



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 9

SECOND SESSION, FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

PRAYER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

Immediately following the Prayer and Land Acknowledgement, Mr. WASYLIW rose on a matter of contempt alleging that, without reasonable excuse, the Honourable First Minister had failed to provide a response to a matter taken under advisement in the Committee of Supply on October 15, 2024, within the deadline set out in the Rules of the House, thereby infringing on, and being in contempt of, the rights of the Assembly, and moved:

THAT this House censure the Premier for their disregard for the traditions and practices of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba and their contempt for the people of Manitoba; and

THAT this House order the Premier to produce the information contained in the notice of advisement within 24 hours of the Speaker's ruling.

And Hon. Min. FONTAINE and Mr. JACKSON having spoken,

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

Hon. Min. SCHMIDT tabled:

Annual Report on Nutrition Programs for 2023/2024, dated December 2024.

(Sessional Paper No. 3)

Hon. Min. CABLE, the Minister of Advanced Education and Training, made a statement regarding Maya Turner.

Mr. PERCHOTTE commented on the statement.

Pursuant to sub-rule 28(1), MLA CHEN, Mr. KING, MLA DEVGAN and Messrs. NARTH and BLASHKO made Member's statements.

The following petitions were presented and read to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba:

Mrs. COOK – To urge the Provincial Government to proceed with the planned renovation and expansion of Phoenix School without further delay.

Mr. EWASKO – To urge the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning to reverse recent amendments to the Teaching Certificates and Qualifications Regulation that weaken subject-area requirements for teacher certification, and to reinstate teachable majors and minors and early-middle years requirements, which are essential for ensuring teachers have strong knowledge in core subject areas; and to urge the Provincial Government to address teacher shortages through alternative measures that uphold rigorous subject-area standards, which are critical for providing quality education to all Manitoba students.

Mr. JACKSON – To urge the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning to reverse recent amendments to the Teaching Certificates and Qualifications Regulation that weaken subject-area requirements for teacher certification, and to reinstate teachable majors and minors and early-middle years requirements, which are essential for ensuring teachers have strong knowledge in core subject areas; and to urge the Provincial Government to address teacher shortages through alternative measures that uphold rigorous subject-area standards, which are critical for providing quality education to all Manitoba students.

Mr. KING – To urge the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning to reverse recent amendments to the Teaching Certificates and Qualifications Regulation that weaken subject-area requirements for teacher certification, and to reinstate teachable majors and minors and early-middle years requirements, which are essential for ensuring teachers have strong knowledge in core subject areas; and to urge the Provincial Government to address teacher shortages through alternative measures that uphold rigorous subject-area standards, which are critical for providing quality education to all Manitoba students.

Mr. BALCAEN – To urge the Provincial Government to immediately put forward a plan to increase breast cancer screening capacity and lower the breast cancer screening age to 40.

Following Petitions, Mr. JOHNSON rose on a matter of urgent public importance and moved:

THAT in accordance with sub-rule 39(1), the regular business of the House be set aside to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, specifically the impact of 25% tariffs on Canadian products that the US President-Elect plans to impose as of January 20, 2025.

And Mr. JOHNSON and Hon. Mr. MOSES having spoken to the urgency of the motion,

WHEREUPON the Deputy Speaker ruled as follows:

I thank the Honourable Members for their advice to the Chair on the motion proposed by the Honourable Opposition House Leader for a matter of urgent public importance. The 90-minute notice required prior to the start of Routine Proceedings by sub-rule 39(1) was provided, and I thank the Member.

Under our Rules and practices, the subject matter requiring urgent consideration must be so pressing that the public interest will suffer if the matter is not given immediate attention. Crucially, there must also be no other reasonable opportunities to raise the matter.

I have listened very carefully to the arguments put forward. The reports in the media of additional tariffs on Canadian products are indeed serious and worthy of consideration and discussion. However, my duty in this moment is to determine if there are other opportunities for debate on such matters.

With that in mind, I must note that Members have had several opportunities to raise this matter:

- They could raise it as a Member's statement
- They could ask questions on this topic during Oral Questions (as some already have)
- They could have spoken on this matter as part of the Throne Speech debate
- They could also now use their grievance to speak to this matter

These opportunities will continue to be available to Members every sitting day in the House.

Accordingly, I do not believe the motion meets the criteria as a matter of urgent public importance, as there are other opportunities to debate this matter. With the greatest of respect, then, I must rule this motion out of order as a matter of urgent public importance.

The House resumed debate on the proposed motion of Hon. Min. FONTAINE:

THAT a Special Committee on Local Journalism be created to make recommendations on exploring the future of local journalism, including rural and cultural media such as French, Filipino, Punjabi and Chinese language publications, with the mandate to consider matters of public support for journalism, and report its conclusion to the Assembly within 30 days of the start of Fall Sitting 2025; and

THAT the composition of the Special Committee be:

- (a) four members designated by the NDP caucus, and
- (b) two members designated by the PC caucus; and

THAT the Special Committee be authorized to decide how it will conduct its business, including deciding to hold meetings at times and places it considers advisable to receive briefs and hear presentations; and

THAT, except as otherwise provided in this motion, the Special Committee shall have the same status and powers and follow the same rules and procedures as a Standing Committee of the House, including the power to establish a sub-committee for the purposes of carrying out any part of the Special Committee's work; and

THAT after adoption by the House, this motion may be amended only by:

- (a) unanimous consent of the House;
- (b) passage of a subsequent motion by the House; or
- (c) written agreement of all House Leaders if the House is not sitting.

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

THAT the first clause of the motion be deleted and the following substituted as the new first clause:

THAT a Special Committee on Local Journalism be created to make recommendations on exploring the future of local journalism, including rural and cultural media representing all ethnicities and non-official languages, so long as they do not promote hate speech or undermine the Manitoba values of inclusivity and respect for all races, religions, and backgrounds, with the mandate to consider matters of public support for journalism, and report its conclusion to the Assembly within 30 days of the start of Fall Sitting 2025; and

And the debate continuing on the amendment,

And leave having been denied to have the matter remain in the name of Mr. PIWNIUK,

And Messrs. NESBITT and PERCHOTTE and Ms. BYRAM having spoken,

And Mr. GOERTZEN speaking at 5:00 p.m. The debate was allowed to remain in their name.

The House then adjourned at 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 3, 2024.

Hon. Tom LINDSEY,
Speaker.