



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 3

THIRD SESSION, FORTIETH LEGISLATURE

PRAYER

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

On motion of Mr. GOERTZEN, Bill (No. 200) – The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act (Democracy for Voters)/Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Assemblée législative (démocratie pour les électeurs), was read a First Time and had its purposes outlined.

The following petitions were presented and read:

Mr. EICHLER – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Provincial Government to not raise the PST without holding a provincial referendum. (E. Eichler-Graaft, M. Ingalls, J. Ingalls and others)

Mr. CULLEN – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Provincial Government to not raise the PST without holding a provincial referendum. (J. Berry, G. Haasbeek, S. Hamilton and others)

Mr. SMOOK – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Provincial Government to not raise the PST without holding a provincial referendum. (L. L'Heureux, D. Friesen, N. Messier and others)

Mr. WISHART – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to urge the Provincial Government to not raise the PST without holding a provincial referendum. (C. Mayer, T. Simpson, B. Simpson and others)

Mrs. ROWAT – Legislative Assembly of Manitoba to acknowledge that the increase in the PST will significantly encourage cross border shopping and put additional strain on the retail sector, especially for those businesses located close to Manitoba's provincial borders and to urge the Provincial Government to reverse its PST increase to ensure Manitoba consumers can shop affordably in Manitoba and support local businesses. (V. White, K. Slon, B. Novalkowski and others)

Pursuant to Rule 26(1), Ms. WIGHT and Messrs. WISHART, JHA, EWASKO and SARAN made Members' Statements.

The House resumed the Adjourned Debate on the Proposed Motion of Ms. WIGHT:

THAT the following address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor:

We, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba thank your Honour for the gracious speech addressed to us at this Third Session of the Fortieth Legislature of Manitoba.

And the debate continuing,

And Mr. PALLISTER having spoken,

And Mr. PALLISTER moved an amendment as follows:

THAT the Motion be amended by adding at the end the following words:

But this House regrets:

- a) That despite hearing from thousands of Manitobans in opposition to raising the Provincial Sales Tax and calling the idea ridiculous during the last election period, the Provincial Government has chosen to ignore both the will of Manitobans and the law by choosing to raise the PST by 1 per cent from 7 to 8 per cent; and
- b) That despite continued calls for respect for the law, the Provincial Government's approach of continuing to disrespect the tenets of the Balanced Budget and Fiscal Management Act, including raising major taxes on Manitobans without a referendum and exempting Ministers from established salary penalties during deficit periods represents a failure to respect the rule of law and the democratic rights of Manitobans; and
- c) That despite the fact that Manitobans experience the highest food bank usage in Canada, especially amongst children and an inflation rate that is more than twice the national average, the Provincial Government continues to impose taxes on Manitobans at a lower level of income than what is found in all but two provinces, and has failed to provide an increase in the basic personal income tax exemption to the national provincial average; and
- d) That despite the many calls from individuals and community groups the Provincial Government has failed to protect the most vulnerable Manitobans by refusing to raise the rental allowance portion of employment and income assistance to 75% of median market rents; and
- e) That despite the largest increase in revenue of any Canadian province in 2013 and the highest projected growth in revenue of any province in Canada over the next several years, this House regrets the Provincial Government's commitment to increase spending in the absence of a comprehensive expenditure review to evaluate return on investment and program outcomes across all departments of government; and

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- f) That despite the promise to invest in core infrastructure the Provincial Government has consistently failed to follow through on past commitments, demonstrating to the House that the Provincial Government cannot be taken at its word since numerous core infrastructure projects cited in the Speech from the Throne constitute re-announcements of long standing projects committed to prior to the proposed hike in the Provincial Sales Tax.

As a consequence of these and many other failings, the Provincial Government has thereby lost the trust and confidence of the people of Manitoba and this House.

WHEREUPON Mr. Speaker ruled the amendment in order.

And the debate continuing on the amendment,

And Hon. Mr. ASHTON, Mrs. DRIEDGER and Hon. Ms. OSWALD having spoken.

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

The House then adjourned at 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 a.m. Friday, November 15, 2013.

Hon. Daryl REID,
Speaker.