



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 20

THIRD SESSION, FORTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

PRAYER

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

On motion of Hon. Ms. SQUIRES Bill (No. 16) – The Climate and Green Plan Implementation Act/Loi sur la mise en œuvre du Plan vert et climatique, was read a First Time and had its purposes outlined.

Pursuant to Rule 27(1), Hon. Mr. GERRARD and Messrs. ISLEIFSON, WIEBE, BINDLE and REYES made Members' Statements.

The following petitions were presented and read:

Hon. Mr. FLETCHER – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Provincial Government to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Vimy Arena site is not used for an addiction treatment facility.

Hon. Mr. GERRARD – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Provincial Government to request Dynacare to reopen the closed laboratories or allow Diagnostic Services of Manitoba to freely open labs in clinics which formerly housed labs that have been shut down by Dynacare and to ensure high quality lab services for patients, and a level playing field and competition in the provision of laboratory services to medical offices as well to address this matter immediately in the interest of better patient focused care and improved support for health professionals. (J. Papa, P. McLeod, C. Lavich and others)

The House resumed the Debate on the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. FRIESEN:

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

And the proposed amendment moved by Mr. KINEW as follows:

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

therefore regrets that this budget neglects the priorities of Manitobans by:

- a) breaking the Premier's promise to protect front line services by making deep cuts to health and education despite unprecedented new revenues from the Premier's gas tax; and

- b) continuing the Premier's attack on the health care system by underspending the health care budget by \$175 million, freezing acute care services, cutting long term care supports, doctor recruitment programs, mental health and addictions services while wasting millions on endless reports by high priced consultants; and
- c) cutting funds for pharmacare, even though there is a unique opportunity right now to pressure the Federal Government to invest in a true universal national pharmacare program; and
- d) underspending the education capital budget for K-12 by \$81 million and failing to keep school spending at least up to the rate of inflation; and
- e) cutting post-secondary education by millions while increasing tuition rates for parents and students and planning critical changes to student aid that could limit access for thousands of students; and
- f) failing to provide a comprehensive jobs plan that gives more families access to good paying, non-precarious jobs, cutting supports for apprenticeships and training while standing idly by as Manitoba's unemployment rate rose to become higher than the Canadian average for the first time in a generation; and
- g) cutting over \$150 million in infrastructure spending, 25% of the flood protection budget with no mention of the town of Churchill or supports for mining jobs in the North; and
- h) forcing regular Manitoba families to pay hundreds of dollars more this year in the Premier's gas tax with no tax relief in 2019 while letting big corporate polluters off the hook.

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

And the proposed sub-amendment moved by Hon. Mr. GERRARD as follows:

THAT the amendment be amended by adding after clause (h) the following clauses:

- i) failing to articulate a forward looking vision or have an adequate plan for job creation and growth for the Manitoba economy; and
- j) failing to bring in a budget which will decrease inequality in Manitoba by not increasing EIA payments and instead increasing costs for those on low incomes by imposing higher taxes, higher transit costs and higher electricity costs without any offsets to help those on low incomes; and
- k) bringing in a carbon tax without providing transitional support for trucking or related industries nor a logical, clear and precise explanation of where the money raised will be spent causing carbon confusion and no clear signals regarding the future of related jobs and opportunities in building a green economy; and

- l) failing to show clear plans to mitigate the problems associated with climate change including increased floods, droughts and forest fires; and
- m) failing to provide leadership in moving to the development and manufacturing in Manitoba of electric vehicles including cars, buses, trucks and tractors; and
- n) failing to address the win-win of reducing Nitrous Oxide from Agricultural processes; and
- o) failing to make progress on eco certification for Lake Winnipegosis; and
- p) failing to even mention Manitoba Hydro in the budget speech and neglecting to take measures to reduce the expected dramatic increase in hydro rates; and
- q) failing to act to improve the health of Manitobans by taking such measures as: restoring the exceptional Misericordia Urgent Care Centre, restoring lactation services and the IV team at the Health Sciences Centre, supporting the ability of doctors' offices to have medical laboratories, investing in emergency management measures and supporting rural emergency medical services and local health teams including rural pharmacists and assuring there are sufficient numbers of paramedics, particularly advanced care paramedics in rural Manitoba; and
- r) continuing to claw back tens of millions of dollars from children's special allowances to the detriment of children and families in Manitoba; and
- s) failing to develop a duty to consult framework for Indigenous communities; and
- t) failing to invest in the City of Winnipeg and other municipalities by cutting funding; and
- u) failing to invest in CFS transformation by cutting funding to strategic initiatives and program support; and
- v) failing to address the meth crisis in Manitoba by failing to put in place a drug stabilization unit and transitional support to help meth addicts to address their situation; and
- w) failing to provide clear funding for the International Institute for Sustainable Development; and
- x) failing to invest in the areas of Immigration, Status of Women or Francophone Affairs and French education by cutting support; and
- y) failing to invest in the advancement of human rights by cutting funding to the Human Rights Commission; and

Thursday, March 15, 2018

- z) failing to invest Carbon Tax or Federal Funding in environmental measures to reduce emission by cutting funding to the Clean Environment Commission, Water Stewardship and Environmental Stewardship; and
- aa) failing to support post-secondary education institutions forcing universities and colleges to cut services to students or programs; and
- bb) reducing funding for research and innovation by reducing the budget for Research Manitoba; and
- cc) failing to prioritize the East Side Road construction and breaking promises with respect to the funding of infrastructure in Manitoba.

And the debate continuing on the sub-amendment,

And Messrs. LINDSEY and BINDLE, Ms. LATHLIN, Mr. JOHNSON, Hon. Mr. FLETCHER and Messrs. SARAN, ALLUM and LAGASSÉ having spoken.

And Mrs. SMITH (Point Douglas) speaking at 5:00 p.m. The debate was allowed to remain in her name.

In accordance with Rule 33(8), the Opposition House Leader announced that the Restore Public Transit Funding for Municipalities Resolution will be considered on the next Thursday of Private Members' Business.

The House then adjourned at 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 a.m. Friday, March 16, 2018.

Hon. Myrna DRIEDGER,
Speaker.