



Fact Sheet No. 6

HANSARD

Hansard is the official report of the debates of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly and its committees.

The tradition of *Hansard* dates back to 1810 in the British House of Commons and is named after the Hansard family, the printers who published the first official record. *Hansard* has been available in Canada, at the federal level, since 1880. Manitoba has had a published *Hansard* since 1958. Previous to 1958, the newspapers were responsible for reporting the activities of the Legislature.

A separate *Hansard* document is prepared for each day the Legislature sits. A separate verbatim transcript is also prepared for the following Standing Committees: Agriculture and Food; Crown Corporations; Human Resources; Intergovernmental Affairs; Justice; Legislative Affairs; Private Bills; Public Accounts; Rules of the House; Social and Economic Development; Statutory Regulations & Orders.

Manitoba *Hansard* follows Beauchesne's citation 55 as the guideline for reporting what was said in the House and committees. The citation reads:

Hansard is not a verbatim transcript of the debates of the House. It is a transcript in extenso. In the case of repetition or for a number of other reasons, such as more specific identification, it is acceptable to make changes so that anyone reading Hansard will get the meaning of what was said. Those who edit Hansard have an obligation to make a sentence more readable since there is a difference between the spoken and written word.

In order to produce the *Hansard* document the proceedings of the legislature are recorded digitally as computer audio files. A transcriber types a five-minute section of the recording, verifying spellings of names, places, organizations, et cetera. A proofreader then goes over the same five-minute section checking for accuracy and *Hansard* style. All the five-minute sections are pieced together and the final document is checked over again and then formatted for printing.

French to English simultaneous interpretation services are available daily during Question Period. When French is spoken, an English translation will also be included in the transcript. If another language is spoken, the translation will appear in *Hansard* only if the translation is provided by the Member.

Manitoba's *Hansard* is available within 24-hours of a sitting. A printed copy is available for all MLAs. The public can view and search the online *Hansard* from 1958 to the present.

Manitoba *Hansard* provides a comprehensive subject and member index for each session of the Legislature. A draft index is available online during the session. If assistance is required to locate information in *Hansard* please contact the *Hansard* indexer at (204) 945-3573.

The *Hansard* Web site is: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/hansard/hansard.html>

For more information on the history of *Hansard* see the Hansard Association of Canada website at <http://www.hansard.ca>.

Any questions respecting *Hansard* may be directed to the *Hansard* manager at (204) 945-2534.