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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Hon. Kevin O'Brien, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

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(Iqaluit Centre)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday October 23, 2000

Members Present

Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Mr. Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. James Arvaluk, Honourable Jack Anawak, Mr. Donald Havioyak, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Iqittuq, Honourable Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Glenn McLean, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Jobie Nutarak, Honourable Kevin O'Brien, Honourable Paul Okalik, Honourable Ed Picco, Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, Honourable Manitok Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Mr. O'Brien): I would like to call on Reverend Daniel Aupalu to say the prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Next we would ask the youth choir from Aqsarniit Middle School to sing the national anthem.

>>*O'Canada*

>>*Applause*

Speaker: I would like now to call upon Inuapik Saggiatok to light the qudlik.

>>*Lighting of Qudlik*

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you Mrs. Saggiatok. As we are all aware today is the start of the Fourth Session. I would ask the Clerk if the Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the Chamber to open the Fourth Session of the Nunavut Legislative Assembly.

Item 2: Speech from the Throne

Commissioner Irniq (interpretation): Thank you. Please be seated. Elders, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Premier, Members of the Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to welcome you to the opening of the Fourth Session of the First Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

This brief, short speech is intended as an update on government initiatives since October 1999 and as a bridge to further government activities in the new session which the law requires the Commissioner to initiate at this point.

Clyde River Protocol

(interpretation ends) One of the early and ongoing accomplishments of your government has been its ability to work creatively and effectively within the framework in which it was created the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. A continuing relationship of trust and understanding has led to a number of strong initiatives in partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik.

Recognizing the importance of this relationship, the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik signed the Clyde River Protocol in October 1999. The Protocol has been the framework for a number of initiatives including

- the creation of a new Business Incentive Policy, Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti. The Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti is consistent with Article 24;
- the recognition of joint processes to review the Education Act and Wildlife Act to better reflect the values of Nunavummiut; and
- the development of common positions to advance the devolution and Land Claims Implementation agendas.

There remain outstanding obligations of the government in implementation of the Land Claims Agreement. Our government has made commitments to enhance the claims implementation process in the light of the five-year review. We are working in partnership with the Federal Government and Nunavut Tunngavik to shape lands and waters legislation in relation to Nunavut. In addition, this year we are looking to finalize our obligation to create, with Nunavut Tunngavik, Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement in relation to Territorial Parks.

In these ways, our government continues to work co-operatively to consistently build on the valuable work of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

Decentralization

Our government remains strongly committed to decentralization. The full potential of decentralization will be realized during the next two years, but the benefits are already beginning to be felt in some Nunavut communities. For example, the Nunavut Power Corporation is currently training employees in Baker Lake and also the Department of Public Works and Services is sponsoring training for positions in Pond Inlet, Gjoa Haven and Arviat.

We are experiencing increases in employment and economic activity. In the next month coming, the communities of Kugluktuk to Cape Dorset will be seeing the arrival of new jobs and new neighbours. The government has renewed the mandate of the Decentralization Secretariat with the focus in years two and three moving to training and recruitment for all decentralized communities.

I am pleased to announce that for the current year we have been able to increase the training component of our decentralization budget to one million dollars. The Decentralization Secretariat and staff within the Department of Human Resources will co-ordinate with Nunavut Arctic College to put these dollars to work. These initiatives respond to the priorities in the Bathurst Mandate's emphasis on continuing learning.

Economic Approaches

(interpretation ends) As the decentralization initiative advances it is imperative that the government also responds to the needs of non-decentralized communities. The government is committed to working with these communities as the first priority for the development of economic capacity and wellness plans identified in the Bathurst Mandate. It continues to be a commitment of our government that every reasonable opportunity will be taken to identify stand-alone institutions for location in non-decentralized communities.

The government will also use the tools afforded by the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation to focus on growth in these communities. The economic development of Nunavut relies on the co-ordination and integration of efforts from many sources.

While optimally economic development relies on individuals and community initiatives, the government can support economic development and infrastructure. Our government is in the process of developing many initiatives to lay the foundation of a healthy economic environment in Nunavut, including;

- the labour force needs analysis;
- the Ajungituit Training Strategy;
- the Nunavut Transportation Strategy.

Housing

(interpretation) Consistent with the Bathurst Mandate, the Nunavut Housing Corporation reports significant progress in the construction of 100 new housing units in communities throughout Nunavut this building season. Families across Nunavut will be moving into these new units in the coming months.

Despite this initiative, Nunavut will not be able to meet its housing needs alone. The Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation is making continuous efforts to engage Federal Government participation in future housing initiatives.

Inuit Qaujimaqatunqit Initiatives

(interpretation ends) The Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth is working with the Nunavut Social Development Council to incorporate the principles of Inuit Qaujimaqatunqit into the operations of the government. A six-person Inuit

Qaujimajatuqangit task force composed of two elders, two government appointees and two Nunavut Social Development Council appointees, will advise and assist the departments in assessing Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit issues and initiatives.

The Task Force will enhance the ability of our government to deliver its services in a culturally appropriate and relevant context.

Hosting Meetings

(interpretation) Hosting meetings during the summer it was a matter of pride to see the Minister of Sustainable Development and Justice hosting Federal, Provincial and Territorial meetings in Nunavut with their colleagues from across Canada.

I'm pleased to note that following my participation at the annual meeting of Commissioners and Lieutenant Governors this past week in New Brunswick this group will be meeting in Nunavut in the fall of 2002.

OTHER INITIATIVES

(interpretation ends) There are many other initiatives under way which our government's ministers will be reporting to this Assembly. There will be reports tabled or statements made on Maligarrnit Qimmirrujiit, on the return to Nunavut of services and accountabilities contracted to the Government of NWT in April 1 of 1999, and the patriation of Legal Registries to Nunavut. There will be legislation to consider in the areas of Workers' Compensation, Access to Information, Land Titles, Statute Revision, the reception of employees into the Nunavut Power Corporation, the Supplementary Appropriations Bill 2000-2001, I recommend these bills to you for passage.

(interpretation) I wish you well in your deliberations and the decisions you make on behalf of Nunavummiut.

I now declare open the Fourth Session of The First Nunavut Legislative Assembly.

I would like to invite you to join the Speaker and myself in the foyer for refreshments, before the resumption of the order paper. Nakurmiik, Qujannamiik, Ma'na, Koanna, Merci beaucoup, Thank you very much.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Commissioner for those inspiring and fine words. Before we proceed, I would like to recognize in this Assembly, today, the Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, Miss Michelle Falardeau-Ramsey. Welcome to this Assembly.

>> *Applause*

The Commissioner has invited members to attend a small reception in the foyer, so we will recess for 20 minutes and all are invited. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>> *House recessed for 20 minutes.*

Speaker: Item 3. Ministers' statements. Ministers' statements. Ms. Thompson.

Item 3: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 001 - 1(4): Baffin Regional Office Decentralization

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform you of some of the positive progress that Public Works and Services has made in our efforts for decentralization of our Baffin Regional office to Pond Inlet.

Phase one of our decentralization is proceeding as anticipated and staffing is progressing. Effective October 6, 2000 we have relocated 24 positions. Seven other positions will be decentralized during phase 2 for a total of 31 positions. It is anticipated local hires from Pond Inlet will comprise the majority of staff within the regional office.

In our Pond Inlet office, we now have local residents that received on the job training in Iqaluit over the past 3 months. Mr. Speaker, the first phase of decentralization for our Baffin regional office has gone smoothly. I am very pleased with the staffing efforts and the training to the new staff, particularly those hired in Pond Inlet

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to provide you with this update.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Kilabuk.

Minister's Statement 002 - 1(4): Results of Nunavut Prospectors Program

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to update the House on the preliminary results of the 2000 Nunavut Prospectors Program. Mr. Speaker, we know Nunavut has a tremendous mineral potential. We also know that a great deal of mineral potential is unmapped and unexplored.

Prospectors of each of our communities play a critical role in the discovery and development of Nunavut's mineral deposits. Their work provides very good information on what resources are out there. It is for this reason my department introduced the Nunavut Prospectors Program last year.

This summer, our department geologists provided prospectors' courses in 8 Nunavut communities and supported our prospectors with technical advice. Fifty prospectors from 9 Nunavut communities received a small contribution from our department's prospectors program to offset their prospecting expenses. I am pleased that Nunavut now has over 100 trained prospectors.

Mr. Speaker, when our prospectors return from the land with their rock samples, they either send their samples directly to labs for analysis or they can meet with our geologists who can assist the prospectors to determine if the samples should be forwarded. These analyses typically consist of tests to determine the occurrences of up to 35 different minerals.

Department geologists who visited some of the prospectors' sites this summer report that numerous new properties have been identified which show favourable geology and mineral deposits. These prospects will require much more work and analysis but I believe we made a strong start in getting Nunavummiut directly involved on our mineral industry at a community level.

Mr. Speaker the prospector's program along with our commitment last year to the Canada- Nunavut Geoscience Centre serve as an important foundation for the development of our mineral industry.

We will continue to examine what programs and initiatives need to be put in place to stimulate and increase exploration and development of our promising mineral industry. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker. Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Ministers' statements. Mr. Anawak.

Minister's Statement 003 - 1(4): Nunavut Human Rights Act

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the Legislative Assembly about an initiative in the Department of Justice that is of great significance to all Nunavummiut. The initiatives involve the creation of a Human Rights Act for Nunavut. As well, I am pleased to say that we are undertaking this work along with the active involvement of Maliganik Qimirrujiit.

Development of effective human rights protection in Nunavut is a key to recognition of equality and respect for all Nunavummiut. Since the 1960's all jurisdictions in Canada, except the NWT and Nunavut, have adopted a Human Rights Act to provide comprehensive human rights protection for its citizens. Now Nunavut is in a position to develop an innovative human rights scheme that reflects the reality of our territory.

Why do we need a Human Rights Act?

A Human Rights Act is necessary to provide individuals and groups protection from discrimination in their day-to-day lives. Unlike the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which only applies to government activity, a Human Rights Act provides protection from discrimination by government and the private sector alike.

Courts, including the Supreme Court of Canada, have significantly expanded the protection offered by human rights legislation providing quasi-constitutional status to Human Rights Acts. Yet Nunavut still does not have human rights legislation of its own.

Currently individual rights protection in Nunavut is based on the Fair Practices Act. The Fair Practices Act is limited for several reasons.

- It does not provide comprehensive human rights protection.
- It is limited in its application, significant groups like contractors have no protection.
- It does not prohibit some well-established forms of discrimination.
- It provides no protection from systemic discrimination; and
- The adjudication process raises issues in terms of fairness.

Because the Fair Practices Act is inadequate in terms of protecting human rights, the Federal Government does not accept it as human rights legislation on par with the laws enacted in provinces or the Yukon. Therefore the Canadian Human Rights Act continues to apply in Nunavut. In other words, human rights in Nunavut are governed by federal legislation and administered by federal agencies. Now it is time to create a made-in-Nunavut human rights legislation that we can administer ourselves.

The creation of a Human Rights Act will take two years of work. My department has identified two phases in the process.

During the first year the department will do research and consultation on human rights. The consultation will be Nunavut-wide and will include as many Nunavutmiut as possible. Maliganik Qimirrujiit will be involved in the consultation process. The work of the first year will result in a detailed report with recommendations for a detailed Human Rights Act. The report will be presented to the Department of Justice and Maliganik Qimirrujiit.

(interpretation) During the second year, my department will present the legislative proposal. If this is approved, we will begin the process of preparing human rights legislation for approval for this House.

Mr. Speaker, the creation of the Nunavut Human Rights Act is an extremely important initiative for all Nunavummiut. It will take two years to do this properly. I am looking forward to the support of all members of the Legislative Assembly as the Department of Justice and Maliganik Qimirrujiit consult in communities across Nunavut over this coming year. As well, I hope the members will provide us with their own views on Human Rights in Nunavut. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. Ministers' statements. Mr. Premier

Minister's Statement 004 - 1(4): Trip to Nuuk Greenland

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Later today I will be travelling to Nuuk, Greenland, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to develop a co-operation agreement that will result in an ongoing working relationship between the two jurisdictions.

The MOU between the Government of Nunavut and the Home Rule Government of Greenland recognizes the need to maintain close ongoing relationships in a number of matters. We will develop sustainable management plans for the common polar bear populations and fisheries management. We will work together in areas of human resources, staff training and professional development.

As Nunavut takes a leading role in battling global warming, we will work with Greenland to exchange expertise in the areas of energy conservation and waste disposal.

Upon my return, I will share with you in greater detail about my trip. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. Ministers' statements. Moving on to item 4. Members' statements. Mr. Alakannuark

Item 4: Members' Statements**Member's Statement 001 - 1(4): Homeownership in Nunavut**

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to talk about homeownership in Nunavut. On behalf of my constituents I would like to thank the NWT and Nunavut Government for the homeownership programs that allow the young and elders alike to own homes in Nunavut. We have the much needed assistance to finance this important program by the Nunavut Government.

But it is getting cost prohibitive to own a home in Nunavut. My homeowner constituents tell me that it is getting harder to maintain a home because of cost of living increases. I will explain in more detail about the cost of maintaining a home later this week. During the question period, I will be asking questions in regards to this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Members' statements. Mr. Nutarak.

Member's Statement 002 - 1(4): Decentralization to Pond Inlet

Mr. Nutarak (interpreter) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for the Department of Public Works for decentralization of that department to Pond Inlet.

It has created job opportunities for my constituents so on behalf of Pond Inlet residents, my constituents, I would like thank the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Members' statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 003 – 1(4): Canadian North Curling Bonspiel

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with some degree of stiffness and pain as a result of the opening of Iqaluit's curling season with the Canadian North bonspiel which took place over the weekend.

Fourteen teams took part in the bonspiel and everyone had a great time. I am comforted by the fact that I am probably not the only person that is stiff and sore in town right now. Mr. Speaker, Dave St. Louis' rink won the A Division and the runner up was Mr. Alex Taylor's rink. George White's rink won the B Division and the runner up was Mr. Gilbert Normandeau's rink. The C Division winners were Geoff Dafoe's rink with the runner up Mr. Corey Bell and his rink.

I am proud to say Mr. Speaker, that my rink won the D Division with Shani Watts rink being the runner up. Mr. Speaker, I want to give special recognition to Fauna Kingdon, Anna Stenton, Jonathan Levy and Shawn Doherty, the junior rink that gave a great showing in the bonspiel. It is encouraging to see the youth participating and enjoying themselves. These events give our youth important opportunities for recreation that are not always available to the extent that they should be.

I would like to thank the sponsors of the bonspiel, Canadian North Airlines. They were very well represented by Eva Onalik throughout the weekend and at the awards ceremonies. The curling club has over 85 members to begin the season and I wish the club's President, Mr. George White, Vice-President Tom Watts and Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Perchard, the best of luck in the upcoming season.

I would like to ask all the members to join me in thanking them as community volunteers for organizing this event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Members' statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Member's Statement 004 – 1(4): Kitikmeot Difficulties with Time Zone Change

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to continue speaking on the issue on which I arose earlier in the third session. Because this is now the fourth session, I would like to continue.

First, I would like to mention that I am very happy that the people of Iqaluit discussed the issue of the time zone. They disagreed with it and it has been fixed. For Iqaluit it has been resolved and that is good for them. But I would like to mention that in Kugluktuk as of October 29, the time will seem like it has been put back because we travel back and forth to Yellowknife and there will be a two hour difference and this is difficult for us.

However, people should know that people hunting, travelling or who are working outside or by themselves will find it difficult when it is dark out in the morning, it will be a long time before the sun comes out. That becomes difficult. People have realized here in the Baffin that this is how it has been. We will have a difficulty in that area as well.

We want it remembered and I will continue raising this issue because for people in Kugluktuk and others like Iqalukutiak, Cambridge Bay, it will be a problem. The Nunavut Government should consider this so that they will know that in the Kitikmeot we have a problem with the time zone. Consider this, do not forget it. The Nunavut Government has to deal with this issue because there will be a problem with this issue in our area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Members' statements. Members' statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Member's Statement 005 - 1(4): Need for Youth Day

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and a good day my honourable colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I want to explain why I asked a question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth recently. On October 21, 2000, I talked about the need to establish a youth day. Mr. Speaker, 60 % of our population is under the age of 30 years and 50 % of our youth are under 15 years of age. Mr. Speaker, we in Nunavut have every reason to be concerned about their future.

We need to teach our young people about our Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, Inuit traditional knowledge. Inuit youth need all the tools they can get to make sure they are adequately educated and trained and obtain good jobs in Nunavut.

We need to make sure that our young people stay in school. Teach them they have to be on time for school and listen to their parents and teachers. We need to teach them about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, Inuit traditional knowledge. We want to be able to communicate using modern technology. They need a good education because we want our Nunavut youth to compete for jobs anywhere in Canada and outside of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker: Are there any nays. Continue Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can remember a time when my mother Palla used to teach me about Inuit survival out on the land because my father died when I was one year old. My mother taught me about Inuit principles of being a good hunter and family provider. My mother also taught me how to care for and love my children.

To this day, my wife Lillian have raised 6 beautiful children. My honourable colleagues to me every day is mothers' day. But everyday should also be a youth day.

Mr. Speaker, my honourable colleagues, I would like to see our Nunavut Government choose a day in any of the twelve months and set that day aside as a youth day. Mr. Speaker, we must celebrate our youth in Nunavut with all our energy because they are our future.

Mr. Speaker, let us explore all the possibilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Item 4. Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 006 – 1(4): Youth Centre for Iqaluit

Hon. Ed Picco (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I would like to compliment you on your attire, it is extremely good looking.

(interpretation ends) Uqaqti, Iqaluit as the largest community in Nunavut and Nunavut's Capital has the dubious distinction of not having a dedicated youth centre. As MLA for Iqaluit, I worked with different committees and youth to plan a centre. At one point Mr. Speaker, we had a dedicated building but after a change in ownership that fell through.

Mr. Speaker, the youth did not give up and we began to work on different plans that we could make to have a youth centre. The major stumbling block was always a lack of a dedicated space or building. Mr. Speaker, with the introduction of the idea to build a new arena and multi-purpose centre for the Arctic Winter Games, the possibility of a dedicated youth centre for Iqaluit finally became possible.

I met with the organizing committee and supported the arena project with the understanding that approximately 3,000 square feet of space would be dedicated for youth and youth activities here in Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, this is a step in the right direction and long overdue. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Arctic Winter Games Organization Committee and our Town Council for supporting the project and look forward to seeing the centre opening on time and with the youth centre a major component of the facility.

The youth of Iqaluit have waited long enough and with the completion of the multi-purpose facility on Apex road, we hope it will be worth the wait. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Members' statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Member's Statement 007 – 1(4): Resolving Suicide Issues

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today since this is our fourth session of the first Legislative Assembly. I would like to make a comment on suicide because the suicide issue is very important to us.

Mr. Speaker, I know that we do have legislation that we use today which is derived from outside of our culture. Mr. Speaker, we have to look for ways to get legislation so that we can encourage Nunavummiut to become lawyers so they will be able to understand our culture and our way of life.

It is evident that the present legislation can become a barrier to our social life when we try to use them in our life. For that very reason, I was very glad to hear when the minister made a statement in regards to what they are going to be doing some time in the future and I would like to see that go ahead because it is very important.

Inuit people should take the opportunity to resolve these social issues on their own because this is going to be very important for us some time in the future. We would like to give opportunities to Inuit people so that they can become professionals such as lawyers and doctors. This is going to be very beneficial to all of us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Members' statements. Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 008 – 1(4): Belcher Islands Memorial Event

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to tell you about the activities that happened in Sanikiluaq in the Hudson Bay area and affected people physically and mentally. Approximately 100 residents of Sanikiluaq decided they would go see the graves on the Belcher Islands. The Belcher Islands have many graves on each of them and the residents of Sanikiluaq put crosses on the unmarked graves.

They put the names there so the people of Sanikiluaq would know them. There were three Inuit who went out by kayak and perished in the sea and at that time there were no prayers said for these hunters. So, the people of Sanikiluaq got together and said prayers

for these three kayakers. They threw wreaths into the water to say a final farewell to the three kayakers. That was one of the joys that we celebrated this summer.

Many people finally realized who their relatives are and where they are buried. Also, people came in from outside of Sanikiluaq. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the people who came from outside and in Sanikiluaq for going through these rituals. It was a healing process finally for the people who participated. It was a joyous experience and I would like to take this time to thank all those who went through this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Members' statements. Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 009 – 1(4): Elder Adjuk's First Bear

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I would like to say thank you to the people who called in, especially Madeleine Napajuk from Whale Cove. I would like to say thank you to them first. Today I would like to say thank you to the people of Whale Cove. John Adjuk who is 85 years old was given the opportunity to catch a polar bear. I heard this on the radio and I called Whale Cove to find out what they have been doing, so that I could make a member's statement.

John Adjuk on October 13, Friday, got a polar bear. As you probably know we heard about polar bears going into the community over the summer and there was one that continuously came into Whale Cove. So they gave this 85-year-old man an opportunity to catch it. For John Adjuk that was his first polar bear and he is 85 years old. He is disabled physically but he still goes hunting with his wife Cynthia.

At this time I would like to say thank you to George Okalik and also Willie Arualak who assisted in the harvest of this polar bear. That polar bear was taken by Adjuk, who is 85 years old and that was his first bear.

The whole community celebrated and feasted on the polar bear that was taken. I would like to say I am very proud of the people of Whale Cove. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson, that was a great story. Members' statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 010 – 1(4): Appreciation to Pangnirtung Residents

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just returned yesterday from Pangnirtung, I was just there for one day on an overnight trip. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people that I saw, especially my mom and my relatives. Also the people that I saw at the church and all of the people that I had meetings and telephone conversations with.

I would especially like to thank Levi Kullualik who is an outfitter in Pangnirtung and Joavee Allivaktuk again, an outfitter in Pangnirtung and Ricki Kilabuk. I would like to say thank you to these three individuals who gave me a supply of meat. I would also like to say happy birthday to Ken Kilabuk who celebrated his birthday today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Members' statements. Mr. Akasuk.

Member's Statement 011 – 1(4): Cape Dorset Art Show

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say thank you to the people that were here over the weekend from Cape Dorset, Jimmy Manning and Kanaginak Pootoogook. These two individuals were here to show Cape Dorset prints and art.

This was their 21st Anniversary. The artwork that was displayed is very well known worldwide. I would like to say thank you to those two individuals, and I hope to see more shows held in other places. So once again I want to thank Mr. Manning and Mr. Pootoogook.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Akasuk. Members' statements. Mr. Anawak.

Member's Statement 012 – 1(4): Meeting regarding Marine Mammals

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was only a few years ago that we did not fully participate in wildlife management and enforcement. I am very pleased to inform you that I will be going down to Winnipeg for a meeting on this issue. As you know we Inuit are coastal people and we hunt marine mammals.

I will be participating in a meeting down in Winnipeg where the agenda will be on marine mammals in Hudson Bay. The HTOs from all the Keewatin region will be there including NTI and other organizations. Delegates from other Canadian provinces will also be participating in this meeting to talk about the usage of marine mammals in Hudson Bay and the Keewatin region.

When I was a teenager quotas were imposed on narwhal and polar bear. I think I was about sixteen or seventeen years old when the quota system was imposed on the Inuit and the imposition came about without consulting with us. We are now able to participate in these debates.

We are now able to participate in these debates as a hunter, or as a community representative. We now have our Nunavut Government, and each of the individual communities are able to participate in the debate on such legislation as well. We'll be

going down to Winnipeg, and I want to see the participation of all the communities, Keewatin Communities, when they are going to talk about the usage of the coast, in the Keewatin region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' statements. Members' statements. Members' statements. Moving on to item 5. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, from my community of Taloyoak, in the constituency this individual is here as a student of the Nursing Program, Silvia Lyall.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a visitor to the gallery, Mr. Paul Quassa President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Also the previous President of QIA, Pauloosie Keyootak. I usually am not given the opportunity to recognize people from my constituency and I would like to take time to introduce Sammy Peter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a person from Repulse Bay, Mr. Simeonie Nattiq, who is an interpreter. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Simeonie Nattiq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to welcome to the gallery today, Iqaluit's own Sarah McDermott. Sarah this morning was admitted to the bar, quite an accomplishment Mr. Speaker. Sarah is sitting next to her dad, a long time northerner and educator and well-known gentlemen around town, Mr. Noel McDermott. Also Mr. Speaker, sitting with Sarah on this side, an old friend of mine and yours Ms. Sara Kay, the former law clerk of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

Also admitted to the bar this morning Mr. Michael Himmelman. Michael is from Yellowknife via Newfoundland. Also Mr. Speaker, finally from the law firm of Lawson, Lundell, Lawson, and Macintosh, Mr. Speaker is Mr. Keith Bergner. Sarah will be associated with the very prestigious law firm Mr. Speaker, the Yellowknife law firm of Gulliver, Wiest, McPherson and now Mr. Speaker, Kay.

Mr. Speaker, Sarah's family, friends and residents of Iqaluit are very proud of Sarah today and I would like to extend our congratulations to Sarah and to her family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Congratulations, and welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a past teacher from Pond Inlet. When I was a chairperson of the Baffin Divisional Board, he was the president and now an instructor at the Arctic College, Noel McDermott. Mr. Noel McDermott, whom everybody recognizes.

Speaker: Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Paulousie Keyootak, who is from my riding of Qikiqtarjuaq, he is sitting over there. Again, I would like to recognize another person who is a member for Iqaluit, Mr. Ed Picco who at the last session gave a very, very brief answer to my question. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Item 5. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. No other recognitions. I would like to recognize one of the reporters from Nunatsiaq News, Jane George. Jane welcome to the gallery.

Just before we move off this topic since my good friend Mr. Picco brought it up, and spoke of my new uniform as he called it. I would just like to acknowledge this was a gift from the Speaker of the House of Commons in Ottawa, as you know. It has been worn for many, many years by various speakers, probably over many hundreds of years I guess as the parliamentary tradition has been in effect. I would just like to say thank you to the Speaker for this gift.

>>Applause

Item 6. Oral questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 001 – 1(4): Financial Institutions in Smaller Communities

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like direct my question to the Minister of Finance for Nunavut. I have raised this issue a number of times for the past year and a half and it is still an ongoing concern. Many of the smaller communities still do not have financial institutions. A year ago on October 27, the Minister of Finance indicated in response to my questions that he would follow up with the banking

institutions to see what time lines they were looking at. Can the minister update us on what response he has received from the financial institutions. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, various banks depending on where they are located, have the opportunity to venture out to get into other communities to host or facilitate workshops and try to generate business for their own banks. I know depending on the situation, like if I use the example of the Royal Bank, it is based in Cambridge Bay. I know on some occasions they have had individuals from their banks that have gone out to other communities.

It is not to say that Mr. Speaker, that they do it on a very regular basis but I know that in speaking with some of the officials from the various banks that they try to facilitate access to information primarily through telephone solicitations and access from that type of communications. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister inform us about whether the government is currently considering any proposals from financial institutions to provide financial services to smaller communities. I understand your response but Mr. Speaker, we have been trying to get financial institutions in the smaller communities for quite a long time now, and I knew of this concern when I was still a mayor in my community.

We would like to see how the smaller communities could get financial institutions. It is a huge concern of the small communities especially the two that I am representing. They have been talking to me as their representative and I am talking about Uqsuqtuq and Taloyoak.

Is it not possible to establish financial institutions. Maybe not a huge building but some place where you can go to access financial services. Is it possible for the government to establish something like that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that I have said in the past that the government would look at and take into consideration support to any credit union proposal, maybe an expansion option of banking services that might come from the conventional banks to establish additional services.

But it is not the government's role itself to set up these financial institutions. We can certainly provide some assistance in some of the start up costs if that were the case that it proves to be beneficial to communities, businesses, and individuals throughout Nunavut. By the same token Mr. Speaker, I understand right now that the Royal Bank is doing an

alternate banking centre in Arviat, from what I understand, and testing out the delivery of some expanded form of services to see whether or not that would work.

I guess as a result of whatever determination they make from that proposal at this time or that service, they can make additional decisions whether or not to expand into other communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you Mr. Minister of Finance for setting up that pilot project in Arviat. Since we created the Nunavut Government, some of the communities have become part of the decentralization plan. It is coming very fast and there are quite a lot of people that have moved to those decentralized communities. We have new people that are well established in their new communities.

Using our local Co-op for example, they are the only establishment that we can use to provide banking services. So, with the increased population in the decentralized communities and in the other communities, we seriously have to consider setting up financial institutions. So I will keep it at that while I have the time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: I believe that was more of a statement than a question. Okay. Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Oral questions. Supplementary. I didn't hear a question so if there is a question and you want to repeat it go ahead.

I would just like to remind everybody to keep your preambles short and make your questions precise. Go ahead.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to question the Minister of Finance. He stated earlier that he would be working on this with the credit unions. Have you found people to work on this area or this issue.

Speaker: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I should clarify first of all, it wasn't the government that set up the alternate banking services pilot project the member referred to. It was the Royal Bank I believe.

Secondly, just on this matter of credit unions. Again, I would reiterate that it is not the government that would set up the credit union.

If there is an interested proponent out there, for example we know in years past that Arctic Co-operatives were very active in trying to get credit unions up and running in some of the communities where they thought there would be enough business to make it viable. The former GNWT at that time offered some assistance.

We would also as a government be willing to look at what type of assistance we might be able to offer, whether it be the Arctic Co-operatives or any other group of individuals or businesses that might be looking at setting up some type of financial services or to expand on existing services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng. Supplementary. Oral questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Question 002 – 1(4): Homeownership Subsidies

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Housing. In my member's statement I said that it is getting harder to maintain a house as a homeowner because the high cost of living is continually rising. My question is, what assistance is available to homeowners in the smallest communities to help pay for their bills. They need to heat their homes in the winter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson, Minister for Housing.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In March, the housing task force put out 15 recommendations and we will be working on these recommendations. During their task force meetings, they heard concerns from the communities regarding the high cost of living and we will be working on how we could help the communities. We will be working on the recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The cost of fuel in the smaller communities is more than what it is in the Capital or the larger centres. Will the minister seriously consider some sort of program to make the price of home heating oil in the smaller communities comparable to the cost in larger communities. The expenses that you have to pay all put together are very high. So, that is my question to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be giving a report on the oil prices, regarding the increases in oil and during my report I will be able to respond to that concern Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Oral questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 003 – 1(4): Firearms Certification Extension

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I was not expecting to speak next but thank you very much anyway. My question is directed to the Premier regarding the gun control legislation. This past summer up to the end of September, we had people coming to our communities to fill out forms for firearms registration. Could he give us an update on how it has been going. When is the deadline, is it the end of January.

Speaker: Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The federal law states that the firearms registrations must be completed by end of December as I recall. This is not our territorial legislation but is federal law. We are not responsible for dealing with this issue. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. Just for the benefit of the people that are watching us back home, it may seem to take quite a while before we get to the second supplementary and third. We are waiting for translations to complete itself. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The Premier and the NTI President had an agreement to work together on a court challenge in support of hunters in Nunavut. The NTI President and the Premier had signed an agreement to work together.

If the hunters did not get their license or get their firearms registered by December 31 they will not be able to hunt because they will not have the license to hold their firearms. So my question is, will the deadline of December 31 be too close. I was wondering if the premier can work to defer that deadline. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes the legislation is under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. The Nunavut Government could ask them to defer the deadline because we have heard that many Inuit people from Nunavut will be unable to register their rifles or their firearms. Some of the communities were not visited so perhaps we can ask the Federal Government to change the deadline before this legislation is implemented. We can ask them to defer if that is the wish of the Nunavummiut. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. The premier had stated that he can ask his Federal Government counterparts if they can defer this. If we can at least defer the deadline date. Can this happen only by way of motion from us. Is that the only time you can ask the Federal Government to defer this. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, thank you. I can ask my colleagues here and discuss this matter with them and make a decision as to what kind of procedure we will follow so that I can represent you adequately. So therefore I can discuss this matter with you as to how you would like me to go about it. Yes, I know that this is quite a challenge but I know that its going to take a bit of time to deal with this issue through the courts. I will discuss this matter with my colleagues. I am sure that we can find out which direction you would like me to go. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. If we could ask the Federal Government perhaps at least to defer the matter up to 3 to 4 weeks. I would like to ask the Premier since it is part of his portfolio being the Premier, if he could negotiate with the Federal Government.

We have been elected to represent our communities, so he should represent the Nunavut Government. I would like to ask the Premier to go on behalf of Nunavut and he stated that he would like to ask us what our wishes are before he can go speak to his Federal counterparts, so therefore, I would like to ask him to represent the Nunavut Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to get a clear definition as to the direction that you would like me to go in. That is why I wanted to get your input on it. If you just want me to write a letter asking for a deferral I am open to it, I am open to any direction you give me. I just did not want to do this on my own. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. Oral questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 004 – 1(4): Protection of Inuit Inukshuk Symbol

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It took a while for the third session to be completed. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. I would also like to welcome you to the fourth session of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard through the media and the newspapers about somebody else other than me. The Inukshuk, the symbols of the Inuit people we have heard about a private business wanting to use our Inuit symbol. I would like to ask the minister if you would be working with NTI and ITC to protect the Inuit Inukshuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Minister responsible for Culture. Mr. Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your question is very good, but to date I have had no dealings with this issue. If NTI or ITC are willing to work with my department, I am open and willing to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister should be well aware now that our cultural symbols, even religious symbols such as crosses, private companies should not be able to have those as their property or as their trademark.

I know that Canada recognizes this as being an Inuit symbol. The Nunavut Government should work to protect their symbols. The only time that they are willing to work with the ITC or NTI is when they are invited to do so. Therefore I would like to ask, can't your department or the Nunavut Government participate from the beginning so that we can ask the company not to use our Inuit symbol. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it is true what the Member is saying. In the past we have heard from the public and we have to protect our symbols such as Inukshuks. I am not trying to say I am waiting for the other entities to come and invite me to participate with them. To date I have not discussed this matter with either Inuit Organizations whether it be NTI or ITC. Once I have that opportunity I will look forward to working with them. I just want to inform you that I have not brought this issue up with either NTI or ITC. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When will you be willing to discuss this matter with NTI or ITC in regards to this issue. I know that this 4th session is going short. So will you be able to do that before the end of the 4th session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can not give you a definite date. I will ask NTI and ITC if they can talk about the issue with me before the 4th session concludes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 005 - 1(4): Status of Nunavut / Manitoba MOU

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will be directing my question to the Premier. During the Rankin Inlet session in February the Nunavut

Government and the Manitoba Government signed a memorandum of understanding. Can the Premier tell me what the status is now with the signing of the MOU. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there are two issues that we are dealing with at this time. Highway construction and the power grid. I am sure that we will be tabling a report sometime soon. They are just reviewing the highway issue down in Manitoba and at this time we are now taking on the Power Corporation. Nunavut Power Corporation is now reviewing the options to see if we can trade energy between Manitoba and Nunavut. So, these are the two issues that we are dealing with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 006 - 1(4): Municipal Financing

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Community Government and Transportation. I believe earlier in the 3rd session Mr. Speaker, he indicated along with the House Leader they were going to be doing a review of how the municipalities were financed. I would just like to ask the minister if he could update us on where the review is at now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometime last year, I initiated a review of our financing process for communities. We had a brief update when I met with the Mayors here last week. However, at this point the report of the committee is not ready and I would like to inform the member that as soon as we start planning on how we are going to renew or... (interpretation)... once we complete the report on what the recommendations for funding arrangement are, we will include them or let them participate.

However, at this time we have not set up the financial criteria or the program. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe in his response the minister indicated that he has a committee working on this. I would just like to ask him who is on that committee and when will it be struck. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is more of a technical committee and the committee members are from within the civil service. The person who is basically

conducting it, or the person in charge is Mr. Shawn Maley, the Superintendent of Community Government & Transportation in Rankin Inlet.

At this point in time, I apologize, I cannot give him the names of the whole committee, but it is basically a technical committee looking at the financing process for communities. I would be pleased to inform the member of who the committee members are but again, when the report is done, it will be up to myself as the Minister of Community Government & Transportation with the assistance of the Legislative Assembly Members to do a final analysis and a final process for how we are going to change the funding system to the communities. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Minister Anawak. Oral questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated that the committee was made up of civil servants. Mr. Speaker, I know in the past the way the formulas work out, that the civil servants in the public service administer that program and it has always been the municipalities' administration and the mayors and councillors at the municipal level that have concerns with that formula.

Will the minister ensure that there is some room or a spot on that committee for the communities to be able to provide their input and have some representation on that committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Mr. Speaker, I apologize it is not just the civil servants who are on the committee. If I remember correctly we have a couple of mayors. However, keep in mind that whatever recommendations are made to myself as the minister, the final analysis and the final recommendations will be made by myself as well as with the assistance of the Legislative Assembly.

Having been a mayor formerly, having been a settlement Senior Administrative Officer and having been a former councillor, I have some ideas of how we should reform the system. I can assure the member that as soon as we get to that stage we will be including all of the Legislative Assembly members into reforming the funding system to the communities. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Minister Anawak. Final supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to that day and seeing that report. But I would just like to ask the minister if he could provide us with some type of a time frame. It has been almost a year now or three quarters of a year since this was initiated. I would just like to ask if he has any type of a time frame on when we will have something that we can look at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, the issue of finances in each community was conducted by the Government of the NWT just prior to the division, however when the review was done, it was for all of NWT. We are all aware Mr. Speaker, when Nunavut was part of the NWT, there were always some real problems between the way Nunavut communities operated and other communities in the Western part of the NWT operated such as having to deal with band councils.

So as a result I asked for further studies on the financing and I will be happy to keep the members informed. The committee doing the study is co-chaired by the Deputy Minister Mike Ferris, and the Nunavut Association of Municipalities President Dennis Lyall and the working group is made up of departmental staff, Hamlet Senior Administrators and because of similarities in the funding process we also included the Housing Corporation staff. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. Oral questions. Mr. Akesuk.

Question 007 - 1(4): Increases to Power Rates due to Fuel Costs

Mr. Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Power Corporation. What assurance can the minister give that families in households will not be hit by power bill increases as a result of the rising price of oil. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister for the Power Corporation. Mr. Picco

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a little bit over a month ago, we approved the budgets for the Nunavut Power Corporation in Baker Lake and at the time Mr. Speaker, the budget was approved for a little over 48 million dollars for O & M, it did not include an increase for any rising fuel costs.

Mr. Speaker, lower than anticipated costs for the operation of the headquarters of Baker Lake as well as increases in revenue projections based on the demand in growth, especially in some decentralized communities and here in Iqaluit, has for the time being Mr. Speaker, isolated us from having to increase the power rates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Supplementary. Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As there are going to be increases for fuel prices, how is it that you are going to keep the present power rates. It would seem like there would have to be increases in the power rates, if there's going to be an increase in oil rates. Do you see an increase in prices, sometime this upcoming year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, that's a good question. Mr. Speaker, under the process for increasing rates or charging more. The Nunavut Power Corporation would have to do what's called a GRA. A General Rates application to increase our power costs.

Mr. Speaker at the same time we have an agency, formed under the Government like in the NWT and other jurisdictions called a Public Utilities Board which would have to review any rates application or increase.

So there are checks and balances along the way to protect us, Mr. Speaker the consumer and as the member knows, the largest consumer of power in Nunavut is the government and that's the Federal Government. Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Government, as well as Municipal Governments.

I cannot project 8 months down the road Mr. Speaker, I cannot see the future. We anticipate with the budget that was approved in Baker Lake that we will not have to raise the power rates Mr. Speaker, for at least until some time in the spring where we will take a look at it again.

Our revenue projection shows us increases in revenue. That revenue increase will offset any cost in the increase in fuel. But there are checks and balances along the way. So I hope Mr. Speaker that helps clarify the question for the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 008 - 1(4): Authority of Community Education Councils

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Education Minister. The divisional boards that were dissolved on July 1, 2000. They are now dissolved and now we have community education councils who'll be taking on more responsibilities since the dissolution of the divisional boards. Could the minister elaborate on what kind of new authorities they will be taking on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Education.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Right now it is status quo. We will give the communities time to take on more responsibilities and more authority. The communities will be given more authority as they increase their capacity, we are open to that. We are also reviewing the Education Act this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again to the Minister of Education. Thank you for your response. But if you are going to be amending the

Education Act are you going to be defining the roles and responsibilities of these authorities or committees under this Education Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

Speaker: Supplementary Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if we are going to be amending the Education Act how long is that process going to take. Are we going to be done by 2002 or what is the time line like to amend the Education Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes we have signed an agreement with NTI to work together on the Education Act. We have been working on this approximately a year now especially the previous minister. We hope to implement the new Education Act next spring but it will be up to my colleagues to see how long it would be under review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Question 009 - 1(4): Assistance to Comply with Gun Legislation

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is going to the Premier. It is about gun legislation. Let me say first of all, it is in regards to the NTI court challenge.

(interpretation) The last I heard, when federal government officials went to Kugluktuk they never even finished what they were doing and left town.

I was not very happy about this because they did not complete their work and December 31 is fast approaching. (interpretation ends) Can the Premier commit to speaking with his federal counterparts to ensure all communities are given assistance to comply with the legislation so they are given the help they need. Can you commit to that. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Like I mentioned, this is not the responsibility of the Nunavut Government and the people that were touring the communities were not our staff. We can talk to them but it is the Federal Government's mandate. I would like to be given direction by motion or resolution and if you give me direction to write a letter to the Federal Government I could do so. There is a person who

is representing Nunavut in Parliament and you could also call that person. There are a lot of avenues that you can use to get your message across. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have been trying to get help for my people on this issue. We should try and help our people in communities and not just say it is the Federal Government's responsibility.

It is sometimes pretty hard to understand this because it is complex. We should be helping our people because they go hunting but also they worry if they do not meet their obligations they will not be able to buy ammunition. We should try and get this through to the Federal Government because we do not have very much time. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you Mr. Speaker. We have what you call a Member of Parliament who represents our interests at the Federal level. I believe that is where you should direct your frustration there. If you do have frustration with the gun law, our role as Members of the Legislature is to deal with our laws in Nunavut. That is our role.

What we have done as a government is to support NTI in challenging this gun control legislation because we agree with a lot of our constituents that we have an aboriginal right to hunt, trap and fish without a formal licence or fee. That is what we have done in supporting in trying to quash this legislation which is causing a lot of grief for a lot of our residents here in our territory and whatever way that we can try and support further delay of the implementation of this legislation we can try that.

I want to know from members, whether it be by way of motion from the House if you want me to write a letter or some form of lobbying. I am open to that. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. Final supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you. Please continue with that and I am happy about your response. But please try hard and I encourage you to get as much information and lobby on our behalf because our people are having a hard time with this.

It is something that we are worried about because our people are concerned about it. I will be speaking to you and asking you to write a letter or make a motion, but we will figure this out later on today so that it will be a little easier for you to work on this. Thank you.

Speaker: I believe that was just a comment. We will move on. Oral questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 010 – 1(4): No Fuel Delivered to Community

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Petroleum Products Division. In one of my constituency communities, we did not receive a re-supply and I am wondering why this was, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When a community has enough supply for the new year, they are often left out for that year. I will look into this further for the member and I will give him a response regarding his concern. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Minister. Supplementary.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are expecting that the fuel supply in our community will not be enough for the year. So if that was the case how would be able to receive more fuel for the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: I would just like to make a reminder that if they are taking a question as notice to make it clear, just to say that I will look into it...if you are taking it as notice then make sure that you state that. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't take that as notice. I just informed the member that I will get back to him with the information by tomorrow morning. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, if there is not enough fuel for the year we would make sure that a delivery comes into that community to bring in fuel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 011 – 1(4): Community Input to Capital Plan

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Earlier he responded to a question regarding the capital plan. I believe actually last session, last week, he had indicated that the government and his department were developing this capital plan and once it was developed that we and the communities would get an opportunity to provide input on it.

Mr. Speaker, last February I asked the minister a similar question and he had indicated at that time that the communities would have input into the capital plan prior to it being developed as was the practice prior to April 1, and the creation of Nunavut.

It seems like since then the communities haven't had any opportunity to provide input into the capital planning process. So I am just wondering when the communities, will get an opportunity, finally, to have some input into that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when you use the word develop, that's a very broad word. So, it is a matter of what you interpret. Everybody interprets it differently and to me Mr. Speaker, the intent always was to try and develop a draft five year capital plan to give MLAs the opportunity to solicit some input and recommendations from what they saw from that draft five year or multi-year plan.

At that point, as I indicated at the last session I believe, we would work on a mechanism where we can solicit some input from municipalities, other stakeholders that are directly impacted by the delivery of that multi-year plan. Then I think what's also important Mr. Speaker, to recognize it's not just a one-time initiative that you bring forward. As we work towards one for the 2001/2002 fiscal year, we have to continue with future years and continue to make adjustments on a regular basis. That's where you would solicit more substantive input from municipalities and like I said, stakeholders and try to...and concerns of members, and try to work that in to future years capital planning needs.

Trying to address the issues on a consistent basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated that they are in the process of finalizing a draft 2000/2001 portion of the capital plan. Mr. Speaker, in the past, being a previous Hamlet Councillor, in the past, the Hamlet Councils were asked to submit their priorities and their five-year capital plan for their communities.

That information was then submitted to the department, then MACA, and used in the development of that capital plan. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, have any of the communities been given an opportunity to raise their concerns or to give their priorities in the development of this 2001/2002 capital budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would say that yes, from the perspective of the broad community consultations that we undertook, all of us, not just the government members, but regular members, all participated in a broad community consultation.

Every community throughout Nunavut was visited. Municipalities, the mayors, councillors, people from those communities came out at those community consultation meetings and gave us what they thought their priorities were.

That was documented, a report was tabled in this House and that was the basis of the 2000/2001 firm plan that we have that we have put in place this year. It is the basis of some of the work that is out there for finalizing a draft multi-year plan that will come back to members again in a couple of weeks and from there back out to municipalities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess the minister indicated that the consultation tour that happened last winter, and I would like to emphasize the word that he used on it, it was broad. There was quite a tremendous amount of information given to the public meetings.

They weren't specifically with the municipalities, they were public meetings. They weren't asked what are your priorities for the next five years on the capital plan. They were given pie charts and numbers of how the government was planning to spend its budget for this past year and not specifically on a five year capital plan.

In the past, Mr. Speaker, the communities were specifically asked to submit a five-year capital plan to the department to use in the development of a capital plan. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, again. Will the communities have an opportunity to do the same today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Finance. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess Mr. Speaker, maybe we should step back here and think of the reason why this government committed to putting in place a multi-year plan, a five year plan as it used to be referred to by the GNWT. I would say a multi-year plan for the Government of Nunavut. Like we said in the past, it should be deliverable for all the communities throughout Nunavut.

Yes, I was a mayor, I have been involved on many councils and I had many opportunities as an MLA in the GNWT Legislature to look at draft five year capital plans of the Government of the Northwest Territories and to provide input on what we thought were the priorities of the communities.

But let's not forget that many times those priorities that we identified were not delivered. They were pushed back into subsequent years, future years on a continual basis. That created just as many problems I believe for municipalities. That's why under the public consultations that we want to know realistically what's going to be able to be delivered to each community in Nunavut.

That's why we have tried, in trying to be consistent to develop a five year plan that is deliverable. When we say Mr. Speaker, we think in year three, that we will be able to deliver a health centre here, a school here, municipal infrastructure garages, water trucks,

whatever the case may be, that's what we will do unless there are some circumstances, unforeseeable circumstances that create an atmosphere where we have to totally revamp the capital plan for that particular year.

In that case it would have to be a fully defensible decision because of the fact that the expectations will be there and that's why we wanted to try and solidify this whole process. Yes, communities will have an opportunity, once we have it formulated, once we have some input from regular members, to provide their comments as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. You will note that the clock has run out for question period. As per past practice, we will now allow Mr. Tootoo his final supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess Mr. Speaker, I heard finally the rationale as to why they haven't been consulted in the past, or recently, is the fact that the government wants to put together a plan that they feel is deliverable. I can certainly agree with the minister's remarks that there was frustration in the past from having it changed all the time.

In light of the recent mayors' meeting here in Iqaluit, we heard comments from some of those mayors that they want to go back to the way it was. To be able to provide input. I agree wholeheartedly with the minister's rationale and that, but I would like to ask him, have they conveyed exactly that message to the mayors and the municipalities so that they know where things are at right now.

This is the first time that I have heard that explanation delivered as to why they haven't had that input that they used to have in the past. I would like to ask the minister, has he conveyed that information to the municipalities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not at this time. That's why we wanted to get to the point of having something realistically deliverable to present. Also having the opportunity for regular members to provide some input before we got to the stage of having a draft multi-year plan stamped and ready for distribution for additional input. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Time is now up for question period. We will move on to item 7. Written questions. Written questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like unanimous consent to go back to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

Speaker: Are there any nays. Mr. Alakannuark.

Item 5: Revert to Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize one of my constituents. He is a by-law officer. He is my constituent and I would like to recognize him. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 7. Written questions. Written questions. Item 7. Written questions. Item 8. Petitions. Item 8. Petitions. Petitions. Item 9. Reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 9: Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Report 001 – 1(4): Ajauqtiit Review of the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today because I have the honour of tabling the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit's Review of the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut entitled, emphatically entitled: Election of the First Legislative Assembly of Nunavut – 1999: A New Beginning.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to recognize a number of people who contributed to the work of the Standing Committee who are in the House today: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Paul Quassa from NTI was here. NTI has worked with the Standing Committee quite closely throughout our review of this report and I would like to thank them for participating in that process.

As well Mr. Speaker, with your indulgence and that of the members, I would like to read from a resolution that I will be tabling later today, from the Board of Directors of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

It's from their Board of Directors meeting in Repulse Bay. Resolution regarding NTI and Government of Nunavut co-operation on elections.

Whereas, the President of NTI appeared before the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit on April 13, 2000, to discuss the process of elections in Nunavut;

Whereas, the Government of Nunavut has indicated an interest in developing a central elections office;

Whereas, the President of NTI stated to the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit that in general terms NTI would be interested in exploring with the Government of Nunavut and other parties the possibility of creating a central Nunavut Elections Office, and other possible forms of co-operation;

Whereas, the President of NTI noted to the Standing Committee the potential savings of creating a central Nunavut Elections Office and that such an office would provide an opportunity to share and learn from one and other's experience in conducting elections; and

Whereas, this discussion with the Standing Committee led in May 2000 to NTI staff participating in a mission to Elections Canada in Ottawa along with the Standing Committee and Government of Nunavut staff to discuss possible approaches to co-operation, a mission which reinforced the belief that co-operation with the Government of Nunavut and possibly the Government of Canada, would be in NTI's interest;

Now, Therefore, be it resolved that the NTI Board of Directors authorizes NTI's administration and implementation department to further pursue the initial exploratory on elections co-operation and to report back to the Board on this process, the options considered and their cost implications no later than May 2001.

Again, Mr. Speaker, with your indulgence and that of the members I would like to read a letter that I will be tabling later today from the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada, regarding work by the committee.

The letter is addressed to myself Mr. Speaker, as Chairperson of the Standing Committee and it is coming from Mr. Jean-Pierre Kingsley, the Chief Electoral Officer for Canada.

"I am writing further to my letter to you dated October 17, 2000, in which I informed you that I would be unable to attend the tabling of the Standing Committee Ajaqtiit's Report on Electoral Reform to the Legislative Assembly on October 23, 2000.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you every success in this important step. I trust the recommendations made by the Standing Committee will ensure that the administration of elections in Nunavut will fully address the needs of electors. I also wish to note, once again, that I was extremely pleased with the exchanges that took place in Ottawa with this office, the Standing Committee Ajaqtiit and the representatives from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on June 19 – 21.

It is my hope that the discussions proved useful in the preparation of the Standing Committee's report. Finally, I would like to re-affirm my commitment to future working groups and joint initiatives between my office and the Standing Committee Ajaqtiit, which will allow us to become even more effective and efficient in the administration of elections.

I look forward to receiving the Standing Committee's report and would appreciate being kept informed of the work of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on this matter.

Yours truly, Jean-Pierre Kingsley."

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee undertook a thorough and thoughtful review of the conduct of elections in Nunavut and our report contains 65 recommendations. In order to expedite discussions in the House on the report, I will be recommending the following processes to the House. I would like to read a section of the introduction and background now and I will move that the report be entered into the record as read.

I will also move that the report be moved to committee of the whole on Tuesday October 24, 2000 and at that time my colleagues will join me in reading each of the recommendations in the report as a motion.

Mr. Speaker, before I begin reading from the report I would like to note that it has become clear that the Standing Committee has some broad recommendations for follow-up on our report. Due to the comprehensive nature of many of the recommendations, the committee has directed many of them to the Government of Nunavut. However, the spirit underlying these recommendations is that the Legislative Assembly will work closely with the government and other organizations named in the report, in a collaborative effort to implement the recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, in October 1999, the Legislative Assembly referred the report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut, entitled: Election of the First Legislative Assembly of Nunavut – 1999: A New Beginning, to the Standing Committee for review. The report contained a number of recommendations for legislative and administrative reforms relating to Territorial elections.

The election of the first Legislative Assembly of Nunavut was indeed a new beginning. With the pending creation of a new territory on April 1, 1999, the election in February 1999, ushered in 19 new MLAs who would form the first Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Although Inuit had historically governed themselves according to Inuit traditional leadership, their lives had been governed in modern times by institutions in Ottawa and Yellowknife.

The long cherished dream of Inuit for their own territory, fought for on the land claims table for over 25 years and finally agreed to in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement of 1993, came into being on April 1, 1999. The new public government would change the face of Canada forever.

In addition to reviewing the specific recommendations contained in the CEO's report, the Standing Committee welcomed the opportunity to conduct a broader review of the Elections Act, in the hopes of making recommendations that will ensure this important legislation meets the needs of Nunavummiut. This is part of the process of "beginning new", and it seemed appropriate that one of the first Acts to be reviewed in this manner should be the Elections Act. As stated on behalf of the Standing Committee at the beginning of their public consultation meetings:

"Elections are the foundation of democracy. We want to administer them in ways that encourage participation, recognizing the uniqueness of circumstances in Nunavut, and at the same time are effective and fiscally responsible."

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee appreciated the thoughtful presentation of Mr. David Hamilton, the Chief Electoral Officer and his staff as well as other Nunavut election officials, who met with us during our consultation meetings. The committee hopes that the report does justice to the recommendations contained in his report. The Standing Committee also met with Elections Canada officials for a three day period and would like to thank these officials for their presentations on various aspects of elections at the federal level, as well as information on innovative approaches across Canada. These meetings reinforced the importance of having elections administered by knowledgeable people who possess expertise and a deep commitment to the fair conduct of elections.

The election of the fourteenth Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories took place in the same year as the first Nunavut election. Since the law governing the Northwest Territories election is the same law that is currently in force for elections in Nunavut, the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit felt that it would be useful to review the CEO's recommendations in his report on the Northwest Territories election. Although not formally referred to the committee for review, there are many more specific recommendations contained therein that would address similar problems in Nunavut elections. As well in his subsequent Northwest Territories report, the CEO had the opportunity to address some questions and suggestions made by the Standing Committee in their meeting with him.

The public consultations served to reinforce to the members the notion that while elections provide the foundation it is interaction with people that is, and will be, the lifeblood of democracy in Nunavut. The Standing Committee hopes that this report reflects the concerns and thoughts of the more than 300 people who so generously gave their time and reflections to our committee.

The Standing Committee particularly thanks NTI and the people who met with the committee in Cape Dorset, Chesterfield Inlet, Clyde River, Iqaluit, Kugluktuk, Kugaaruk, and Rankin Inlet. Their suggestions helped the Standing Committee develop recommendations to build a solid foundation for future elections in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, although the election in February 1999, was Nunavut's first official territorial election, elections and referenda have played a prominent role in Nunavut's history as one of the presentation's reminded the Standing Committee.

"The division of the Northwest Territories was approved in a plebiscite in 1982 where over ninety percent of the voters in what is now Nunavut voted in favour of division. In 1992, another Northwest Territories wide vote affirmed the boundary between the two territories. Later that year, in November, the Nunavut Final Agreement, upon which Nunavut's affairs today rest, was approved by nearly 85%. In 1993, NTI, created from

TFN, held its first election voting in the leadership that would, over the next six years, help lay the groundwork for creating the Nunavut Territory and the Nunavut Government."

That's a quote from Paul Quassa, President of NTI from his presentation to us on April 13, 2000.

The Standing Committee agrees with NTI that this history "reminds us of the strength of our democratic process in Nunavut. It is something that we should all be proud of."

The Standing Committee wants to build on this history for the future. As one of the members of the Standing Committee stated at the outset of our community meetings in September:

"Although elections were not part of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, Inuit embraced elections as a measure of public support throughout the land claims process and the steps leading to the creation of the new territory. Elections allow us the means to govern ourselves."

That was a quote from Mr. Iqaqrialu a committee member at our public hearings. Elections are now an important part of the fabric of the modern Inuit society in which we live and an essential component of public government.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad I don't have to read the whole report. The first Nunavut Election was administered by Northwest Territories Elections Officers under the authority of Mr. David Hamilton, the Chief Electoral Officer. This itself was a first since previous territorial elections had been under the authority of Elections Canada and the Northwest Territories had recently negotiated the transfer of this responsibility.

There were a number of changes over previous territorial elections to accommodate the needs of the north better. The Standing Committee acknowledges the importance of some of the measures, such as the use of radio messages in Inuktitut and the preparation of election materials in Inuktitut which were mailed to each household.

The CEO's report notes the voter turnout was over 88% of the eligible list of electors, which is in keeping with the high voter turnout during previous elections and plebiscites in Nunavut. However, the caveat to this is the concern over the accuracy of the list of electors. There were relatively few incidents in the first Nunavut election, which are described in the appendices to the report, and most of them were ably handled with the CEO's discretion and/or will be better dealt with in the future by adopting the CEO's recommendations.

The Standing Committee's additional recommendations for changes contained in this report are not meant to reflect negatively on the work of the Chief Electoral Officer and the Elections Officials in the first Nunavut Election. Rather, the recommendations hope to build on these initiatives to meet the specific needs of Nunavummiut even more so, as well as continue to modernize our election process.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted earlier, the Standing Committee made 65 recommendations in their report. I would like to highlight some of the key recommendations:

- That a central elections office be established to administer elections in Nunavut called, "Elections Nunavut";
- That a working group be established composed of representatives from the Government of Nunavut, NTI, regional Inuit organizations and the Nunavut Association of Municipalities. Elections Canada and other organizations which run elections at the local level to negotiate the details of how a central elections office would best meet the needs of different organizations and how different electoral processes could be harmonized and where the office should be located;
- That a permanent voters' list be established and an elector transfer certificate be developed for voters who move after revision day;

I forgot how long it takes to read all of these committee reports.

- That general elections be held mid-week in October, or November;
- That the election period be shortened from 45 days to 35 days and that the nomination period be shortened from 10 days to 5 days;
- That if the Legislative Assembly wishes to further consider dropping the age of voting to 16 for territorial elections, a plebiscite or formal opinion poll be used to determine the opinions of the people of Nunavut;
- That polling divisions include a maximum of 450 people. Advance polls only be held in communities that do not have a returning officer; people can vote at the office of the returning officer for 14 days prior to the election;
- That the procedure for mail-in ballots be amended in a number of specific ways to make it work better for the voters in Nunavut;
- That special mobile voting stations may be used in locations such as health facilities and senior citizens' homes and persons with disabilities should be able to vote in their own homes by requesting a returning officer come to their home prior to election day;
- That in multi-electoral districts, voters' lists may be posted together in a central location and returning officers may establish a central office. A central polling station may be used on election day in any community;
- That innovative methods of voting may be used in the smaller settlements and camps, on a trial basis, on the recommendation of the Chief Electoral Officer;
- That the section on election offences be rewritten so that it is easier to understand and that more information on what constitutes an election offence be provided to the public and to candidates;

The last page, Mr. Speaker.

- That the process for responding to complaints about election offences be reviewed by the working group, with a view to making it more proactive, more responsive in a timely manner and more remedial in its consequences;

- That Elections Nunavut work in consultation with the Department of Education to ensure that elections are part of the curriculum for elementary and high school students and that students are advised of their voting rights;
- That returning officers, may exercise their right to vote if they are eligible voters;
- That eligible election expenses include expenses include expenses for childcare and disability related expenses during the election period;
- That an Electoral Boundaries Commission be established during the life of the second Legislative Assembly of Nunavut to review electoral boundaries in Nunavut;
- That the Government of Nunavut introduce a new Elections Act for Nunavut that is written in a manner that is easily understood by voters, candidates and election officials.

Mr. Speaker this concludes my introductory remarks. With your indulgence, I would like to make some motions.

I move that the report be received by the House and moved into Committee of the Whole for discussion,

And further, I move that the report be entered into the record as read;

And further, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 91(4) and have the report moved into Committee of the Whole for discussion on Tuesday, October 24, 2000.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Just a reminder to the members when doing their reports that they try to keep their comments directly related to the reports and that will allow us to get through it a little more quickly. Mr. Tootoo. I believe that we require two motions here. A motion to waive rule 91(4) so the report of the Standing Committee can be referred to the Committee of the Whole on Tuesday.

So we will start with this motion here. Are there any nays. There are no nays. The Report 1 – 1(4) is referred to committee of the whole for Tuesday.

Mr. Tootoo, could you repeat your first motion.

Motion 001 – 1(4): Committee Report 1 – 1(4) to Committee of the Whole

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly. Mr. Speaker,

I move that the report be received by the House and moved to committee of the whole for further discussion;

Further, I move that the report be entered into the record as read.

Thank you.

Speaker: Do we have a seconder. Mr. Akesuk. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Contrary. Motion is carried.

Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit*

Review of the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut:

Election of the First Legislative Assembly of Nunavut – 1999:

A New Beginning

1. Executive Summary

The Standing Committee reviewed the Report of the CEO, as well as the *Elections Act* generally, in order to ensure that the administration of elections will better meet the needs of Nunavummiut. The Committee conducted community consultations with over three hundred people in seven communities in Nunavut. The Committee also met with the CEO and elections officials from Elections NWT, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and other representatives of organizations that administer elections in Nunavut. The Committee also had a three-day meeting with Elections Canada officials.

The Standing Committee makes over sixty recommendations in the report, including the following:

- That a central elections office be established to administer elections in Nunavut, called “Elections Nunavut”;
- That a working group be established, composed of representatives from the Government of Nunavut, NTI, Regional Inuit Organizations, the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, Elections Canada and other organizations which run elections at the local level to negotiate the details of how the central elections office would best meet the needs of different organizations, how the different electoral processes could be harmonized, and where the office should be located;
- That a permanent voters’ list be established and an elector transfer certificate be developed for use by voters who move after revision day;
- That general elections be held mid-week, in October or November;
- That the election period be shortened from 45 days to 35 days and that the nomination period be shortened from 10 to 5 days;

- That if the Legislative Assembly wishes to further consider dropping the age of voting to 16 for territorial elections, a plebiscite or formal opinion poll be used to determine the opinions of the people of Nunavut;
- That polling divisions include a maximum of 450 people. Advance polls only be held in communities that do not have a Returning Officer; People can vote at the office of the Returning Officer for 14 days prior to election day;
- That the procedure for the mail-in ballot be amended in a number of specific ways to make it work better for voters in Nunavut;
- That special mobile voting stations may be used in locations such as health facilities and senior citizen's homes and that Elders and persons with disabilities should be able to vote in their own homes by requesting the Returning Officer come to their home prior to election day;
- That in multi-electoral districts, voters' lists may be posted together in a central location and Returning Officers may establish a central office. A central polling station may be used on election day in any community;
- That innovative methods of voting may be used in the smaller settlements and camps, on a trial basis, on recommendation by the CEO;
- That the section on election offences in the Elections Act be rewritten so that it is easier to understand and that more information on what constitutes an election offence be provided to the public and to candidates;
- That the process for responding to complaints about election offences be reviewed by the working group, with a view to making it more proactive, more responsive in a timely manner and more remedial in its consequences;
- That Elections Nunavut work in consultation with the Department of Education to ensure elections are part of the curriculum for elementary and high school students and that students are advised of their voting rights;
- That Returning Officers, may exercise their right to vote if they are eligible voters;
- That eligible election expenses include expenses for childcare and disability related expenses during the election period;
- That an Electoral Boundaries Commission be established during the life of the second Legislative Assembly of Nunavut to review electoral boundaries in Nunavut;
- That the Government of Nunavut introduce a new Elections Act for Nunavut that is written in a manner that is easily understood by voters, candidates and election officials.

2. Introduction

In October 1999, the Legislative Assembly referred the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut, entitled *Election of the First Legislative Assembly of Nunavut - 1999: A New Beginning*, to the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* for review. This report contained a number of recommendations for legislative and administrative reforms relating to territorial elections.

The election of the first Legislative Assembly in Nunavut was indeed a new beginning. With the pending creation of the new territory on April 1, 1999, the election in February of 1999 ushered in 19 new MLAs who would form the first Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Although Inuit had historically governed themselves according to Inuit traditional leadership and values, their lives had been governed in modern times by institutions in Ottawa and Yellowknife. The long cherished dream of Inuit for their own territory, fought for on the land claims table for over 25 years, and finally agreed to in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement of 1993, came into being on April 1, 1999. The new public government would change the face of Canada forever.

In addition to reviewing the specific recommendations contained in the CEO's report, the Standing Committee welcomed the opportunity to conduct a broader review of the Elections Act, in the hopes of making recommendations that will ensure that this important legislation will meet the needs of Nunavummiut. This is part of the process of "beginning new", and it seemed appropriate that one of the first Acts to be reviewed in this manner by Members should be the Elections Act. As stated on behalf of the Standing Committee at the beginning of their public consultation meetings:

"Elections are the foundation of democracy. We want to administer them in a way that encourages participation, recognizes the uniqueness of circumstances of Nunavut, and at the same time are effective and fiscally responsible."

-Hunter Tootoo, MLA (Iqaluit Centre)
Chair of the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee also appreciated the thoughtful presentation of Mr. David Hamilton, the Chief Electoral Officer, and his staff, as well as other Nunavut election officials who met with us during our consultation meetings. The Committee hopes that the report does justice to the recommendations contained in the CEO's report. The Standing Committee also met with Elections Canada officials over a three-day period and would like to thank these officials for their presentations on various aspects of elections at the federal level, as well as information on innovative approaches across Canada. These meetings reinforced the importance of having elections administered by knowledgeable people, who possess expertise and a deep commitment to the fair conduct of elections.

The election for the fourteenth Legislative Assembly of the NWT took place later in the same year as the first Nunavut election. Since the law governing the NWT election is the same law that currently is in force for elections in Nunavut, the Standing Committee Ajauqiit felt that it would be useful to review the CEO's recommendations in his report on the NWT election. Although not formally referred to the Committee for review, there are many more specific recommendations contained therein that would address similar problems in Nunavut elections. As well, in his subsequent NWT report, the CEO had the opportunity to address some of the questions and suggestions made by the Standing Committee Members in their meeting with him.

The public consultations served to reinforce for the Members the notion that while elections provide the foundation, it is the interaction with the people that is and will be the lifeblood of democracy in Nunavut. The Standing Committee hopes that this report reflects the concerns and thoughts of the more than three hundred people who so generously gave their time and reflections to our Committee.

The Standing Committee particularly thanks Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) and the people who met with the Committee in Cape Dorset, Chesterfield Inlet, Clyde River, Iqaluit, Kugluktuk, Kugaaruk and Rankin Inlet. Their suggestions helped the Standing Committee develop recommendations to build a solid foundation for future elections in Nunavut.

3. Background

i) Elections in Nunavut

Although the election in February 1999 was Nunavut's first official territorial election, elections and referenda have played a prominent role in Nunavut's history, as one of the presentations reminded the Standing Committee.

"The division of the NWT was approved in a plebiscite in 1982, where over ninety percent of the voters in what is now Nunavut voted in favour of division. In 1992, another NWT-wide vote affirmed the new boundary between the two territories. Later that year, in November, the Nunavut Final Agreement, upon which Nunavut's affairs today rest, was approved by nearly eighty-five percent. In 1993, NTI, created from TFN, held its first election, voting in the leadership that would over the next six years help to lay the groundwork for creating the Nunavut Territory and the Nunavut Government."

- Paul Quassa, President of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., April 13, 2000

The Standing Committee agrees with NTI that this history "reminds us of the strength of our democratic process in Nunavut. It is something we should all be proud of." The Standing Committee wants to build on this history for the future.

As one of the Members of the Standing Committee stated at the outset of the community meetings in September:

"Although elections were not part of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, Inuit have embraced elections as a measure of public support throughout the land claims process and the steps leading to the creation of the new territory. Elections allow us the means to govern ourselves."

- David Iqaqrialu, MLA (Uqqummiut)

Elections are now an important part of the fabric of the modern Inuit society in which we live and an essential component of public government.

ii) The First Nunavut Election

The First Nunavut Election was administered by NWT Elections officials, under the authority of Mr. David Hamilton, Chief Electoral Officer. This itself was a first, since previous territorial elections had been under the authority of Elections Canada and the NWT had recently negotiated the transfer of this responsibility. There were a number of changes over previous territorial elections to accommodate the needs of the North better, and the Standing Committee acknowledges the importance of some of the measures such as the use of radio messages in Inuktitut and the preparation of election materials in Inuktitut which were mailed to each household.

The CEO's report notes that the voter turnout was 88% of the eligible list of electors, which is in keeping with the high voter turnout during previous elections and plebiscites in Nunavut. However, the caveat to this is the concern over the accuracy of the list of electors. There were relatively few incidents in the first Nunavut election (which are described in the Appendix to the CEO's report), and most of them were able to be handled with the CEO's discretion and/or will be better dealt with in the future by adopting the CEO's recommendations.

The Standing Committee's additional recommendations for changes contained in this report are not meant to reflect negatively on the work of the Chief Electoral Officer and elections officials in the first Nunavut election. Rather, the recommendations hope to build on these initiatives to meet the specific needs of Nunavummiut even more so, as well as continuing to modernize our election processes.

iii) The Legislative Framework

The first election for the Legislative Assembly in Nunavut was governed by a specific piece of legislation adapted from the existing NWT elections law, entitled The Nunavut First Elections Act. However, on April 1, as per the Nunavut Act, the laws currently in force in the NWT became the laws of Nunavut. Therefore, the Standing Committee has focused its attention on the Elections Act that was duplicated from the NWT, which is the present law that will govern any future elections in Nunavut.

There are other pieces of legislation that also impact on elections. Prior to April 1, 1999, there was a piece of legislation entitled the Electoral Boundaries Commissions Act. This Act provided for the process to be followed by two Electoral Boundaries Commissions, one for Nunavut and one for that part of the NWT that would not be included in Nunavut. It was this Commission that previously received public input and made recommendations for the boundaries that would form the first electoral districts in Nunavut. However, this piece of legislation was repealed on June 30, 1999, by a clause contained in the statute. While our Standing Committee did not review this legislation specifically, issues relating to the boundaries were raised during the public consultation. There are some recommendations on this issue later in the report.

The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act also contains some sections that specifically relate to Members and the consequences for Members who have been expelled and/or resigned from the House, in terms of their ability to run again for a seat in the Legislative Assembly. Again, while our Standing Committee did not specifically review this legislation, issues relating to the right to run for office of former Members who have been in conflict with the law were raised in the public meetings. There are some recommendations on this issue later in the report.

There are also two other pieces of legislation: the Plebiscite Act, which provides the rules for referenda and the Local Authorities Elections Act, which provides the rules for Hamlet elections and local organizations. Again, the Standing Committee did not specifically review these pieces of legislation, but our report makes some recommendations on a few areas that would impact local elections and plebiscites.

There are also a number of regulations that have been passed over the years under the authority of the Elections Act, which form part of the legislative framework in Nunavut now: Mail-In Voting Regulations, Tariff of Fees Regulations, Correctional Institution Voting Regulations and Elections Forms Regulations. Some of these may change in light of the recommendations in this report.

The Standing Committee recognizes that many of the current sections of existing legislation on elections serve Nunavut well. However, because the Elections Act is such an important statute, and because there are many recommendations contained in this report that will require amendments to the existing legislation, the Standing Committee is of the opinion that a new Elections Act should be introduced by the Government of Nunavut. This will also provide an opportunity to reorganize, consolidate and rewrite the existing legislation to be more understandable to the people of Nunavut.

General Recommendations:

Recommendation #1: That the Government of Nunavut introduce a new *Elections Act* for Nunavut, rather than amending the current statute.

Recommendation #2: That the new *Elections Act* for Nunavut incorporate the recommendations contained in this report.

Recommendation #3: That the new *Elections Act* for Nunavut be written in a manner that is easily understood by voters, candidates and election officials.

Recommendation #4: That the Government of Nunavut review all legislation which impacts on elections to determine if any of these Acts could be incorporated into one *Elections Act* for Nunavut; ensure they are written in plain language; and ensure that any consequential amendments or similar amendments to those made in the *Elections Act* for Nunavut are made in other relevant legislation.

iv) The Cost of the Election

The Report of the Chief Electoral Officer notes that the first Nunavut territorial elections cost almost \$1 million (\$977,035 in direct expenditures by Elections Nunavut, plus \$161,591.38 in candidate election expenses). The report notes that the CEO reviewed the salaries paid to various election personnel and based on the cost of living, these salaries were raised for the first Nunavut election. The Standing Committee was advised that the main principle governing salaries is that the Returning Officers and other elections staff in each electoral district are paid essentially the same total amount for their services during the election. Since salaries form the bulk of the elections expenses, the expenses seem appropriate to the Standing Committee, based on the information provided.

Nunavut has the largest landmass of any jurisdiction in Canada, and although its population is small, the cost of providing services across Nunavut is high. It is likely that these administrative expenses will continue to rise in the future, as there are 26 growing communities and 19 electoral districts, each of which requires administrative services for an election. The Standing Committee also received several representations on election expenses and staffing issues, to the effect that salaries are still low for the qualifications and the amount of time expended by some workers at election time and do not reflect the cost-of-living in different communities in Nunavut. As well, some communities also felt they were short-staffed for the work required in light of increasing or transient populations.

The Standing Committee also notes that the Chief Electoral Officer was in fact also the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of the NWT and there were no additional costs associated with his appointment or service. This will need to be considered if the appointment of a CEO in Nunavut were to be made to a stand-alone official who would require a separate salary and office.

The Standing Committee is only too aware that there are many needs for every dollar in Nunavut. A million dollars is a lot of money to spend on an election and the Committee

felt compelled to examine ways in which this money could be spent more effectively. One of the challenges facing Nunavut in many areas is providing cost-effective and culturally appropriate services across these large distances and in communities with different needs. Running elections in Nunavut faces the same challenges, only more so, since elections are only needed from time to time and much of the infrastructure and personnel must be put in place anew each time.

Presently, approximately \$250,000 for expenses associated with the office of the Chief Electoral Officer have been allocated in the annual estimates of the Legislative Assembly. Presumably, this covers the periodic costs associated with by-elections and other electoral processes between elections. It will be important to accurately project the costs of the next territorial election as soon as possible, so that it can be incorporated into the budget planning process.

As the Standing Committee discovered during its public consultations, there are many levels of government that run elections in Nunavut that are interested in the same issues: federal, territorial and local governments; housing associations; DEAs; NTI; Regional Inuit Organizations; and others. Collaboration will result in some creative options that might result in cost-savings, as well as generate options for doing more with the money we have all put aside for elections. This is the Nunavut way of doing things, which the Standing Committee believes should be encouraged.

Recommendation #5: That the Government of Nunavut determine the full costs of running territorial elections, including staff time, so that proper budgeting can occur and effective analysis can be done of where cost-savings may be realized by considering various options for administering elections in Nunavut.

Recommendation #6: That the Government of Nunavut request information from the other levels of government and other organizations regarding the full cost of running their elections in Nunavut, including staff time, so that an effective analysis can be done of where cost-savings may be realized by considering various options for administering elections in Nunavut.

4. Principles and Values

As the Standing Committee conducted its review, a number of key principles and values emerged that should form the basis of a new Elections Act in Nunavut. The following principles and values underpin the recommendations that follow in the report.

- Since the Elections Act is the key document containing the rules governing elections, it should be easy to understand by everyone in Nunavut. It should be written as much as possible in plain language.

- Elections processes should be simplified as much as possible, without compromising the integrity of the process, so that everyone knows what they can and cannot do in elections.
- The electoral system should encourage participation. Our goal should be 100% voter turnout. The rules governing elections should make it possible for every eligible elector in Nunavut to vote if they wish to, taking into consideration the unique circumstances in Nunavut.
- Any person who wishes to be a candidate in Nunavut should be encouraged and facilitated in doing so, regardless of their income, employment or position in the community. The rules governing elections should minimize barriers and try to put candidates on a level playing field. Candidates should understand the very real responsibilities of being a role model and a leader for their community.
- There should be more public awareness of all aspects of elections. Information at every stage of the election process should be in the official languages of Nunavut.
- We should cooperate as much as possible with other jurisdictions and levels of government and organizations running elections within Nunavut, to share information and resources, to learn together, to pool and train staff and to deliver better election services to all our constituents.
- Elections should be run as effectively and efficiently as possible.
- The rules governing elections should incorporate flexibility to address unique circumstances in Nunavut as they arise, be they geographic, demographic, linguistic, or otherwise, in addition to new technologies.
- Although representatives are elected at the community level, we are all from Nunavut and work for Nunavut.
- We should continually evaluate our election processes, to learn from our experiences in order to ensure they are meeting the needs of Nunavummiut.

Recommendation #7: There should be a principles section in any new legislation dealing with elections, incorporating the above principles and values.

5. Recommendations on Key Issues

(i) Election Administration and Officials - Working Together

In a jurisdiction such as Nunavut, with a small population but a huge geographic area, the need to work together is crucial. Inuit have survived because of their ability to collaborate to meet the needs of their community. This spirit infused the discussions on elections. As noted earlier, there are a large number of elections that happen periodically in Nunavut, for different levels of government, including federal, territorial and municipal bodies, as well as organizations such as NTI, Regional Inuit Organizations, District Education Authorities, Housing Associations, Hunters' and Trappers' Organizations and others. Each of these elections requires the production of electors' lists, the establishment of temporary election offices, the training of election personnel and preparation of voter information. There are many difficulties associated with these tasks, compounded by the fact that they must be repeated at various intervals. If all of these organizations could work together, the Standing Committee is of the opinion that this would reduce duplication, maximize the use of existing resources, encourage better continuity and knowledgeable elections staff, expand the range of services available and provide more effective elections.

For example, a central elections office could have one or two core officials who are jointly appointed for specific functions; which takes on staff on secondment from different organizations or levels of government depending on the election or the task [e.g. data entry for lists], conduct joint training of staff, prepare common voter education information and other initiatives.

NTI was supportive of this idea in principle and recommended that a working group be established to further review some of the issues and generate administrative options. The Standing Committee agrees that this would be a positive next step.

In order that work can begin now to ensure changes are in place for the next election, the Standing Committee is of the opinion that a permanent Chief Electoral Officer should be appointed at the earliest opportunity. In order to facilitate the working group and in looking forward to the possibility of working together more permanently on elections, the CEO's appointment should be done in consultation with NTI and the other levels of government administering elections in Nunavut. As with other appointments by the Legislative Assembly, the approach taken should advertise the position to the public and a competency- based selection process should be undertaken by the Legislative Assembly.

The Standing Committee notes that many of the smaller communities would like any central elections office to be established in their communities and this request was made to the Committee. However, since the idea of the central office is that it be very limited in size, but work in solid partnership with a number of different organizations, the Committee feels that the organizations themselves are in the best position to decide

where the office should be situated to maximize the use of existing staff and resources and make recommendations in this regard.

Recommendation #8: That a central elections office be established to administer elections in Nunavut, called "Elections Nunavut".

Recommendation #9: That a working group be established, composed of representatives from the Government of Nunavut, NTI, Regional Inuit Organizations, the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, Elections Canada and other organizations which administer elections at the local level such as District Education Authorities and Housing Associations, to negotiate the details of how the central elections office would best meet the needs of different organizations.

Recommendation #10: There should be a Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut appointed by the Legislative Assembly, in consultation with NTI, Regional Inuit Organizations, the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and Elections Canada. The position should be advertised to the public and the selection process should be competency-based and transparent. The Chief Electoral Officer should be a permanent position with the responsibility to establish the central elections office and co-ordinate and chair the working group.

Recommendation #11: That a review be undertaken by the working group of differences in election procedures with a view to making recommendations for harmonizing the procedures where possible and making elections easier for voters in Nunavut to participate in.

Recommendation #12: That the working group consider the responsibilities of the central elections office and the working relationships with the various stakeholders and make recommendations concerning the best location for the office and its core staff.

(ii) *A Permanent List of Electors*

The Standing Committee heard from many people about the difficulties of enumeration in Nunavut, including the following:

- high mobility of residents and the number of new people moving from the South;
- difficulties in getting people at home;
- the presence of dogs;
- lack of receptivity of some residents;

- lack of Inuktitut forms and lack of Inuktitut lists of names;
- lack of trained enumerators in all communities; turnover of enumerators; and lack of diligence of some enumerators;
- misspelling of names;
- low salary for enumerators; etc.

It meant that the election list was not complete. Many new residents had to be sworn in at the polls on election day, contributing to long line-ups and causing concern as to whether all safeguards had been observed by election staff. In some communities, voter turnout was much more than 100% due to the problems with the original enumeration list. At the same time, it was noted that if people don't see their name on the list or it is incorrectly spelled, they sometimes don't vote or get themselves registered to be able to vote. A great concern expressed by many people is that it is crucial that the names of deceased people be deleted from election lists as it causes great pain to the families when they see these names on the list. The CEO's report echoed these concerns, recommending that additional enumerators be hired if needed.

During its meetings with Elections Canada, the Standing Committee learned a great deal about the National Register of Electors that has been developed for federal elections. This Register is updated from the names provided by the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA), due to a check-off box on the annual income tax form. Information is also obtained from Citizenship and Immigration, Drivers Licences and various provincial electoral agencies, in order to update the list on a quarterly basis. The Standing Committee was advised that Elections Canada presently had over 11,000 names on the Register for the federal electoral district of Nunavut.

Elections Canada has various agreements with other provincial and territorial jurisdictions to share their election lists and also to share other sources of data, such as motor vehicles registration and license information to ensure the Register is complete and accurate and the Register is updated every few months.

It was noted in the CEO's report that an agreement was entered into for Nunavut and that the Nunavut first election was able to use the Elections Canada Automated Preliminary List of Electors (ECAPLE). However, a number of difficulties were noted. Although candidates were given discs of the election lists, the software was not easy to use and if this were to be used in the future, Members suggested that basic software that many people are familiar with and would be on computers in the community, such as Microsoft Access, should be used. A number of inadequacies were noted about the ECAPLE list, including the fact that names of deceased people were on the list and names were misspelled which led to confusion for some voters. Members also noted that it is very difficult for some Nunavut residents to check the list for accuracy, as the names are only in English.

Elections Canada advised the Standing Committee that they would be very interested in working with the Government of Nunavut and others to ensure that the names for Nunavut are complete and accurate. This may also make it possible to help ensure that

the list is also able to be prepared in Inuktitut and Innuinaqtun [for Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk], a recommendation the Standing Committee also made to Elections Canada.

Nunavut is like many others jurisdictions in Canada, insofar as people move frequently between elections. The challenge is to keep up with the changes. Maintaining lists is very costly and keeping them up-to-date requires staff and data. In Nunavut, there are many lists. NTI keeps a list of Inuit beneficiaries. The municipalities have local lists of residents for tax purposes. There are various lists kept by government that are updated as people move, such as health cards, motor vehicle registration and driving licence data. The Standing Committee notes that the Province of Quebec uses their health card identity information in updating their electoral lists. All of these lists are maintained by staff and there are various procedures to keep them updated. Together, it should be possible to develop a preliminary list of electors that is more comprehensive than what we currently have to work with through the enumeration process.

Recommendation #13: That the Government of Nunavut should establish a permanent voters' list.

Recommendation #14: That the Government of Nunavut should enter into a protocol with Elections Canada to share elector data from the National Registry of Electors and explore what Nunavut lists may be utilized and shared, including with other organizations in Nunavut, for the purposes of updating the voters' list to be used for elections purposes.

Recommendation #15: That the software for maintaining and updating a permanent voters' list should be basic and accessible to all potential users, including candidates and all levels of government or organizations who may use or contribute data to the list.

Recommendation #16: That the Government of Nunavut should examine the privacy issues relating to the creation of a permanent voters' list, ensuring that voters who do not wish to be included for safety or other reasons can be deleted and that there are sufficient safeguards and penalties for use of the list for any other purpose than elections; an opinion from the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut should also be obtained on these matters.

Recommendation #17: That as recommended by the CEO, an elector transfer certificate should be developed for use by voters who move after revision day.

(iii) *Timing of Elections*

There were several issues raised that relate to timing of elections: the time of year, the time of the week and the number of elections on one day.

The first Nunavut election took place in February. Many local elections take place in December. The public input to the Standing Committee on this matter was very clear. Elections should not be held in winter, when it is very cold and difficult for some people to get around the community. They also should not be held in the summer or during the spring hunt. There was almost a universal consensus that elections in Nunavut should take place in the fall, when hunters are back in the community and the conditions are not yet suitable for going on the land by ski-doo. One person suggested the last week of November and others told us that the time the Standing Committee was doing its public consultation at the end of September was a good time for their community.

Recommendation #18: That general elections in Nunavut should be held in October or November.

By law, most elections are held on a Monday. The Standing Committee was advised that this may be difficult for some people in Nunavut. Because of the salaried work force, many families can now only go on the land on weekends. If the weather is very good, or if the weather is very bad, people may be delayed getting back to their community. The Committee was advised that it may be preferable to have election day during mid-week. This would also ensure that election officials are able to do office related duties the day before the election and it would be better to not be a Sunday, which is a day of worship for many Nunavummiut.

Recommendation #19: That elections in Nunavut be held mid-week, preferably on a Wednesday.

Many people expressed concern about the scheduling of elections, particularly municipal elections, which are often held on the same day as NTI and RIO elections, as well as other local bodies such as Housing Associations. Sometimes, plebiscite questions are also presented at the same time. This has not been such an issue for territorial elections.

However, people in different communities told us that they find this practice confusing, particularly if one person is a candidate for more than one election. They said they would prefer that different elections be held on different days. The Standing Committee is mindful that the reasons for holding elections in this manner largely relate to cost-savings and administrative efficiencies. However, as work towards coordinating the election efforts of various bodies and levels of government in Nunavut continues, the Standing Committee would hope that the overlap of elections can be minimized and that other options for cost savings be used.

Recommendation #20: That to the best extent possible, a maximum of three elections and/or plebiscites should occur on any one day.

(iv) *The Duration of the Election Period*

The current period for an election in the *Elections Act* is 45 days. A number of Members observed to the Standing Committee that the duration of the election period is too long. One person commented in a public meeting that the period is too short and several Hamlet councils also observed that the election period is long. The CEO made a number of recommendations for shortening the elections period, both in his report on the Nunavut first election, as well as his report on the subsequent NWT election.

The CEO recommended that the election period be dropped from 45 days to 35 days in his NWT report. While the NWT has a few differences, notably the presence of roads making it easier for candidates and election officials to travel between communities, the Standing Committee is of the opinion that the election period could be shortened in Nunavut as well.

Recommendation #21: That the election period be shortened from 45 days to 35 days.

There are several time periods in the election process that would need to be changed if the election period were to be shortened. The Members considered the CEO's recommendation in the NWT report to reduce the nomination period from 10 to 5 days. Members are confident that if new technology can be used to ensure access to forms, such as fax machines and downloading from websites or the use of electronic mail, there should be no difficulty in getting forms into every community. If the forms are clear and straightforward, there should be no difficulty in people being able to submit a completed form. Although pay periods generally span two weeks, if people know when the nomination period will begin, they will be able to obtain the funds required for the deposit.

Recommendation #22: That the nomination period be shortened from 10 to 5 days.

While the Standing Committee agrees that the election period could be shortened, particularly with the use of modern technology, a number of factors will still need to be considered. The more certain the timing for an election, the better prepared the election administration and the candidates will be, knowing that the writ will be dropped on a certain date. This will be important because there are a number of steps that must occur in an election period (such as hiring local staff, setting up local offices, nominations, revisions of lists, mail-in ballot processes and others), and they will have to occur more quickly if we shorten the election period.

It is important to note that in the NWT, elections occurred four years from the date of the return of the writs for the previous general election. However, the Nunavut Act changed this and now elections in Nunavut are not pre-determined to occur on a specific date.

s. 17. No Assembly shall continue for longer than five years from the date of the return of the writs for the general election, but the Commissioner may at any time, after consultation with the Executive Council, dissolve the Assembly.

Therefore, the government will have to consider how best to balance the benefits of advance notice and certainty, with its ability to decide when will be the best time to hold an election.

Recommendation #23: That the Government seek advice from Elections Nunavut to determine what advance notice will be required for the calling of an election to ensure proper administration of an election or by-election within the 35-day time period.

(v) Voting Eligibility - Age and Residency

There were two issues raised to the Standing Committee: age of voting and residency requirements.

Should the voting age be dropped to 16?

In exploring the possibilities of working together with other jurisdictions and harmonizing some of the election rules, it was observed that the voting age for NTI and the Regional Inuit Organizations is 16 years old, whereas territorial, municipal and federal elections all require a person to be 18 years old before they can vote. The Standing Committee was advised by the President of NTI that this age was adopted many years ago on the advice of Elders, as it is a traditional age of maturity, and it was felt that 16-year-olds should be able to vote on land claim matters affecting their future.

Many people had strong opinions on this question during the community consultation meetings.

Some people felt that 16-year-olds should be able to vote, since many of the government decisions impact their lives and “young people should have some say in who is making these decisions”. This included a wide range of people, including the high school students who met with us in Clyde River and Chesterfield Inlet, as well as teachers, parents and Elders. They stated that 16-year-olds are dealing with many serious matters in their lives such as suicide, education and family issues. They also said that “young people are very much more educated these days” and “more familiar with new technology and southern ways.” At the same time, they felt that allowing people to vote at the age of 16 was more consistent with traditional Inuit ways, which recognized responsibility at a younger age and gave young people the opportunity to try doing new things, as a way of learning. They felt that the high school curriculum could be developed to encourage voter education for young people.

Other people felt equally strongly that the age should not be dropped to 16. This also included a wide range of people, including teachers, parents and Elders. Some parents felt that 16-year-olds should focus on their education. They were concerned that if 16-year-olds could vote, they could also run as candidates and this may take their attention away from their education. There were also concerns raised that 16-year-olds are not mature enough today and that it would be better to wait. One person suggested that as long as the Child Tax Credit is being received for the young person, they are too young to vote. Some people were also concerned that parents or others could manipulate young people into voting certain ways, which is more difficult to do at the age of 18.

There were people who spoke for and against this issue in every community meeting, but in no location did the Standing Committee ask for a show of hands to see how the public felt about this matter. The Standing Committee is itself divided as to whether the age of voting should be dropped to 16 years for territorial elections, or left at 18 years old.

Recommendation #24: That should the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut wish to further consider dropping the age of voting to 16, a more direct manner of determining the opinions of the people of Nunavut, such as a plebiscite or formal opinion poll, should be conducted on this question.

Residency

A number of people raised concerns about the residency requirements. The current requirement to vote in a Nunavut election is one-year residency in Nunavut. However, to vote in a municipal election, a person must have been resident in that specific community for 12 months. A number of people complained that they were not permitted to vote in the territorial election because they had moved to another community, even though they had lived all their lives in Nunavut. These people didn't think this was fair, and neither did the Standing Committee.

However, after reviewing the matter, the Standing Committee is not of the opinion that residency requirements is the problem. Rather, it may be that election officials applied the wrong law due to lack of training or understanding of the Elections Act; or the voters' lists themselves are too rigid and there needs to be more ability to "transfer" your name from one list to another; or more effort needs to be made to ensure students can vote in their home community through the use of mail-in ballots or other special voting opportunities. The Standing Committee agrees with a number of presenters that before a person votes in a Nunavut election, they should have some appreciation of the issues affecting Nunavummiut and the candidates in their electoral district and that one year in Nunavut is an appropriate length of time.

The Standing Committee recognizes that for some people, moving during the election period may make it very difficult to determine where they should vote. They may feel more comfortable voting in their former community, where they are more familiar with the candidates and the issues, than in their new community, where they do not have that

same familiarity. To the extent that people are on the voters' list in their former community, the Standing Committee supports their right to vote in that community, either through the use of a mail-in ballot or voting in the office of the Returning Officer before they leave the community. However, on election day, they should be able to vote in their new community and the electoral system should ensure that they are able to do so, in a relatively straight forward manner.

Recommendation #25: That eligibility to vote in Nunavut continue to require one year of residency in Nunavut in the new Elections Act and that Nunavut residents who move to a new community at any time in the year prior to an election should be able to vote in that community.

Recommendation #26: That students who are resident in another community for the purpose of continuing their education should be able to claim a temporary absence and continue to be on the voters' list in their home community, if they wish.

(vi) Special Voting Opportunities and Voting in Advance of Election Day

A number of concerns were raised by the public that reinforced the Standing Committee's desire to build more flexibility in the electoral process to meet the needs of those voters in Nunavut who are unable to go to the polls on election day for various reasons.

Given that the Returning Officers for each electoral district are appointed at the beginning of the election period, the Standing Committee feels that more voting opportunities should be afforded to electors prior to election day.

Advance Polls

The present Elections Act provides that advance polls are held in communities with more than 500 persons. Concerns were raised that people in communities with less than 500 persons were not able to vote in advance polls. Those electoral districts with more than one community felt this most acutely, since if one lived in the smaller community and an advance poll was taking place in the larger community, one could only vote at the advance poll if one paid for an airfare to come to the larger community. The Standing Committee feels that all voters should be given similar opportunities to vote in advance of election day. However, the Standing Committee also recognizes that advance polls in smaller communities are often done by flying in election officials and in order to efficiently accommodate flight schedules, it may be desirable to reduce the hours of the polls on the advance polling day.

A new opportunity provided to voters this past election was the right to vote in the office of the Returning Officer in advance of election day. Although not used much, it seems that this was well received by voters and election officials. Since Returning Officers

have offices and have set hours of operation, the Standing Committee feels that it should be possible for voters to use this voting opportunity more. Therefore, it may be unnecessary to hold advance polls in communities where the office of the Returning Officer is located.

Recommendation #27: That the practice of allowing voters to vote in the office of the Returning Officer during the 14-day period in advance of election day be continued.

Recommendation #28: That if advance polls are to be held, they be held in those communities that do not have an office of the Returning Officer.

Recommendation #29: That the hours of operation for advance polls be reduced to a minimum of three hours, as determined by the Returning Officer in consultation with the CEO.

Proxy Voting

The Standing Committee was advised that the proxy voting procedures in the Elections Act were changed prior to the last election to address concerns about potential abuse. Nevertheless, the Chief Electoral Officer has recommended that proxy voting be abolished in our Act, as he feels that there are other voting opportunities that address the needs of those voters who have used them in the past. While the Standing Committee supports an election procedure in which each voter exercises his or her vote personally, there may still be extreme circumstances relating to weather or travel that will still make it important for voters to exercise their vote by proxy.

Recommendation #30: That the CEO review the proxy voting requirements and examine ways in which the proxy voting requests could be dealt with more directly by elections officials, rather than by candidates or candidate's workers, and that proxy voting be limited to extreme circumstances.

Mail-in Ballots

Mail-in ballots were a new procedure that was provided to voters in the first Nunavut election. The procedure requires voters to fill in an application form for the mail-in ballot. Once received by the elections office, the person's name is struck off the voters' list for election day and they are sent a package with a ballot. The package contains several envelopes that are sent back to the elections office, one of which confirms that they are the voter and the other contains their confidential ballot. The idea seems to address the needs of many voters who know that they will not be in their community on election day, such as students. However, the system is far too rigid, insofar as voters had

to apply for the mail-in ballots long before election day and the time-lines were too tight for mail in the north.

For example, by the time some students received information on their right to vote in this manner, it was too late to apply for the mail-in ballot. The Standing Committee is confident that through the use of new technology, it should be possible to access the forms to request a mail-in ballot through the Internet or by fax and that no deadlines should be put on the timing for making this request. Clearly, voters themselves will have to ensure that they have mailed in their ballot or sent it with someone to the elections office in time for it to arrive prior to election day. In order to ensure the maximum period of time is able to be used for sending and receiving mail-in ballots, particularly for students out of the jurisdiction, the CEO recommended in his NWT report that he be permitted to send people "write-in" ballots until such time as regular ballots are available (i.e. a blank ballot in which the voter writes in the name of the candidate they wish to vote for).

As well, it seems that the use of the mail-in ballot is likely to be the procedure used for people to vote in the community in advance of election day, even though they may not mail the ballot, but rather give it in person to the Returning Officer. This was the recommendation of the Elections Canada officials.

Recommendation #31: That the mail-in ballot procedure be amended so that there is no time-limit for applying for the ballot; that the deadline for receipt of mail-in ballots by the elections office or the office of the local Returning Officer be the day prior to election day; that forms for requesting mail-in ballots be readily available through the Internet and by fax; that people applying to use the mail-in ballots procedure be able to use fax machines and the Internet with appropriate protections; that the mail-in ballot itself must be an original and not received by fax or the Internet; that the instructions for use of mail-in ballots be very clear and understandable; that the reply envelope be postage-free for regular mail; and that the mail-in ballot procedure may be done in person with the Returning Officer.

Recommendation #32: That the CEO's recommendation be supported, providing that the CEO may use write-in ballots for voting by mail.

Special Mobile Voting Stations and In-Home Voting for Elders and Persons with Disabilities

A number of people raised the concern that some Elders and persons with disabilities are unable to vote if they are unable to easily leave their home on election day, particularly in mid-winter elections. While a change in the timing of elections to the fall may help some people, others may still be unable to leave their home for reasons of physical disability.

In the past, some people have been able to use proxy voting procedures to effectively assign their right to vote to another person on their behalf. As noted above, the Standing Committee does not support the continued use of proxy voting and wants a system in which eligible voters exercise their own vote personally.

The Committee was advised that in municipal elections, the Returning Officer is able to go to an elector's home and the Committee would like to extend this special voting opportunity to territorial elections. In almost every community, this concern was raised and people supported the idea of voting in their own home for Elders and persons with disabilities. A number of concerns were raised regarding the administration of this special voting opportunity with which the Standing Committee. The Returning Officer should be accompanied by another person, likely the poll clerk, so that no inference can be made that a voter was influenced in any way. As well, voting in one's own home would have to take place prior to election day.

Following the Standing Committee's meeting with the CEO in which questions about mobile voting stations were raised, the CEO addressed this issue in his NWT report. He noted that a provision of the Local Authorities Elections Act allows a Returning Officer to establish a mobile voting station and that he had provided approval for the Returning Officer to transport the ballot box used at the office of the returning officer to electors who were confined to their home, hospital or care facility.

It may be that the mail-in ballot procedure would be used in voting in one's own home, but that it would be completed with the Returning Officer and given in person to the Returning Officer at the time, to be tallied with all other mail-in ballots on polling day. The law should be sufficiently flexible to give the Returning Officer the ability to schedule this voting opportunity to efficiently make use of the time outside of the office, transportation, etc. The Returning Officer should be able to work with the service providers in the community and Elders' groups to identify and educate those voters who would be most likely to benefit from this voting opportunity. One person suggested that it would be good to involve the youth in the community to help in this regard.

Recommendation #33: That the CEO's recommendation (in his NWT report) be supported that the Elections Act be amended to provide that the Returning Officer may, with the prior approval of the Chief Electoral Officer, establish a special mobile voting station for eligible electors residing at a hospital, health facility, senior citizen's home or confined to their home for medical or mobility reasons.

Recommendation #34: That Elders and persons with disabilities be permitted to vote in their own home by requesting that the Returning Officer come to their home with a mail-in ballot.

Transportation to the Polls

A related concern was that there is often no transportation for Elders and persons with disabilities to assist them in getting to the polling station. It was suggested by some people that transportation be provided on election day. The Standing Committee was advised that it is usually left to the candidates to help people travel to the polling station, although some municipalities may assist as well. The Standing Committee hopes that by allowing people to vote at the office of the Returning Officer prior to election day, they will be able to vote more at their convenience when they are in the vicinity of the office. By allowing the Returning Officer to come to the homes of Elders and persons with disabilities, this will address the needs of those who have the most difficulty with transportation needs. However, the Standing Committee acknowledges that some communities are very spread out and may have more needs and Returning Officers may need some mechanism to assist voters, but feels this is better left up to the administration at this time.

Students

As noted, students attending education programs outside of their community expressed concerns about not being able to vote on election day, either because they weren't enumerated earlier in their home community or because the mail-in ballot information arrived too late. The Standing Committee hopes that the permanent voters' list will ensure that students are effectively enumerated in their home community and that the use of mail-in ballots will assist students in exercising their vote. However, it will be very important that students know their rights and in this regard the Standing Committee notes the importance of the Department of Education in facilitating access to students, particularly after they have left for their school programs in other communities, which may be in or outside of Nunavut. While the Committee acknowledges that information on students' addresses is personal information, we are confident that some way can be worked out to ensure that students receive information on their right to vote. The Department should certainly know the names and addresses of students registered in their programs within Nunavut, as well as any students outside of Nunavut receiving any form of government financial assistance.

Recommendation #35: That the Department of Education, in cooperation with Elections Nunavut, examine ways in which they can support Elections Nunavut in sending information to students, while protecting their privacy rights, and ensuring that comprehensive information can be sent in a timely manner on students' right to vote in elections in Nunavut.

(vii) Polls

There were a number of recommendations in the CEO's report dealing with polls in communities. As well, the Standing Committee heard a number of concerns from the

public. The current law provides that for every 350 voters, there must be a separate polling station and electoral list.

Multi-electoral districts in one community - Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet

The Standing Committee was advised that there was some voter confusion in communities having several electoral districts. Iqaluit has three electoral districts and Rankin Inlet has two electoral districts.

The law currently requires that the Returning Officer must have an office in the electoral district and that the voters' list must be posted in a central place in the poll. In some communities, the office locations may only be in the central part of the community, making it difficult to obtain appropriate, accessible office space with telephone lines and other facilities in other parts of the community. It was also observed that people who came to the one election office didn't always like being told that they had to go to another office to be served. As well, people are often used to seeing election lists in the Post Office, which is usually centrally located and visited by most people daily. If only one list was posted in the Post Office, people were sometimes confused if they didn't see their name on it, because they lived in another area of town and their list was posted elsewhere. One former Returning Officer suggested that the lists for the whole community should be posted in one place and that the Returning Officers in multi-electoral districts be permitted to establish a central office.

Recommendation #36: That in multi-electoral districts, electoral lists be posted together in a central location.

Recommendation #37: That in multi-electoral districts, Returning Officers be permitted to establish a central office.

Location of Polling Stations

The Standing Committee was advised that another area of confusion related to the location of the polling stations. The current law requires that a polling station be put in place for every 350 voters. Again, the Standing Committee was advised that this may pose practical difficulties for some communities, but meet the needs of others. Many communities hold their election in the community hall or a school gym. Some communities will put one or more polls in this location, so that voters know this is where to vote, no matter which poll you are in. Other communities will establish polling centres in other parts of the community, making it easier for people to walk to a polling station near their home. For those communities that are very spread out, this may be very important. The CEO's report recommended that the upper limit of 350 voters per poll be increased, in order to deal with population growth in some communities. The Standing Committee agrees. While it is important that the number of people in any one poll be such that there will not be long line-ups on election day, the Standing Committee hopes that advance voting opportunities will help alleviate some of this pressure.

Recommendation #38: That the maximum number of people per poll be increased to 450 people.

Recommendation #39: That the Elections Act should permit the Returning Officer, in consultation with the Chief Electoral Officer, to put all polls for an electoral district in a central polling station for Election Day or to permit the establishment of a separate polling station for a smaller number of people in order to deal with the geographic circumstances of that community.

In both Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit, the Standing Committee was advised that voters were frustrated when they went to one voting location and were advised they had to go to another voting location to vote. This was aggravated for some people by the fact that they may have moved from one part of the community to another and, therefore, they had to face voters' list problems and other issues as well. Several people recommended that there should be one large voting centre in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet for all electoral districts and that more effort be placed on assisting people to travel there from across the community. Nevertheless, there may be a need for a separate polling station for geographically distinct areas such as Apex, in the Iqaluit area.

Recommendation #40: That the Elections Act should permit the Returning Officer, in consultation with the Chief Electoral Officer, to put all polls in a central polling station for polling day for multi-electoral districts or to permit the establishment of separate polling stations as may be required to deal with the geographic circumstances of that community.

Smaller Settlements and Camps

The CEO's report noted that since Bathurst Inlet and Umingmatok are not designated as polling divisions, the names of qualified voters living there do not appear on any official list of electors in the electoral district, prior to polling day. These qualified voters are therefore precluded from taking advantage of other voting opportunities, such as voting by mail, as their names are not on the official list of electors. The CEO recommended that since each of these communities has been growing in population, they each be enumerated and designated as a polling division.

The Standing Committee is of the opinion that all voters in Nunavut, no matter how small their settlement or camp, should be enumerated and have voting opportunities, such as voting by mail, available to them. A permanent voters' list, as recommended by the Standing Committee, may help address some of these problems. However, it may be that a mobile poll brought to these settlements, as done in the past, is the most effective way of obtaining their votes. The Standing Committee is not necessarily endorsing the idea that every polling division should have resident elections staff and a polling station on polling day. These decisions should be made by the Returning Officer in consultation with the CEO. However, the Standing Committee does believe that new technologies

may make it possible to develop more innovative and cost-effective ways of enabling people to vote in the smaller settlements and camps and will want to ensure that these ideas can be explored on a trial basis.

Recommendation #41: That the CEO's recommendation be carried out, that an enumeration be conducted in the communities of Bathurst Inlet and Umingmatok and that each community be designated as a polling division.

Recommendation #42: That innovative methods of voting be able to be used in the smaller settlements and camps, on a trial basis, on recommendation by the CEO.

(viii) Candidates

Criminal Record and Academic Qualifications

During the community consultations in September, a number of concerns were expressed to the Standing Committee regarding the qualification of candidates. The public consultations made it clear to the Standing Committee that the people of Nunavut want elected Members to be role models and to take the responsibility of leadership very seriously. However, the comments actually made to the Committee were sometimes isolated and did not provoke much community discussion. The Standing Committee could not draw a consensus from the public meetings as to how we can reach this goal.

The Standing Committee respects the voters in Nunavut and their right to decide who will best represent their community and the Committee does not recommend any additions or changes to the qualifications of candidates in the Elections Act in terms of the presence or absence of a criminal record or academic qualification. However, the Standing Committee believes that once a person is elected and has become a Member of the Legislative Assembly, they become responsible to uphold the Code of Conduct agreed to by all Members and if they commit a criminal offence, they should be subject to any further requirements which are laid out in the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act as to whether they are able to retain their seat or run in another election.

Recommendation #43: That no change should be made to the qualifications of candidates as outlined in the *Elections Act*, unless consequential amendments are required due to changes in the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*.

Residency and Age of Candidates

Several people raised the issue of residency of candidates. Under the current law, an eligible voter can be a candidate. Therefore, the candidate need only be a resident of Nunavut for one year.

Recommendation #44: That there be a clear requirement in the Act that candidates must be resident in Nunavut for one year, as is required to be an eligible voter in Nunavut.

In terms of age, as noted above, there was no consensus as to whether to drop the voting age for territorial elections to 16 years of age. However, there did seem to be more of a consensus that candidates should be 18 years of age, even if the voting age was 16 years of age. This was to ensure that students would finish their schooling.

Recommendation #45: That the minimum age for candidacy be 18 and that should the voting age be dropped to 16, that the Government of Nunavut obtain a legal opinion as to whether the age of 18 could remain the required age for candidacy.

Nomination Forms

A concern was raised about the lack of clarity on the nomination forms regarding witness's signatures.

Recommendation #46: That nomination forms be redrafted so that it is very clear that the signature of each nominator requires a witness's signature.

(ix) Election Offences

A number of people raised concerns about specific conduct during elections, such as taking down another candidate's signs, and asked Members if this conduct was allowed. It is clear to the Standing Committee that most people in Nunavut do not know about election offences in the Elections Act and this may extend to many of the candidates, candidates' officials and elections officials, as well. The CEO's report recommended that a review be undertaken of the election offences section of the Act. The Standing Committee did so and makes the following recommendations:

Recommendation #47: That the section on election offences in the Act be rewritten in plain language so that it is easier to understand by the public of Nunavut; that it be consolidated so that all offences are listed together, preferably in one section; that consistent wording

be used to define the intent needed for an offence; and that better definitions be provided for words like "fraudulently".

The Standing Committee noted that the CEO's report lists a number of initial complaints or queries that were received by his office, but since none were followed up with written complaints, no further action was taken. The Committee recognizes the seriousness of allegations of election offences and would want to ensure that people making allegations do take them seriously and be prepared to swear documents and to testify, if required. At the same time, it doesn't want to discourage complaints from being made because of a perception that the investigation and complaints process is excessively technical and more of a "southern" approach. The Committee notes that the consequences listed in the Act include incarceration up to one year and fines up to \$10,000 depending on the offence. Some concerns were expressed that by imposing this level of hardship on people, this was not consistent with Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit. However, since the Committee also felt that there need to be clear consequences for offences in order to dissuade people from this conduct, they opted to consider how Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit could help inform a new process that is more suitable for Nunavut.

The Standing Committee would prefer a more preventative approach to ensure that negative behaviour doesn't happen in the first place; a more proactive approach to intervening and repairing any harm done quickly; and a more understanding approach to consequences to ensure that a first-time offender who didn't think that they were doing wrong is treated very differently than a person who flagrantly and deliberately violates the Elections Act.

After reviewing the list of election offences, the Committee did not wish to change any of them at this time. By and large, the offences listed in the Act relate to tampering with ballots or voters and the Committee agrees that this conduct should not be allowed. But there are some offences that people might commit without meaning harm. For example, a grandmother phoning a radio show on election day to promote her grandson might not realize that she may be violating the prohibition against broadcasting any speech in favour of a candidate on election day or the day prior. Therefore, more information needs to be available to the public on what offences are in the Act and the potential consequences of breaching the election law. There is one provision in the Act that requires a warning to be posted with the voters' list that anyone who tampers with the list commits an election offence. The Standing Committee believes that similar warnings should be put on radio and in the community so that people are aware that tampering with another candidate's signs or materials is an offence and that no one may speak about a candidate on radio during election day or the day prior to the election.

Recommendation #48: That the Elections Act require warnings in all languages be posted and public service announcements be put on radio regarding what conduct is an offence under the Act and the potential consequences.

Recommendation #49: That specific materials be developed for candidates and their supporters, clearly outlining what conduct is an offence under the Act and the potential consequences.

The Standing Committee met with Elections Canada officials and the Commissioner of Canada Elections. The Commissioner of Canada Elections is the official who deals with all complaints in federal elections. The Commissioner advised that her office is taking a new approach which is very proactive. As soon as her office hears of a complaint, they try to investigate it as quickly as possible and once they determine that something has been done, they try to work with the parties to fashion a remedy that is appropriate to the circumstances. For example, if someone has made a false statement about a candidate they should publicly retract it. The Standing Committee is very supportive of this approach. It may be of little use to a candidate to have a complaint dealt with after the election, if the damage was done prior and the candidate lost the election. Only a very few offences would result in an election being declared invalid. Therefore, the Standing Committee would support procedures in the Elections Act allowing for a more proactive, responsive approach to resolving a complaint. The present Elections Act would require an elections offence to be prosecuted in a court of law. The Standing Committee is aware that many of the community justice initiatives in Nunavut may be useful precedents for a more appropriate process to handle election offences and a consideration should be made of alternatives. The Standing Committee is not sure if an additional elections staff person is required in Nunavut (such as the Commissioner at the federal level), or whether this function can be accommodated by the Chief Electoral Officer and his or her staff. This may be a matter better considered by the working group, as it will impact on the budget as well.

Recommendation #50: That the process for responding to complaints about election offences be reviewed by the working group, with a view to making it more proactive, more responsive in a timely manner, and more remedial in its consequences.

Recommendation #51: That the process for responding to complaints and prosecuting election offences be examined in light of community justice initiatives in Nunavut; and

Recommendation #52: That the following be added to the list of sanctions or consequences for committing an election offence: making a public or private apology; paying restitution for damage; receiving advice from Elders; and other community justice approaches as may be relevant to election offences.

(x) *Public Education*

As noted above, public education is essential if people are to fully understand their right to vote, the obligations on candidates and their workers, what conduct is permitted during an election, who to contact for assistance and other issues.

The Standing Committee was pleased to hear about the efforts of the Chief Electoral Officer and his staff in the first Nunavut election to put more public education information into the hands of voters. However, we also heard a number of concerns. For example, there were four pamphlets produced on different matters that were mailed to all Nunavut post office boxes. However, because they all looked almost identical with their green covers, many people didn't realize they were different documents and didn't read all of them. The pamphlets also contained a lot of information and a busy layout, making it difficult for some voters. It was suggested that these could be improved. The radio ads were well received and clearly more effort can be made in this regard in terms of public service announcements about rights and responsibilities under the Act, dates on which election events will occur, etc. Ads on television were new and encouraged voter turnout.

The Standing Committee is hopeful that there will be more use of the Internet for public education during future elections in Nunavut. In particular, an Elections Nunavut website enabling voters to download forms and information will be very useful and other jurisdictions have developed such sites. However, particular effort will need to be made by the Government of Nunavut to ensure that Internet technology is available in every community. Elections Nunavut will need to ensure that election officials are trained to help people access it.

When meeting with Elections Canada, the Standing Committee was shown several packages that have been developed for school age children and high school students on elections. These packages have been prepared in Inuktitut and the Standing Committee urges that these or similar packages be incorporated into the core curriculum for our students. As well, several people suggested that specific curriculum be developed for both elementary and high school students on elections in Nunavut.

One person suggested that programs be developed to involve youth during elections, such as assisting election officials as a practicum or community service credit. The Standing Committee strongly supports these suggestions. The youth are our future and we need to infuse in them a high regard for the democratic process and their responsibilities as future electors.

Recommendation #53: That a key core function of the Elections Nunavut office should be public education on election procedures and the rights and responsibilities of voters, candidates and election officials;

Recommendation #54: That Elections Nunavut should work in consultation with the Department of Education to ensure elections are part of the curriculum for elementary and high school students.

(xi) Right to Vote of Election Officials

The current law prohibits Returning Officers from voting. The CEO's report notes that this may be a violation of their rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Under an earlier law, the Returning Officer would have only voted to break a tie. However, the Elections Act was amended previously so that should a tie vote result after a judicial recount, a by-election would now be held, so there does not appear to be a reason to prevent these people from voting. A ballot is confidential and so long as election officials carry out their role with impartiality and integrity, the Standing Committee supports their right to vote as all other citizens.

Recommendation #55: That the *Elections Act* be amended so that all election officials, including the Chief Electoral Officer and Returning Officers, may exercise their right to vote if they are eligible voters.

(xii) Election Financing - Ensuring Equal Access

During a plebiscite prior to division, Nunavut voters narrowly defeated a proposal which would have seen two representatives from each electoral district - one woman and one man. As a result of that plebiscite, the number of electoral districts was increased to 19, with one person being elected to each electoral district. Of the 19 elected representatives in the first Nunavut election, there were 18 men and 1 woman. During our community consultation meetings, only one person in one community commented on this issue, suggesting that more women should be encouraged to run for the Legislative Assembly. However, the Standing Committee subsequently received a written representation on this matter, suggesting that one way of encouraging more women to run would be to increase the spending limit to specifically enable child care expenses to be included. Another suggestion was to increase the spending limit to allow for expenses that may be related to disabilities.

As noted earlier in the report, the Standing Committee respects the voters in Nunavut to decide who is the best person to represent their community in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. The Standing Committee also agrees that in order to ensure equality of access, these types of expenses should be allowed as election expenses and they should not be included in the ordinary election spending limits that apply to all candidates.

Recommendation #56: That the election spending limits allow for reasonable expenses, as determined by the CEO, that are incurred by a candidate for childcare during the election period. These spending limits would be above the election spending limit of \$30,000 currently in effect for all candidates.

Recommendation #57: That the election spending limits allow for reasonable expenses, as determined by the CEO, that are incurred by a candidate during the election period, in order to accommodate the needs of a candidate with disabilities. These spending limits

would be above the election spending limit of \$30,000 currently in effect for all candidates.

The CEO also made a number of recommendations regarding election financing in his Nunavut report, as well as in his NWT report that the Standing Committee supports.

Recommendation #58: That the CEO's recommendation be supported; that the refund of a candidate's deposit no longer depend on the number of votes that the candidate receives, but rather on the candidate filing a completed return on his or her election expenses and contributions within the required 60-day period.

Recommendation #59: That election financing rules and limits apply as soon as the election date is announced in the Legislative Assembly and that more clarification be provided on what constitutes election expenses and contributions, including in-kind contributions.

(xiii) *Electoral Boundaries*

During the Nunavut Association of Municipalities meeting, a number of Mayors and SAOs raised the suggestion that each community should have its own representative. However, during the meetings with Hamlet Councils and communities, the matter was only raised in one community: Kugaaruk. Kugaaruk is in the electoral district of Akulliq, which also contains the community of Repulse Bay.

Kugaaruk is in a unique situation insofar as the two communities represented are themselves in two different regions, Kitikmeot and Kivalliq. Although the Government of Nunavut is trying to ensure that service delivery will be Nunavut-wide, the actual administration of both government services and Regional Inuit Organizations is still based on regions, and this poses some difficulties for the Member and for these two communities that are in the same electoral district.

During the Standing Committee's meetings with Elections Canada, the Committee was advised that many jurisdictions use an independent Electoral Boundaries Commission to review electoral boundaries after every two or more elections or following a census.

Recommendation #60: That a process be developed by the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut to examine the electoral boundaries of the riding of Akulliq to determine how the communities of Kugaaruk and Repulse Bay could be contained in electoral districts within each region of Kitikmeot and Kivalliq, keeping the existing total of 19 seats in the Legislative Assembly.

Recommendation #61: That legislation providing for an Electoral Boundaries Commission should be re-enacted for Nunavut to conduct a review of the electoral boundaries during the life of the 2nd Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, taking into consideration the population statistics from the 2001 Census and community concerns.

(xiv) New Technology and Elections

Although there are no roads linking communities in Nunavut, the information highway is clearly impacting how we deliver services, including elections.

As the Standing Committee learned, electronic means of distributing information and forms, updating voters' lists and even electronic voting are being used across Canada. Candidate websites and discussion forums on the Internet are providing new opportunities for debate and campaigning. New technology is also being developed to make it easier to use Inuktitut in databases, such as voters' lists, as well as new transliteration software between syllabics and Roman orthography. All of this holds great promise for a jurisdiction such as Nunavut.

At the same time, there are increasing concerns about the use of the Internet in spreading false information about candidates, as well as privacy concerns about the Internet use of voters' lists and other personal information. For example, a concern was raised about postings about candidates on the Internet in the first Nunavut election.

In order for Nunavut to take advantage of electronic possibilities for elections, as well as be on top of emerging problems, the Standing Committee is of the opinion that there must be flexibility in the Elections Act to allow the Chief Electoral Officer to use his or her judgment to move quickly in the circumstances.

While conventional legal remedies such as lawsuits for libel and slander may be used in addressing problems with the Internet, the Standing Committee is aware that these are difficult for many people to effectively access in Nunavut. The Standing Committee was also advised that the climate for regulating conduct on the Internet is an evolving one, involving users, servers, government and many others. Rather than trying to predict the best approach to take us into the future, the Standing Committees believes that the Elections Act should be sufficiently broad to capture conduct which violates the spirit of fair election practices, no matter what the medium, even if we acknowledge that at times, enforcement may be difficult. Elections Nunavut should participate in national forums where many of these issues are being monitored and discussed and make further recommendations for more specific legislation as the need arises.

The Standing Committee recognizes that the Elections Act and Elections Nunavut can help set a framework and climate for respectful conduct during elections, but in the rapidly changing world of new technology, there will always be gaps. Laws and

regulations cannot match the ability of the public itself to set standards for appropriate conduct on the part of candidates, through the power of the ballot box.

Recommendation #62: That the *Elections Act* provide flexibility for the use of new technologies in the administration of elections on a trial basis by the Chief Electoral Officer, subject to review by the Legislative Assembly.

Recommendation #63: That the *Elections Act* clarify certain offences on broadcast media to include the Internet and electronic media, and ensure that any other conduct which would be an offence under the Act, includes the use of the Internet and electronic media.

Recommendation: #64: That the CEO and the working group explore the use of new technology in the production of voters' lists and other electoral information in Inuktitut.

(xv) Other Recommendations in the CEO's Report

The CEO made a large number of recommendations for changes to detailed sections of the Elections Act in his reports for both Nunavut and NWT. The Standing Committee reviewed all of these and agrees with many of the CEO's recommendations for change. However, many of the Standing Committee's decisions are contained in the subsequent section of the report.

Recommendation #65: That any specific recommendations of the Standing Committee contained in section 6 of this report entitled "Response to Recommendations in the Chief Electoral Officer's Report", be acted upon in any revisions to the *Elections Act*.

6. Response to Recommendations in the Chief Electoral Officer's Report

(i) Recommendations contained in Report entitled "Election of the First Nunavut Legislative Assembly - 1999 - A New Beginning"

CEO Recommendation	Standing Committee Response	Reference to Standing Committee Report
That an enumeration be conducted in the communities of Bathurst Inlet and Umingmaktok and that each community be designated as a polling division. [p.53]	Agree.	See Recommendation #41
That returning officers be given the authority to hire an additional enumerator in a polling division where extenuating circumstances exist. [p.53]	Agree. Recommend development of permanent voters' list, which may eliminate enumeration need.	
That a review be undertaken to determine the acceptability and cost of	Agree. Recommend development of permanent list	See Recommendations

developing and maintaining a permanent list of electors as an alternative to door to door enumeration. [p.53]	of electors for Nunavut.	#13-#16
That consideration be given to increasing the maximum number of electors allowed per polling division. [p.53]	Agree. Recommend increasing maximum number to 450 electors per polling division.	See Recommendation #38
That a review of the hours of operation and location of advance polls be undertaken. [p.54]	Agree. Recommend in communities that do not have office of Returning Officer, for minimum of three hours.	See Recommendations #28 and #29
That a review be conducted to evaluate the need of continuing with proxy voting considering the other voting opportunities available to the electorate. [p.54]	Agree. Recommend that proxy voting be dealt with more directly by election officials	See Recommendation #30
That returning officers be given the right to vote at territorial elections. [p.54]	Agree. Recommend that all election officials be given right to vote, including CEO and returning officers.	See Recommendation #55
That the Legislative Assembly consider options on the administration of future electoral events, including the appointment of a Chief Electoral Officer and that the Legislative Assembly ensure that adequate financial and human resources are in place. [p.55]	Agree. Recommend creation of central elections office and working group from NTI, Elections Canada and other jurisdictions and organizations that administer elections in Nunavut. Recommend competency-based appointment process to select stand-alone Chief Electoral Officer.	See Recommendations #5, #6 and #8-#12
That the refund of a candidate's nomination deposit no longer depend on the number of votes that the candidate receives but rather on the candidate filing a completed return on his or her election expenses and contributions. [p.55]	Agree.	See Recommendation #58
CEO Recommendation	Standing Committee Response	Reference to Standing Committee Report
That the preliminary list of electors for all polling divisions in a multi-electoral district community be posted in a central location in addition to the requirement to post in each polling division. [p.55]	Agree.	See Recommendation #36
That the Nunavut Elections Act be amended to permit the establishment of a central returning officers' office in a multi-electoral district community. [p.55]	Agree.	See Recommendation #37
That the Nunavut Elections Act be amended to permit the establishment of a central polling place in a multi-electoral district community. [p.55]	Agree.	See Recommendation #40
That the Tariff of Fees be reviewed in advance of the next general election in Nunavut.[p.55]	Agree.	See Recommendation #5

That a review be undertaken to determine the need for elector transfer certificates to permit electors who move after revision day to vote in their new electoral district.[p.55]	Agree. Recommend the development of elector transfer certificates.	See Recommendation #17
That a general review be undertaken, prior to the next general election in Nunavut, for the investigation and prosecution of electoral infractions.[p.55]	Agree.	See Recommendations #47-#49
That a protocol be developed, prior to the next general election in Nunavut, for the investigation and prosecution of electoral infractions. [p.55]	Agree. Recommend that the development of this protocol should be undertaken by the working group.	See Recommendations #50-#52
That paragraph 51(3)(c) of the Nunavut elections Act be amended to read, "is a member of the Parliament of Canada or of the Legislative Assembly of a province or territory, during the time that he or she is a member".[p.55]	Agree.	
That section 3 of the Mail-in Voting Regulations be amended to permit the receipt of applications for mail-in ballots to be no later than 5 p.m. on Monday the 21st day before polling day.[p.55]	Agree with extending time limit. Recommend that no deadline be placed on applications, other than the mail-in ballot must be received by 5:00pm on the day prior to polling day.	See Recommendations #1 and #32 re: mail-in ballots and #34
That section 57 of the Nunavut Elections Act be amended to provide that a candidate may submit his or her photograph by electronic means.[p.55]	Agree.	See Recommendation #62
There are a large number of recommendations in the report that were developed by Returning Officers in a meeting following the election.[p.48-50]	Recommend supporting any recommendations for better training for election staff, more clarity in materials and ease of administration. Refer to Chief Electoral Officer and working group for further consideration.	

(ii) Recommendations contained in Report entitled, "Election of the Fourteenth Legislative Assembly of the NWT – 1999: Modernizing our Electoral System"

CEO Recommendation	Standing Committee Response	Reference to Standing Committee Report
That the Elections Act be amended to prescribe the purpose and the length of time for which an elector may claim a temporary absence from his or her electoral district. [p.17 NWT]	Agree.	See Recommendation #26 re: students
That section 32 of the Elections Act be repealed. [p.17 NWT]	Disagree. But section 32 needs to be clarified for Nunavut.	

That a review be undertaken to determine the acceptability and cost of developing and maintaining a permanent list of electors for the Northwest Territories.[p.17 NWT]	As in Nunavut report – Agree. The CEO also suggests exploring joint ventures, partnerships and the sharing of this information with various organizations and other levels of government. The Standing Committee supports this for Nunavut.	See Recommendation #13-#16
That Elections NWT develop an Automated Enumeration Data Entry and Retrieval System. [p.18 NWT]	Agree. Recommend the development and use of data software which is readily accessible in Nunavut.	See Recommendation #15
That the nomination period be reduced to 5 days.[p.18 NWT]	Agree.	See Recommendation #22
That subsection 51(4) be amended to provide that every person referenced in paragraph 51(3)(a) may seek a leave of absence, without pay, to seek nomination as a candidate and to be a candidate at an election.[p.18 NWT]	Agree. Recommend that any person should be able to seek a leave of absence from employment or appointment with GN or any other organization or level of government operating within Nunavut, to seek nomination as a candidate and to be a candidate at an election.	
That a candidate may withdraw their nomination up to 5:00pm on nomination day.[p.18 NWT]	Agree.	
That the requirement for the Chief Electoral Officer to designate a specific day as revision day be repealed and substituted with the designation of a revision period.[p.19 NWT]	Agree.	
CEO Recommendation	Standing Committee Response	Reference to Standing Committee Report
That candidates be required to submit a photograph with their nomination paper. That the photograph of the candidate appear on the ballot. That the requirement to provide photo placards be discontinued.[p.19 NWT]	Agree.	
That the Chief Electoral Officer provide write-in ballots for voting by mail.[p.19 NWT]	Agree.	See Recommendation #32
That advance polls no longer be held in communities where the returning officer is located. That the Elections Act be amended to provide that advance polls be held between the hours of 12:00 noon and	Agree. Recommend that advance polls be a minimum of 3 hours, in communities where there is no returning officer located.	See Recommendation #28

8:00 pm.[p.20 NWT]		
That proxy voting should no longer be offered.[p.20 NWT]	Disagree. Recommend that proxy voting be dealt with more directly by election officials.	See Recommendation #55
That returning officers be given the right to vote at territorial elections.[p.20 NWT]	As in Nunavut report. Agree.	See Recommendation #56
That the Elections Act be amended to provide that the returning officer may, with the prior approval of the Chief Electoral Officer, establish a special mobile voting station for eligible electors residing at a hospital, health facility, senior citizen's home or confined to their home for medical or mobility reasons.[p.20 NWT]	Agree.	See Recommendation #33 and #34
That section 213 of the Elections Act respecting the closure of licensed premises during the hours of voting on polling day be repealed.[p.21 NWT]	Do not agree. Liquor outlets should continue to be closed during the hours of voting on polling day.	
That candidates who file within the required 60-day period have their deposit refunded upon the receipt of their return respecting election contributions and expenses.[p.21 NWT]	Agree.	See Recommendation #58
That Chief Electoral Officer undertake a comprehensive review of elections financing and report back to the Legislative Assembly with his findings.	Agree. The Committee reviewed elections financing issues and endorses the current approach. However, it recommends clarifying election expenses and contributions and simplifying and providing more support to candidates in filing forms.	See Recommendation #59
CEO Recommendation	Standing Committee Response	Reference to Standing Committee Report
That the length of an electoral event be reduced from 45 days to 35 days.[p.21 NWT]	Agree.	See Recommendation #21
That the Elections Act be amended to provide for the establishment of a central polling place in any community with multiple electoral districts.[p.22 NWT]	As in Nunavut Report. Agree.	See Recommendation #39 and #40
That the Elections Act be amended to provide that the Chief Electoral Officer may authorize the establishment of a central office or provide for the sharing of an office by two or more returning officers in a community with multiple electoral districts.[p.22 NWT]	As in Nunavut Report. Agree.	See Recommendation #37
That the Elections Act be amended to provide that an alphabetical preliminary	Agree.	See Recommendation

list of electors be provided, by electoral district, in any multi-electoral district community and posted in a central location within the community.[p.22 NWT]		#36
That the Elections act be amended to provide that candidates receive a copy of the official list of electors for their electoral district.[p.22 NWT]	Agree.	See Recommendation #15
That the Elections Act be amended to provide that elected members of the Legislative Assembly receive a copy of the final list of electors for their electoral district.[p.22 NWT]	Agree.	
That the Elections Act be amended to clarify when a candidate may erect or post an election sign and broadcast or advertise an election announcement.[p.22 NWT]	Agree.	See Recommendation #48 and #49 and #63
That the Elections Act be amended to provide that a candidate is prohibited from erecting, posting or placing an election campaign sign on the premises or property where a polling station is located.[p.22 NWT]	Agree.	
That the Elections Act be amended to provide that all election campaign signage must be removed within ten days following polling day.[p.22 NWT]	Agree.	
That the Elections Act be amended to provide mandatory access to apartment complexes by enumerators, candidates and their representatives.[p.22 NWT]	Agree.	
CEO Recommendation	Standing Committee Response	Reference to Standing Committee Report
That the Elections Act be amended to provide that a returning officer may, with the prior approval of the Chief Electoral Officer, appoint an additional enumerator for a polling division.[p.22 NWT]	As in Nunavut Report. Agree.	
That section 38 of the Elections Act be amended to provide that a notice of a disabled elector be given to the Chief Electoral Officer.[p.22 NWT]	Agree.	See Recommendation #33 and #34
That the Elections Act be amended by providing that the maximum number of electors contained in a polling division be no more than 450.[p.22 NWT]	Agree.	See Recommendation #38
That paragraph 52(4)(c) of the Elections Act be amended by deleting the	Agree.	

requirement that a candidate must indicate their occupation.[p.22 NWT]		
That section 57 of the Elections act be amended to provide that a candidate may provide his or her photograph by electronic means.[p.22 NWT]	As in Nunavut Report. Agree.	See Recommendation #62
That paragraphs 27(3)(d), 51(3)(c), 198(1)(c) and section 208 of the Elections Act be amended by deleting the words "the Yukon Territory" and substituting the word "territory".[p.22 NWT]	Agree.	
That paragraph 92(2)(b) of the Elections Act with respect to advance polls be repealed.[p.22 NWT]	No comment.	
There are a large number of recommendations in the report that were developed by Returning Officers in a meeting following the election.[p.12 and 13 NWT]	Recommend supporting any recommendations for better training for election staff, more clarity in materials and ease of administration. Refer to the Chief Electoral Officer and the working group for further consideration.	

6. Appendices

(i) Chronology of Public Consultations

The Standing Committee Ajauqtiit felt that a critical component of their review would be the holding of public consultation meetings. The Committee decided to meet with a number of individuals and groups with specific expertise and experience in elections, as well as six communities in Nunavut - one larger and one smaller community in each of the three regions. It was hoped that this would provide a good diversity of opinion and comment from across Nunavut. The Committee met with seven communities and five Hamlet councils.

In light of the intense Assembly schedule surrounding the Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit sittings from February to May 2000, the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit decided to only hold public hearings in Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit during the sitting. Being aware that the summer would not be a good time for community consultations, the Standing Committee planned to finalize their four community visits in September 2000. During the summer, the Standing Committee held internal meetings and also sent a delegation to meet with Elections Canada officials. A meeting was also scheduled with the Hamlet Council in Kugaaruk, when Members were there for other meetings. A final meeting was held with the Full Caucus of the Legislative Assembly to ensure all Members had an opportunity to provide their comments on the review.

The following public hearings were held:

- February 3, 2000 - Iqaluit
 - Presentation and discussion on the Report with the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut, David Hamilton and Brian Armstrong, Co-ordinator of Training & Information with Elections NWT.

- February 26, 2000 - Rankin Inlet
 - Presentation and discussion with Sandy Kusugak, former Member of the Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission and former Returning Officer in Rankin Inlet for a number of elections, including territorial, federal, hamlet, KIA and others.
 - Meeting with a group of approximately 10 Elders and persons with disabilities regarding elections issues.

- March 25, 2000 - Iqaluit
 - Meeting with two officials from the Department of Community Government and Transportation regarding local election issues;
 - Meeting with Kathy Smith, Chair of the Iqaluit District Education Authority regarding DEA election issues; and
 - Meeting with Phil Clarke, Official Agent for one of the candidates in the first Nunavut Election regarding election financing issues.

- April 13, 2000 - Iqaluit
 - Presentation and discussion with Paul Quassa, President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) and John Lamb, Director of Implementation of NTI.

- May 11, 2000 - Iqaluit
 - Presentation by the Chair of the Standing Committee to the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, followed by question period and discussion with Mayors and SAOs.

- June 29, 2000 - Kugaaruk
 - Meeting with Mayor and Hamlet Council of Kugaaruk.

- September 21, 2000 - Clyde River
 - Meeting with over 100 Quluaq High School students.
 - Meeting with Mayor and Hamlet Council of Clyde River.
 - Community meeting with 90 residents of Clyde River.

- September 22, 2000 - Clyde River
 - Meeting with Housing Association of Clyde River.

- September 22, 2000 - Cape Dorset
 - Meeting with Mayor, SAO and Hamlet Council of Cape Dorset

- September 23, 2000 - Cape Dorset
 - Community meeting with 83 residents of Cape Dorset

- September 25, 2000 - Kugluktuk

- Meeting with Mayor, SAO and Hamlet Council of Kugluktuk
- Community meeting with 68 residents of Kugluktuk

- September 26, 2000 - Chesterfield Inlet
- Meeting with Mayor, SAO and Hamlet Council of Chesterfield Inlet
- Community meeting with 28 residents of Chesterfield Inlet

(ii) Public Outreach

- February 2000 - Information flyers and letters were sent to all Hamlets and schools in Nunavut, inviting public comment on the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer, as well as on the *Elections Act* generally.
- February 2000 - Information packages, including copies of the report, extra flyers and letters were also sent to every MLA's constituency office and Members were encouraged to distribute them to interested persons or groups in their community.
- February 2000 - Advertisement placed in Nunatsiaq News.
- February - April 2000 - Media advisories were prepared before each public meeting and public service announcements for two of the spring hearings.
- Media releases were also prepared after each hearing to summarize the key ideas presented and discussed and several media articles have been written on the work of the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit on elections, as well as interviews and news stories on CBC and community radio stations.
- The Interim Report of the Standing Committee was tabled in the Legislative Assembly and read into the record in April 2000. Media releases were issued and media interviews were conducted. The Interim Report was posted on the Legislative Assembly website in both Inuktitut and English.
- The Chair of the Standing Committee made a presentation to the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, encouraging all Hamlets to provide input into the consultation process. A follow-up letter was sent to all Mayors in July inviting them to let the Standing Committee know if they wished the public consultation meetings to include their community.
- Flyers were sent through the mail to all households in the four communities selected for the fall community consultation process.
- Public service announcements were delivered through CBC and a news item in September announced where and when the meetings would be taking place. Members of the Standing Committee went on local radio in Clyde River and Cape Dorset advising of the meeting. CBC interviews followed the Clyde River meetings,

advising of key issues raised in the consultations to date. As well, CBC interviews were done in Kugluktuk, on the day of the public meetings in that community.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Item 10. Tabling of documents. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 10: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 001 – 1(4): NTI Board of Directors' Resolution on Elections

Tabled Document 002 – 1(4): Letter from Canada's Chief Electoral Officer

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a Resolution of the Board of Directors for Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated dated October 19, 2000. Mr. Speaker, I would like to also table at the same time a letter from the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada, Mr. Jean-Pierre Kingsley to the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit dated October 20, 2000.

Speaker: Item 10. Tabling of documents. Tabling of documents. Item 11. Notices of motions. Notices of motions. Notices of motions. Item 12. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

Item 12: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Notice, Bill 1 – Supplementary Appropriations Act, No. 1, 2000/2001

Notice, Bill 2 – An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Board Act

Notice, Bill 3 – An Act to Amend the Statutes Revision Act

Notice, Bill 4 – An Act to Amend the Land Titles Act

Notice, Bill 5 – The Floral Emblem Act

Notice, Bill 6 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly & Executive Council Act and Other Acts in Relation to the Legislative Assembly

Notice, Bill 7 – The Legislative Assembly Members Removal and Disqualification Act

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With your indulgence. I have seven Notices for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Speaker, I give Notice on Wednesday October 25, 2000, I shall move that Bill 1 - Supplementary Appropriations Act, No. 1, 2000-2001; Bill 2 - An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Board Act; Bill 3 - An Act to Amend the Statutes Revision Act; Bill 4 - An Act to Amend the Land Titles Act; Bill 5 - The Floral Emblem Act; Bill 6 - An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Executive Council Act and other Acts in Relation to the Legislative Assembly and finally Bill 7 - The Legislative Assembly Members Removal and Disqualification Act be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng. Item 13. Motions. Item 13. Motions. Motions. Item 14. First reading of bills. First reading of bills. Item 14. First reading of bills. Item 15.

Second reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Item 15. Second reading of bills. Item 16. Orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 16: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A meeting of full caucus at 5 o'clock in the Nanuq boardroom today.

Orders of the Day for Tuesday, October 24;

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration of Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Committee report 1-1(4)
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Clerk. A reminder to all members and to the public that the Nunavut Leadership Committee meets tomorrow at 10 a.m. in these Chambers to select a new Member of the Executive Council. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, October 24, at 1:30 pm.

Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 4.40 p.m.*

