



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 48

THIRD SESSION, FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

PRAYER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

Immediately following the Prayer and Land Acknowledgement, the Speaker made a statement regarding decorum and unparliamentary language.

Pursuant to sub-rule 28(1), MLA PANKRATZ, Mr. WHARTON, MLA CHEN, Ms. BYRAM and Hon. Mr. SIMARD made Member's statements.

During Oral Questions, the Speaker interjected and requested that comments regarding the honesty of another Member, spoken by the Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition, be withdrawn.

WHEREUPON Mr. KHAN withdrew their remarks.

Also during Oral Questions, the Speaker again interjected and requested that comments regarding the honesty of another Member, spoken by the Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition, be withdrawn.

WHEREUPON Mr. KHAN withdrew their remarks.

Again during Oral Questions, the Speaker interjected and requested that the Honourable Member for La Vérendrye withdraw words they'd spoken.

WHEREUPON Mr. NARTH withdrew their remarks.

Following Oral Questions, the Speaker made the following ruling:

Following the delivery of a Speaker's ruling on April 15, 2026, the Honourable Government House Leader rose on a matter of privilege alleging that during Oral Questions, the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet made disparaging, racist remarks directed at the Honourable First Minister. The Honourable Government House Leader concluded her remarks by moving:

THAT this be referred to a Committee of the House.

The Honourable Official Opposition House Leader spoke to the matter before I took it under advisement.

In order for a matter of privilege to be ruled as *prima facie*, a Member must demonstrate that the issue has been raised at the earliest opportunity, while also providing sufficient evidence to support the claim that a *prima facie* case of privilege has been established.

On the condition of timeliness, the Honourable Government House Leader raised the matter immediately following a ruling that I delivered after Oral Questions on the day the remarks were allegedly spoken. Accordingly, I would rule that the matter was raised at the earliest opportunity.

Regarding the second condition of whether a *prima facie* case was demonstrated, in her submission, the Honourable Government House Leader alleged that, during Oral Questions that day, the Member for Lac du Bonnet yelled across the Chamber to the Premier, “You’re drunk, you’re drunk. I thought you quit drinking”. The Honourable Government House Leader stated that this demonstrated anti-Indigenous racism, and that the comment amounted to a personal attack that, and I quote, “Contributes to a toxic and unsafe working environment for the Premier, Deputy Premier, and every Member of our NDP caucus”.

Janse and LeBlanc state in citation 3.78 of the fourth edition of *House of Commons Procedure and Practice* that “Attempting to obstruct Members’ parliamentary work by threatening or intimidating them is a situation that the Speaker always takes very seriously”.

As I have mentioned to Members before, there are many times when I cannot hear comments such as these that are heckled across the room. The noise in this Chamber often prevents me from even hearing the Member holding the floor.

Past Manitoba Speakers used to consistently state that they could not rule on comments made off the record. However, due to mounting problems with decorum, and with advances in technology, recent Speakers have been obligated to consider other sources of information regarding incidents in the House such as isolated audio and video feeds. As a result, Manitoba Speakers in the last 15 years have been addressing off-the-record language in rulings.

Preparing this ruling, I listened to the audio from our House Broadcast. However, I was unable to hear the alleged offending words.

I then listened to the isolated audio feed from the interject mics positioned at the Clerks’ Table. On this recording, I can hear the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet say, and I quote, “Hey, quit drinking”, followed by the Honourable First Minister’s name.

As I detailed in the ruling I delivered on April 7, 2026, Joseph Maingot established that unparliamentary language constitutes a breach of order, not privilege.

Once again, it is up to me as Speaker to determine if the comment was a threat. While I am, frankly, troubled to hear that comments are being hurled across the floor of the Chamber, based on the procedural authorities and the precedent set in the ruling I delivered on April 7, 2026, I do not believe that this constitutes a threat to the Honourable First Minister.

Monday, May 4, 2026

I have to point out that I am struggling to put into words how disappointed I am to be ruling on this issue, just a few weeks after I delivered a similar ruling directing Members to govern their behaviour in a way that upholds the dignity of the Assembly.

I finished that ruling by stating that I strongly believe Members should be setting a better example for Manitobans in this place. This was not a better example.

I am tired of pointing out to Members that we all share the privilege of freedom of speech, and it is a privilege that even I, as Speaker, cannot overrule. Members should know by now that this essential privilege should never be abused. The continued abuse of this privilege is disheartening and reflects poorly on Members of this Assembly. It must stop.

I must rule that this is not a *prima facie* case of privilege, but Members need to understand that the problems with decorum in this place are becoming a distraction from the hard work that Members do here. By that, I mean not just this comment in particular, but also the yelling I hear most days in this chair.

A lot of important matters are discussed in this room, but the behaviour of Members is overshadowing that work. Much of the recent media coverage featuring the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba has been focused on the bad conduct of Members.

I feel that I should share with the House that Members of the public have been approaching me about the behaviour and comments that are being thrown around in this House. Manitobans are not happy with what has been happening in the House. They have been begging and pleading with me that as Speaker I must find a way to stop it.

So, as your Speaker, what should I do? What must I do? And what can I do?

As I mentioned in my statement on May 4, 2026, I am setting a new standard for decorum in this House. In accordance with that new standard, comments like this that are made off the record could be ruled as causing disorder in the House. I could intervene and call the Member to order and, if they do not comply with my direction, it could lead to the Member being named.

We are meant to be role models. We are meant to inspire the next generation of leaders in our province. We are meant to show that everyone deserves to be treated with respect and feel safe in their place of work.

In accordance with the established policy of the office of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, I will provide this audio clip upon request.

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

WHEREUPON the matter was concluded.

Immediately following the Speaker's ruling, Hon. Mr. KINEW rose on a point of order regarding the comments of the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet referred to in the Speaker's ruling.

And Mr. EWASKO having spoken,

WHEREUPON the Speaker ruled that there was no point of order, but requested the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet apologize to the Speaker's satisfaction,

And Mr. EWASKO having refused, was named and suspended from the service of this House for the remainder of the present sitting day.

And Mr. EWASKO voluntarily exited the Chamber.

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

Mr. BALCAEN – To urge the Provincial Government to take immediate and decisive action on bail reform to address serious deficits in enforcement by utilizing all available provincial mechanisms to strengthen warrant enforcement, increasing bail supervision, and opposing release of offenders, thus ensuring that repeat violent offenders are held accountable and that public safety is prioritized over leniency; and to lobby the Federal Government to immediately repeal provisions of the Criminal Code that allow for the continued victimization of law-abiding Manitobans while granting repeat offenders additional rights.

Mr. JOHNSON – To urge the Premier to allocate funding to financially assist the City of Winnipeg in building a new structure to replace the Arlington Bridge; and to urge the Provincial Government to recommend that the City of Winnipeg keep the old bridge fully open to traffic while the new bridge is under construction.

MLA BEREZA – To urge the Provincial Government to take immediate and decisive action on bail reform to address serious deficits in enforcement by utilizing all available provincial mechanisms to strengthen warrant enforcement, increasing bail supervision, and opposing release of offenders, thus ensuring that repeat violent offenders are held accountable and that public safety is prioritized over leniency; and to lobby the Federal Government to immediately repeal provisions of the Criminal Code that allow for the continued victimization of law-abiding Manitobans while granting repeat offenders additional rights.

Ms. BYRAM – To urge the Provincial Government to meet RTAC road designation by providing upgrades and regular road maintenance to Provincial Road 352 in Manitoba specifically the 1.5-mile stretch from Birnie to Provincial Trunk Highway 5 and ensure the road remains paved with asphalt and not reduced to gravel; to reduce load weights on PR 352 until the upgrades can be completed; and to replace or repair the bridge located on the 1.5-mile stretch from Birnie to PTH 5, and to provide an integrity assessment.

Mrs. COOK – To urge the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to undertake safety improvements at the intersection of PTH 75 and PR 305 at Ste. Agathe; and to prioritize measures that will reduce accidents and fatalities, including but not limited to those outlined in the 2022 in-service road safety review.

Mr. GUENTER – To urge the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to undertake safety improvements at the intersection of PTH 75 and PR 305 at Ste. Agathe; and to prioritize measures that will reduce accidents and fatalities, including but not limited to those outlined in the 2022 in-service road safety review.

Mrs. HIEBERT – To urge the Provincial Government to lobby the Federal Government to stop the expansion of medical assistance in dying to those for whom mental illness is the sole condition; and to protect Canadians struggling with mental illness by facilitating treatment, recovery, and medical assistance in living, not death.

Mr. KING – To urge the Provincial Government to take immediate and decisive action on bail reform to address serious deficits in enforcement by utilizing all available provincial mechanisms to strengthen warrant enforcement, increasing bail supervision, and opposing release of offenders, thus ensuring that repeat violent offenders are held accountable and that public safety is prioritized over leniency; and to lobby the Federal Government to immediately repeal provisions of the Criminal Code that allow for the continued victimization of law-abiding Manitobans while granting repeat offenders additional rights.

Mr. NARTH – To urge the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to undertake safety improvements at the intersection of PTH 75 and PR 305 at Ste. Agathe; and to prioritize measures that will reduce accidents and fatalities, including but not limited to those outlined in the 2022 in-service road safety review.

Mr. NESBITT – To urge the Minister of Transportation to take the necessary steps to upgrade Provincial Road 482 to meet RTAC standards.

Mr. PIWNIUK – To urge the Provincial Government to support the investment and placement of an MRI machine in the Portage Regional Health Facility in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.

Mrs. ROBBINS – To urge the Provincial Government to address the conditions of Provincial Trunk Highway 34, making the necessary upgrades to RTAC standard and to resurface the road once the new bridge has been completed.

Mr. SCHULER – To urge the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to undertake safety improvements at the intersection of PTH 75 and PR 305 at Ste. Agathe; and to prioritize measures that will reduce accidents and fatalities, including but not limited to those outlined in the 2022 in-service road safety review.

Mrs. STONE – 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. WHARTON – To urge the Provincial Government to support the investment and placement of an MRI machine in the Portage Regional Health Facility in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.

Mr. WOWCHUK – To urge the Minister of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness to use seniors' housing for what it was intended: the seniors; to require a minimum age of fifty-five years for residence in all elderly person housing (EPH) buildings; and to engage in proper vetting of all applications of people desiring to live in EPH buildings.

Hon. Mr. WIEBE moved:

THAT Bill (No. 2) – The Non-Consensual Distribution of Intimate Images Amendment Act/Loi modifiant la Loi sur la distribution non consensuelle des images intimes, as amended and reported from the Standing Committee on Justice, be concurred in and be now read for a Third Time and passed.

And a debate arising,

And Hon. Mr. WIEBE and Ms. BYRAM having spoken,

And the Question being put. It was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly concurred in, read a Third Time and passed.

Hon. Mr. WIEBE moved:

THAT Bill (No. 30) – The Intimate Partner Violence Death Review Committee Act/Loi sur le Comité d'examen des décès causés par de la violence de la part d'un partenaire intime, reported from the Standing Committee on Justice, be concurred in and be now read for a Third Time and passed.

And a debate arising,

And Hon. Mr. WIEBE and Mr. BALCAEN having spoken,

And the Question being put. It was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly concurred in, read a Third Time and passed.

MLA LAGASSÉ asked Written Questions (Nos. 1 to 3) for reply to the following:

1. Many constituents of Dawson Trail have expressed concerns regarding Sio Silica. Last month, Carla Devlin, President of Sio Silica, publicly stated that the Sio Silica project “will go forward after approval of an environmental licence.” Could the Minister of Environment and Climate Change clarify whether any assurances, formal or informal, have been given to the head of Sio Silica that would justify that level of certainty?
2. Given the President of Sio Silica’s public claim that the project is proceeding, could the Minister of Environment and Climate Change confirm whether the Provincial Government is actively considering a new environmental licence for Sio Silica, and also provide a clear timeline for such a decision?
3. The previous proposal by Sio Silica was rejected due to risks to drinking water and unproven extraction methods. The President of Sio Silica mentioned the mine has a 15 billion tonne deposit of silica sand and that it has the intention of mining all of it. What new scientific evidence has the Provincial Government reviewed, and has it now concluded that this project can proceed without endangering Manitoba’s aquifers and drinking water for thousands of Manitobans?

The House then adjourned at 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

Hon. Tom LINDSEY,
Speaker.