



MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, May 11, 2023

Speaker's Statement

Hon. Myrna Driedger (Speaker):

I have a statement for the House on the occasion of Manitoba Day, but before I begin I would like to introduce some very special guests we have in the Speaker's Gallery.

We have with us today:

- The Honourable Tony Akoak, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut;
- Andrew Carrier, the Manitoba Métis Federation Minister of Métis Community Liaison Department, Residential & Day Schools; and
- David Beaudin, the Manitoba Métis Federation Minister of Agriculture.

On behalf of all Honourable Members I welcome you all to our Chamber and I thank you for being here with us today.

Tomorrow, May 12th, 2023 marks the 153rd anniversary of the day the Manitoba Act received Royal Assent in the Canadian Parliament. This Act created the province of Manitoba, and accordingly May 12th has been designated as Manitoba Day.

In honour of this historic occasion, as we have done for the past several years, our Sergeant-at-Arms carried our original Manitoba Mace in today's Speaker's Parade.

Carved from the wheel hub of a Red River cart in 1870, this Mace made its first formal appearance on March 15, 1871 at the first session of the first Manitoba Legislature, held in the home of A.G.B. Bannatyne in the Red River Settlement. The Bannatyne home was destroyed by fire in December 1873, but thankfully the Mace survived.

After 13 years of service, our original Mace was retired in 1884 when our current Mace debuted. The original Mace has a permanent home on display outside of the Speaker's Office, coming out of retirement annually for this celebration and other special events. This important historical artifact sits on the Table today as a tribute to the rich history of our province.

In addition to the original Mace, the Star Blanket cushion and the beautiful beaded Mace runner – gifted to us by the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs in 2010 – are also on display today to honour Manitoba's Indigenous heritage as we celebrate Manitoba Day.

As well, this year we have been gifted two new significant artifacts to enhance and enrich our heritage display.

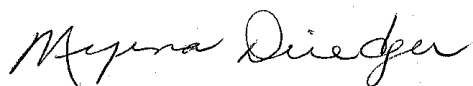
First, we have a Métis sash, gifted to us by the Manitoba Métis Federation. President David Chartrand presented this sash to me this week and I am pleased that Minister Carrier and Minister Beaudin are able to join us on his behalf in the gallery today.

Second, we have a soapstone carving of a polar bear, a gift to this Assembly from our northern neighbours, the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. George Hickey Jr., the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, personally delivered the carving to us earlier this week, and I am grateful that Speaker Akoak is also with us in the gallery today.

All of these artifacts serve as a reminder that this Assembly Chamber and Legislative Building reside on the traditional lands of Indigenous Peoples, as we recognize each day in our Land Acknowledgement.

I am honoured and humbled that we are able to include these treasured artifacts in our annual celebration of Manitoba Day, and I trust that this tradition will continue past my tenure as your Speaker.

With this rich history in mind, I would encourage all Honourable Members to reflect on the solemn responsibility we all share to serve our constituents in this Assembly with honour and respect, and recall that whatever heated debates occur in this place are all part of a very long legacy of service to the people of this Province.



Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba