

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA



Fact Sheet No. 6 HANSARD

Hansard is the official report of the debates of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly and its committees.

The tradition of *Hansard* dates back to 1810 in the British House of Commons and is named after the Hansard family, the printers who published the first official record. In Canada, at the federal level, *Hansard* has been available since 1880. Manitoba has had a published *Hansard* since 1958. Previous to 1958, the newspapers were responsible for reporting the activities of the Legislature.

A separate Hansard document is prepared for each day the Legislature sits. A separate verbatim transcript is also prepared for the following Standing Committees:

- Agriculture and Food
- Crown Corporations
- Human Resources
- Intergovernmental Affairs
- Justice
- Legislative Affairs
- Private Bills
- Public Accounts
- Rules of the House
- Social and Economic Development
- Statutory Regulations & Orders

In order to produce the *Hansard* document the proceedings of the legislature are recorded digitally as computer audio files. A transcriber types a five-minute section of the recording, verifying spellings of names, places, organizations, et cetera. A proofreader then goes over the same five-minute section checking for accuracy and *Hansard* style. All the five-minute sections are pieced together and the final document is checked over again and then formatted for printing.

Over the years Manitoba *Hansard* has developed specific rules and practices governing editing style. The practice is that the *Hansard* document remains essentially verbatim. The mandate is to publish what members say; this means the words, as they are heard, are the words that appear in *Hansard*.

French to English simultaneous interpretation services are available daily during Question Period. When French is spoken, an English translation will also be included in the transcript. If another language is spoken, the translation will appear in *Hansard* only if the translation is provided by the Member.

Manitoba's *Hansard* is available within 24-hours of a sitting. A printed copy is available for all MLAs. The public can view and search the on-line *Hansard* from 1991 to the present.

Manitoba *Hansard* provides a comprehensive subject and member index for each session of the Legislature. A draft index is available on-line during the session. A printed index can be obtained from Statutory Publications at 200 Vaughan Street. If assistance is required to locate information in *Hansard* please contact the *Hansard* indexer at (204) 945-3573.

The *Hansard* Web site is:
www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/hansard/

For more information on the history of *Hansard* see the Hansard Association of Canada website at <http://www.hansard.ca/>.

Any questions respecting *Hansard* may be directed to the *Hansard* manager at (204) 945-2534.