

Language Rights

[Translation]

THE CONSTITUTION

AMENDMENT RESPECTING LANGUAGE RIGHTS IN MANITOBA

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier), seconded by **Mr. Tousignant**, moved:

That this House resolves that Her Excellency the Governor General be authorized to issue a proclamation under the Great Seal of Canada amending the Constitution of Canada, pursuant to Section 43 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, as follows:

[English]

Shall I dispense?

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): The Chair will try to read this long motion before we reach six o'clock.

[Translation]

PROCLAMATION AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION OF CANADA

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): The Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) on a point of order.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, with respect to the reading of the motion put on the Order Paper of the House of Commons, on May 22, 1984, this resolution has already been made public and has been with us for nearly a year; I think it would be a waste of time to read it, as it is quite long and already is on the record of this House. As I was saying, there is no need to read it as it would take much of the time which could be better used to debate the motion.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): The Chair is in the hands of Hon. Members. We need unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the motion. I would just like to inform Hon. Members that the motion is fairly lengthy and may take probably as much as 50 per cent of the time. However, if I am requested to read it, I will do so.

[Translation]

PROCLAMATION AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION OF CANADA

1. *The Manitoba Act, 1870* is amended by adding thereto, immediately after section 23 thereof, the following sections: Official Languages of Manitoba

"23.1 English and French are the official languages of Manitoba.

Equality of both language versions

23.2 (1) The English and French versions of Acts of the legislature of Manitoba enacted in both languages are equally authoritative.

Definition of "Act"

(2) In this section and sections 23.3 and 23.6, "Act" has the same meaning as it has in section 23.

Act enacted after December 31, 1985 to be in both official languages

23.3 (1) Subject to section 23.6, any Act of the legislature of Manitoba enacted after December 31, 1985 is of no force or effect if it is not printed and published in both official languages.

Saving provision

(2) Notwithstanding section 23, but subject to sections 23.4 and 23.5, no Act of the legislature of Manitoba enacted before January 1, 1986 is without force or effect by reason only of its having been printed and published in only one official language.

Public general statutes to be in both official languages

23.4 (1) Any public general statute included in the Revised Statutes of Manitoba, 1970 and any public general statute enacted on or after January 1, 1970 of a kind normally included in a general revision is of no force or effect if it is not printed and published in both official languages on or before December 31, 1993.

General revision of public general statutes

(2) Any general revision of the public general statutes of Manitoba enacted after the coming into force of this section is of no force or effect if it is not printed and published in both official languages.

[English]

Delay period for revision

(3) A general revision of the public general statutes of Manitoba shall be printed and published on or before December 31, 1993.

Delay period for re-enactment of certain Acts

23.5 (1) Any private Act or public municipal Act, or any public general statute not of a kind normally included in a general revision, that is referred to in the schedule, or any amendments to or Act substituted for any such Act or statute, is of no force or effect after December 31, 1993 if it is not re-enacted in both official languages on or before that date.

Delay for re-enactment of certain regulations

(2) Any regulation enacted before January 1, 1986 that would, if enacted on or after that date, be of no force or effect under subsection 23.3 (1) if it were not printed and published in both official languages is of no force or effect after December 31, 1993 if it is not re-enacted in both official languages on or before that date.

[Translation]

Exception for amending Acts

23.6 Notwithstanding section 23, no Act of the legislature of Manitoba enacted before January 1, 1994 that only amends one or more Acts of the legislature of Manitoba that are in force notwithstanding the fact that they were printed and published in only one official language is without force or effect by reason only of its having been printed and published in only one official language.

Communications between public and certain institutions

23.7 (1) Any member of the public in Manitoba has the right to communicate in English or French with, and to receive available services in English or French from,

(a) the head or central office of any department of the government of Manitoba;

(b) the head or central office of

(i) any court,

(ii) any quasi-judicial or administrative body of the government of Manitoba,

(iii) any Crown corporation, or

(iv) any agency of the government of Manitoba established by or pursuant to an Act of the legislature of Manitoba;

(c) the office of the Chief Electoral Officer; and

(d) the offices of the Ombudsman for the Province of Manitoba.

Idem

[English]

Idem

(2) Any member of the public in Manitoba has the right to communicate in English or French with, and to receive available services in English or French from, any office not referred to in subsection (1) of an institution described in paragraph (1)(a) or (b) where