. Cowan, Harapiak (The Pas),
Harper

Messrs. Ashton, Dolin, Driedger, Kovnats,
Maloway, Pankratz and Roch

APPEARING: Vern Hannah - Academic Dean,
Canadian Nazarene College

Dr. David Ewert - President, Mennonite
Brethren College

Dean Whiteway - Vice-President, Winnipeg
Bible College and Seminary

David Schroeder - Canadian Mennonite Bible
College

MATTERS UNDER DISCUSSION:

Bill 17 - An Act to amend The Municipal
Assessment Act (2); Loi modifiant la Loi
sur l'évaluation municipale (2)

Bill 30 - An Act to amend An Act to Incorporate
"Pine Ridge Golf Club"; Loi modifiant
la Loi intitulée "An Act to Incorporate
"Pine Ridge Golf Club"

Bill 54 - An Act to Validate By-Law No. 3678 of
The Rural Municipality of St. Andrews;
Loi validant l'arrêté no 3678 de la
municipalité rurale de St. Andrews

Bill 55 - An Act to amend An Act to incorporate
Southwood Golf and Country club; Loi
modifiant la Loi intitulée "An Act to
incorporate Southwood Golf and
Country Club"

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CLERK OF COMMITTEES, Ms. S. Clive: The first order
of business at the committee meeting this morning will
be to elect a chairperson for this committee, as we
have none.

Are there any nominations?
Mr. Harapiak.

HON. H. HARAPIAK: I move that Marty Dolin be the
Chairman of the committee.

MS. CLERK OF COMMITTEES: Mr. Dolin has been
nominated. No other nominations.

Would you please come forward and take the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee will come to order.

BILL NO. 17 -
THE MUNICIPAL ACT (2)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The first item of business is
presenters. We have three presenters on Bill 17. First,
Vern Hannah, Academic Dean, Canadian Nazarene
College, Winnipeg.

Mr. Hannah.

MR. V. HANNAH: Thank you, Sir.

I want to express appreciation for this opportunity
of addressing the committee, and I speak on behalf
of our President Hightower and the Administration of
Canadian Nazarene College. Dr. Hightower is unable
to be here today; he is out of town.

This is, of course, a culmination of a formal process
begun in 1979, as far as our institution is concerned,
when we began to make efforts through the city, and
then through the former P.C. Government, and have
been with the present government now for some time.

We would like to express appreciation for the manner
in which this bill has been handled in the Legislature,
for the bipartisan way in which the members have
supported it; and I do want to express appreciation
for the government and for the members of the
Progressive Conservative Party, in particular, Mr.
Driedger, who has introduced the bill.

We feel that this is a demonstration of the democratic
process and the free vote is very much an evidence
of that, we believe, and so we're very appreciative of
the way this has been handled and accepted in the
House.

There are three major issues, as far as we are
concerned. The first one is the matter of fairness and
non-discrimination inasmuch as several other colleges
located, some of them, on the campuses of the
University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg,
which do teach religious courses are funded, and have
been for some time by the province and are, of course,
in the tax exempt status. Also the universities
themselves teach religion courses as part of the
curriculum of the universities.

The second issue, the fact that Manitoba is the only
province in Canada that has not, up to this point, funded
private colleges of the nature of ours.

Thirdly, the small religious colleges, we feel, represent
a very meaningful contribution to the educational
mosaic of the province, and bring a great deal of
business and money to their communities, as well as
the fact that a number of our students who come from
various parts of Canada - and literally, we have students
from every province in Canada - and a number of them
decide to stay here and settle down in Manitoba, mostly
in Winnipeg.

So we believe that the college is making a contribution
not only educationally but to the cultural and economic
well-being of the city and province as well.

The passage of Bill 17, as it is presently before the
Legislature, will mean that Canadian Nazarene College

this year will save \$96,000 in taxes. Because of the reassessment this year, our taxes jumped from \$68,000 last year to \$96,000 and that represents almost 9 percent of our operating budget; that would be this year if we were faced with \$96,000 and that would be a very severe hardship on us.

Since 1970, our college has paid over \$600,000 in property taxes and we feel that this matter is very crucial to us. We want to express our appreciation to the government and to the Progressive Conservative Party - and particularly Mr. Driedger who has introduced the bill - and we appreciate this opportunity of being here this morning to make this statement. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Hannah. Are there any questions for Mr. Hannah? Seeing none, thank you, Mr. Hannah.

The next presenter is Dr. David Ewert, President, Mennonite Bretheren College.

Dr. Ewert.

DR. D. EWERT: Thank you, Sir.

We appreciate the efforts that are being made to seek tax relief for our colleges. The Mennonite Bretheren College was established in Winnipeg in 1944 and has operated continuously now for 43 years.

The college enrolls about 200 students annually in its three-year program of studies leading to a Bachelor's degree. For 17 years, our college has been affiliated with the University of Winnipeg. With the exception of courses that are related to the work of the church, all our courses are available to students for university credit. Since the University of Winnipeg does not have a music department, we have an agreement with the university that their students make our department theirs.

The college employs 15 regular faculty, 12 part-time, and 17 staff members, and has an operating budget of \$1.3 million. We received no government grants and all the monies for operations come from our churches and from student fees. For all these many years - 43 - we have paid municipal taxes on our college facilities. At present that amounts to \$50,000 a year because we are in the core area. It is less than my colleague just suggested.

We believe that we should be relieved of this tax burden in view of the fact that other theological colleges, like St. John's, St. Paul's and others, and the university, are not asked to pay these taxes.

We are not asking for favours, but it is our considered opinion that there should be fairness in the treatment of our academic institutions and we appreciate so much the efforts that are made to create that kind of fairness.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any questions for Dr. Ewert? Thank you very much, Dr.

The next presenter is Dean Whiteway, Vice-President, Winnipeg Bible College and Seminary.

Dean Whiteway.

MR. D. WHITEWAY: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I have to tell you that I am more accustomed to sitting where you are than where I am, but it is a privilege to participate in this kind of an exercise. There are still very few countries in the world where a private

citizen can have this kind of access to those who govern over us. I count that as a very coveted privilege, and I want you to know that.

Of course I, with the other members who have presented, want to thank the Member for Emerson for taking the leadership in this, and certainly all the members of the House who - well, let me put it this way. It certainly gives the legislative process in its best light, and that has not gone unnoticed. So we appreciate the cooperation and the support from all members of the House or members from all parties of the House. We appreciate that.

During the debate, there was some concern by members as to the exclusiveness of the bill, that other charities might be involved and that's commendable. But as those in the legislative process know, no one single bill can cover all the deficiencies or one single bill cannot bring about total justice for all.

That kind of an attitude is commendable by members who would want to include other charities, but this bill makes a great deal of sense in that it does group together colleges which have similar characteristics and similar major problems in the area of taxation.

I want you members to know the impact this will make, what a good thing you really have done. In the scope of the financial affairs of Winnipeg Bible College and Seminary, the amount that we pay in taxes that this bill will address represents 7 percent of the funds that we need each year through donations. Now that may seem to be a small amount but, as you know, it is often that last 7 percent that can make or break the financial viability of any enterprise. So we want you to know that this makes a tremendous impact on our financial affairs. We are grateful, we are appreciative and we are deeply thankful.

Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dean Whiteway. Are there any questions of Dean Whiteway? No? Thank you very much. Okay, we can proceed.

Okay, we have one further presenter, Mr. Schroeder.

MR. D. SCHROEDER: I would like, on behalf of the Canadian Mennonite Bible College, to also express our thanks for the efforts that have been taken by this House to correct a situation that has existed for some time.

CMBC, the Canadian Mennonite Bible College, is a teaching centre of the University of Manitoba, and I've been correcting the same papers with people from St. John's College and St. Andrew's and so on since the 1960's, but have not always had the same treatment in terms of taxes. So we really appreciate this bill and what it seeks to do for the colleges.

I just want to say that Dr. John H. Neufeld, President of CMBC, called me by phone to express his personal regrets that he could not be here to deliver this thanks himself, and asked me to do so.

Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any questions for Mr. Schroeder? No?

Thank you Mr. Schroeder.

Okay. Bill 17, how do you wish to proceed? The bill as a whole—pass; Title—pass.

Bill be reported.

Thursday, 9 July, 1987

**BILL NO. 30 - AN ACT TO INCORPORATE
THE "PINE RIDGE GOLF CLUB"**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, the next bill we have is Bill 30, An Act to Amend the "Pine Ridge Golf Club." We have no presenters on Bill 30.

Bill—pass; Title—pass.

Bill be reported.

**BILL NO. 54 - AN ACT TO VALIDATE
BY-LAW NO. 3678 OF THE RURAL
MUNICIPALITY OF ST. ANDREWS**

MR. CHAIRMAN: The next is Bill 54, An Act to Validate By-Law No. 3678 of The Rural Municipality of

St. Andrews. What is your wish on this bill? Bill as a whole—pass; Title—pass.

Bill be reported.

**BILL NO. 55 - AN ACT TO INCORPORATE
SOUTHWOOD GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB**

MR. CHAIRMAN: The next one, Bill 55, An Act to amend the Southwood Golf and Country Club. Bill as a whole—pass; Title—pass.

Bill be reported.

No further business.

Committee rise.

COMMITTEE ROSE AT: 10:15 a.m.