

Manitoba PC Caucus



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Lagimodiere's bill for conservation officers stalled again

Province's third-largest law enforcement body deserves official recognition: Lagimodiere

For a second consecutive week, the opposition members of the Legislative Assembly have delayed Selkirk MLA Alan Lagimodiere's private member's bill, the Manitoba Conservation Officers Recognition Day Act, denying it from returning to debate on second reading. Bill 201 would establish Manitoba Conservation Officers Service Recognition Day on October 1 every year. Leave to continue debate on the bill was denied this morning by Independent MLA Steven Fletcher.

"Our Manitoba conservation officers should have official recognition across our province for the important and dangerous work they do," said Lagimodiere. "The Manitoba Conservation Officers Service is the third-largest law enforcement body in the province, and its members deserve the support of the Legislative Assembly. I am disappointed that opposition members continue to play politics to further their own personal agendas at the expense of our conservation officers."

The Conservation Officers Act was passed in Manitoba on October 1, 2015, expanding the enforcement duties of the province's natural resource officers. The legislation renamed them as conservation officers as part of the Manitoba Conservation Officers Service and gave them the powers of peace officers.

Their work with wildlife, fish, natural resources and protected areas brings conservation officers into danger on a daily basis. Six conservation officers in Manitoba have died on the job since 1966.

The enforcement duties of conservation officers will become more important when Bill 29, the Wildlife Amendment Act introduced by our Progressive Conservative government, becomes law and tightens regulations on night hunting.

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