



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**5th Session**

**1st Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 1**

**Wednesday February 21, 2001**

Pages 1 - 33

**Iqaluit**

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

# Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

## *Speaker*

**Hon. Kevin O'Brien**  
(Arviat)

**Ovide Alakannuark**  
(Akulliq)

**Hunter Tootoo**  
(Iqaluit Centre)

**Hon. Jack Anawak**  
(Rankin Inlet North)

**Enoki Irqittuq**  
(Amittuq)

**Hon. Ed Picco**  
(Iqaluit East)

*Minister of Community  
Government and Transportation*

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the  
Whole*

*Minister of Health and Social  
Services; Minister Nunavut  
Power Corporation*

**Hon. Manitok Thompson**  
(Rankin Inlet South-Whale  
Cove)

**Uriash Puqiqnak**  
(Nattilik)  
*Deputy Speaker*

**Hon. Paul Okalik**  
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*Premier; Minister of Executive  
and Intergovernmental Affairs;  
Minister of Justice*

*Minister Responsible for Nunavut  
Housing Corporation; Minister of  
Public Works and Services*

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**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk**  
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*Minister of Sustainable  
Development*

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**  
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Finance and Administration;  
Minister of Human Resources;  
Government House Leader*

**Donald Havioyak**  
(Kugluktuk)

**Jobie Nutarak**  
(Tunnunuiq)

**James Arvaluk**  
(Nanulik)

**David Iqaqrialu**  
(Uqqummiut)

**Hon. Peter Kattuk**  
(Hudson Bay)  
*Minister of Culture, Language,  
Elders and Youth*

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk**  
(Pangnirtung)  
*Minister of Education*

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the  
Whole*

**Rebecca Williams**  
(Quttiktuq)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Wednesday February 21, 2001**

**Members Present**

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Honourable Jack Anawak, Mr. Donald Havioyak, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Irgittuq, Honourable Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Jobie Nutarak, Honourable Kevin O'Brien, Honourable Paul Okalik, Honourable Ed Picco, Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, Honourable Manitok Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Mr. O'Brien): I would like to call on Bishop Idlout to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker**: Thank you, Bishop. Please remain standing. I'd like to ask the Aqsarniit Middle School Choir to sing the national anthem.

>>*National anthem.*

**Speaker**: I would like to thank the choir for their fine work and also Ms. Inuapik Sagiaktuk for lighting of the Kudlik. Ma'na. Before we get started I would like to welcome the Premier back to the House and all the members, it's been a while since we sat around in this chamber together.

You'll notice that there are a number of new prints that are hanging in the foyer. These prints are from the 2000 Germaine Arnatauyak collection, you'll notice them in the great hall. The Legislative Assembly of Nunavut is very fortunate to have the opportunity to be the first location to display this collection.

You'll also notice the sculpture to my right, this was the very last piece carved by Judas Ullulaq, a very famous carver from Gjoa Haven who passed away in 1999. I would like to thank Uriash Puqiqnak and the Mayor of Gjoa Haven, Joseph Aglukkaq, for making it possible for us to have this carving displayed here on a temporary basis.

Finally, on behalf of the entire Assembly, I'd like to pass on our best wishes to Simon Nattaq, our first Sergeant-At-Arms, who is currently recovering after an incident on the land. We wish him speedy recovery.

Moving on to Item 2. Mr. Clerk, can you ascertain if the Commissioner is prepared to enter the chambers.

>>*Commissioner Irniq enters the chambers.*

## Item 2: Commissioner's Opening Address

**Commissioner Irniq** (interpretation): Elders, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Premier, MLAs and invited guests. I am pleased to welcome you to the opening of the Fifth Session of the First Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

This brief opening address lays out the agenda of this sitting and details of some of the items members will be addressing in the sitting. (interpretation ends) As we open the session, together we approach the conclusion of our 2<sup>nd</sup> year as a government.

Today, members of this Assembly will resume the public dialogue surrounding the Government of Nunavut. Continuing this dialogue and bringing forward the views and opinions of Nunavummiut, thus ensuring a broad and active participation in government.

Members will see Nunavut's first set of public accounts presenting our fiscal performance in 1999-2000.

(interpretation) The Assembly will also see tabled the first report of Maliganik Qimirujit, who have been given the task of reviewing the laws inherited when our territory came into existence. They were also mandated to identify those laws that may be inconsistent with community needs and our traditional ways.

Members will also take on the task of addressing the 10-year review of the Official Languages Act.

(interpretation ends) Six months into the life of Nunavut our government laid out a clear statement and vision through the Bathurst Mandate as to its goals and directions.

In the past 16 months, our Government, through a range of activities has worked to realize those goals and in doing so has obtained a clearer picture of our strengths and the challenges we face in realizing those goals.

After almost two years, members, ministers, and departments have an enhanced understanding of both the scope of their mandates and the resources available.

There is a fuller understanding of the costs of running a government and of providing services to our citizens using actual figures, which were not available two years ago.

(interpretation) During this sitting, the Minister of Finance will be presenting our Government's budget for the fiscal year 2001/2002. He will also be addressing the financial prospects of Nunavut and the allocation of resources available to meet the diverse needs of our people.

(interpretation ends) Members of this Assembly will be active participants in this process. The ongoing debates and discussions that surround the budget are the key elements in

determining the allocation of public moneys and the effective operation of government programs and services.

(interpretation) In the coming months the financial and program experience gathered in the first two years of Nunavut operations will be examined. The integrity of our programs and expenditures will be tested against the expressed concerns of this Assembly and the people of Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Through a process of program review, this review will bring together our stated priorities with the financial and programs experience of our first years. Our goal will be to use this knowledge to effectively reshape our institutions and activities to better respond to the needs of Nunavummiut.

(interpretation) During this session, members will be asked to review and consider a number of Acts. Our government will be introducing the Appropriations Act 2001/2002; the Supplementary Appropriations Act No. 2, 2000/2001 and the Loan Authorization Act 2001/2002.

As well, there will be government Bills to create a "Utility Rate Review Council" and to amend the Nunavut Power Utility Act consistent with the transfer of electrical generating responsibility to the Nunavut Power Corporation on April 1 of this year. I recommend a timely passage of each these bills. There will be House sponsored legislation to address the conflict of interest provisions of the Legislative Assembly and the Executive Council Act, which reflects the members' desire for greater openness and appropriate standards.

Following in the tradition initiated with the sitting in Rankin Inlet last year, the government anticipates sitting in Cambridge Bay. The process of taking the lawmakers to locations across Nunavut is designed to ensure the connection to all people of Nunavut as this Assembly conducts its important business.

(interpretation ends) The spirit of inclusion and commitment to community should inform your debates in this House. I look forward to hearing your decisions.

(interpretation) I now declare open the Fifth Session of the First Nunavut Legislative Assembly.

Following the conduct of relevant business, members and the public are invited to join the Speaker and myself in the Assembly foyer for refreshments. Qujannamiik, Nakomik, Koana, Ma'na, Merci, Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** I would like to say thank you to Commissioner Irniq. We are moving on to the Orders of the Day. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Premier.



### Item 3: Ministers' Statements

#### Minister's Statement 001 - 1(5): Minister Absent from the House

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is nice to be back in the House and see a lot of people here. Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise the House that the Honourable Kelvin Ng will be absent from the House today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Premier. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Premier.

#### Minister's Statement 002 - 1(5): Welcoming New Member

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome to her first sitting of the Legislative Assembly the member for Quttiktuq – Rebekah Williams (interpretation ends)

Many of us have worked with Rebekah during her tenure with the Department of Justice and Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Her commitment and vision to those positions and to the success of the government is unquestioned and I know that she will bring her considerable talents to bear in this Assembly.

(interpretation) To the people of the communities of Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, and Grise Fiord, we would like to thank them for sending us such an excellent representative and I know she will defend your interests with passion and dedication. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

#### Minister's Statement 003 – 1(5): Suicide Prevention Campaign Launched

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker may I also take this opportunity to welcome Ms. Williams to the Legislative Assembly and welcome the members back to Iqaluit, you also Mr. Speaker and your wonderful suit and tie.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to tell you that on February 19, the Department of Health and Social Services launched a unique suicide prevention campaign called "Strength from our Past, Strength from Each Other".

Mr. Speaker, as Nunavummiut we have to speak up and speak out about suicide - a tragedy that touches all of us. As a government, we have to give people the tools they need to take action against suicide. It is only through the active participation of individuals, families and communities that we will conquer suicide in Nunavut.

Over the past year, I have informed this House of a series of community level workshops and training sessions aimed at providing the skills and techniques to help people mobilize

to prevent suicide and also to support each other. Mr. Speaker we have been able to offer training to a range of professionals and community residents all across Nunavut.

Now the department is launching this multi-media campaign as another aspect of our on-going suicide prevention work. We designed this campaign through direct consultations, Mr. Speaker, with suicide prevention professionals, volunteers, and of course our elders, and many other community activists in Nunavut who also spoke about this idea. These people told us that the silence must be broken and that is what the “Strength from our Past, Strength from Each Other” campaign is trying to do.

Mr. Speaker, over the next few months, Nunavummiut will be seeing and hearing messages on TV and on the radio, reading them in the newspapers, and seeing them on posters in every community. Messages rooted in Inuit cultural values. Messages aimed at affirming the value of every person’s life and reinforcing how precious everyone is to their family, friends, community – and to all of Nunavut.

Our people will hear and read that:

- Everyone matters. Everyone is important;
- Inuit Values and Beliefs are the key to survival;
- You can and will survive your problems;
- There IS help;
- Your family and community need you;
- We all need to reach out to those at risk.

Mr. Speaker, my department hopes to continue to provide resources for this valuable suicide prevention work, to build, Mr. Speaker, on the momentum established now, and yes Mr. Speaker, to continue to provide our people with the tools they need to break the silence and take action against suicide.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Picco. Ministers’ Statements. Ministers’ Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

#### **Minister’s Statement 004 – 1(5): Interdepartmental Meeting on Suicide Prevention**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to also welcome the new member of the legislature.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform members that the Department of Education in collaboration with Minister Picco’s Department of Health and Social Services will be hosting an interdepartmental meeting this week on suicide prevention. This meeting is to take place in Iqaluit February 20th to the 23rd.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut-wide suicide prevention meeting was introduced by two interdepartmental groups, the Children's First Secretariat and the Interdepartmental Wellness and Community Developmental Committee. The Meeting is designed to develop a strategic plan for the Government of Nunavut.

The Government of Nunavut is one of the lead partners of one of Health Canada's five Centres of Excellence for Children's Well Being. We are working with Lakehead University on the centre whose focus is special needs of children and youth in rural, remote and Northern Canada.

The suicide prevention meeting will also include representation from the NSDC, the Federation of Nunavut Teachers and from groups who have worked in this area of suicide prevention across our territory.

Presentations will be made by members of the Crisis Line, from the past president of the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention who will share plans for another suicide conference in Nunavut and from Meeka and Abraham Arnaquq who have traveled to several communities introducing the idea of doing healing circles.

Mr. Speaker, the participants at this suicide prevention meeting will collaborate on a joint visioning process to determine what can be done that will make a difference. The report of the meeting will be sent to each member of the legislature. I would like to take this opportunity to wish this group well as they take on these important deliberations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Ministers' Statements. We'll move on to Item 4. Members' Statements.

First I'd like to recognize our newest member of the House, Rebekah Williams. Welcome Rebekah, I'm sure you'll have a very busy and successful term here for the next two and a half years.

#### **Item 4: Members' Statements**

##### **Member's Statement 001 – 1(5): Quttiktuq Constituency Concerns & Issues**

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to arrive today to make my first statement in this House as the MLA for Quttiktuq. Mr. Speaker, as the newest member of the Legislative Assembly, it will undoubtedly take me a while to master the rules and procedures of the Legislative Assembly, and I would ask for my colleagues' indulgence if I could speak a little longer than the allotted two minutes just for today.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by conveying the gratitude of my constituency to Mr. Akasuk who made himself available during the last session for concerns and questions

from the residents of Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord during the time when they had no member. Mr. Akasuk's efforts were much appreciated.

(interpretation ends) During the last month I have quickly developed an understanding of how challenging it is to be the only member to represent four communities in this Assembly. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to meet with the residents of Arctic Bay and Resolute in the past two weeks and hear their concerns and to hear their expectations for me as their representative.

I will be speaking later in more detail about the aspirations of these communities. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to add that I have committed to the people of Grise Fiord and Nanisivik that I will meet with them in their community as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the members of the Standing Committees that I have joined for their genuine patience with me over the past several weeks of meetings. I have been looking at the departments' business plans and budgets and I have appreciated the advice of experienced members.

I would also like to thank the ministers for answering my questions during our meetings. It doesn't seem like so long ago they were asking me questions as a department official.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity today to list some of the priorities that I intend to focus on in this House. These priorities reflect not only what the constituents of Quttiktuq told me during the election campaign, but issues which I care about very much.

(interpretation ends) The first thing we need to do is develop a strategy for non-decentralized communities in Nunavut. During my time in the communities people told me that smaller communities are falling behind. Mr. Speaker, the regional centres have experienced tremendous growth over the past three years.

(interpretation) Decentralization is providing great opportunities in many of our other communities, but there is a very clear perception that non-decentralized communities have been forgotten.

(interpretation ends) I can assure my constituents and Members of this House that I will not forget them and that I will be vigilant in the upcoming budget process about pushing to meet the needs of the smaller communities.

Mr. Speaker, the state of infrastructure in the smaller communities is a disgrace. In Arctic Bay the building in which I was attending school is now a government office. It was built in 1962. Mr. Speaker, it needs to be replaced. In fact Mr. Speaker, I believe it is older than some of the Members of this Assembly.

(interpretation) In Grise Fiord the major government office consists of trailers which were shipped up from Pangnirtung several decades ago to serve as a nursing station. This

temporary set up has experienced numerous problems over the past few years. It is extremely expensive to maintain.

(interpretation ends) It is an investment in our young people that cannot be delayed or put off forever. I will be pushing to see these priorities realized in the government's Five Year Capital Plan. Mr. Speaker, I realize that buildings alone cannot solve the problems facing our communities.

There is a need in Arctic Bay for a permanent social worker. There is a need to provide proper care in managing the significant number of foster children that are in care brought in from other communities.

(interpretation) There is a need for drug and alcohol programs in Nunavut that help people throughout the course of the long healing journey; a healing journey that can help to address the hidden tragedy of family violence.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I have had people tell me that the increased fuel price has meant they can no longer afford their own homes and they want to return to public housing. This is the wrong direction. The direction we should be going is to reduce dependency and not to cause more of it.

Mr. Speaker, we are making good progress in the area of our own justice system reflective of and responsive to the nature of Nunavummiut, but we can do more in the areas of providing training and support to community justice committees. We can do more in bringing together the courts, the RCMP and the communities.

As a government, we have given important tasks to many local bodies not only in the areas of justice, but also in health and education. We cannot assign responsibilities without also ensuring they have the tools to do what we have asked them to accomplish.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I have spoken at some length about the needs of my communities. I recognize that each and every member here today should do the same for their communities. The needs are so many that they can seem overwhelming at times.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I believe that we will do well if we focus on ensuring that the needs of our most vulnerable are met first. I believe that we will do well if we provide accountable leadership that sets high standards of personal conduct. These are the criteria by which I will represent my constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you for that statement. Congratulations on your first statement in the House. Just to remind members that this was an exception, as you know the rules are that you ask permission to continue your statement prior to the end of your statement. Again, this was an exception. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

**Member's Statement 002 – 1(5): Health Professionals & Need for Facilities**

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to be back and I welcome all the members and our newest member, even when we are out of this House we are able to talk.

Today, I stand to speak in support of health centres in Nunavut. Last year we discussed the three health centres that are to be built by the Nunavut Government: Qikiqtaaluk, Kivalliq, and Kitikmeot, in all the regions.

Our constituents, they need good hospital facilities, because once they get old they get worrisome in terms of operations and they need a good facility to go to. I want to express my great concern on this.

Mr. Speaker, I talked about my concerns in terms of the hospitals, nurses, and doctors. It becomes difficult when one goes to the hospital as they are so overworked. It can be very difficult in the communities for the sick and those that we represent within Nunavut.

I am wondering if it is appropriate in the Kitikmeot region; if a hospital would be appropriate or not for those in Kugluktuk, because our constituents go to Yellowknife or Edmonton for medical reasons. A new facility should be built in the Kitikmeot and consider locations like Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven.

I ask my fellow members for consent to conclude my statement.

**Speaker:** The member is asking for unanimous consent to complete his statement. There are no nays. Proceed.

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you. This is a concern to me, where are the funds going to come from. It becomes a difficult situation. For instance would the funds come from the Federal Government. Where will that hospital be built. For instance where will that hospital be located. I will be asking questions concerning how these things will be dealt with in terms of the hospital. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Member's Statement 003– 1(5): Former & New Quttiktuq Members**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure what words I will be using for this subject, but I would like to proceed following my knowledge of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit. It is about recognition and expressing appreciation.

I am grateful to our former colleague Levi Barnabas. He was one of the first Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut and he taught us a lot about the procedures in the House.

I would like to thank the former member for the High Arctic as we looked to him in many ways for advice. He had to be replaced and the person that replaced him just made a good statement. It is good to see how capable she is going to be in her new field of work. I would like to welcome her to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Member's Statement 004 – 1(5): Tribute to Judas Ullulaq & Final Carving**

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today as a member and I am also a sculptor. I know the person who made this sculpture. He was one of three brothers who were all carvers. He was the youngest member of the family and he died in 1999. I saw him do his last piece of work, which was this particular carving. He was well known throughout the world.

When the Government of Nunavut came about in 1999, he carved this piece in remembrance. He made that drum to be included with the art we have here. He was very sick when he made this carving, we was wearing a caribou coat and worked on this piece as much as he could. This was his last work to commemorate the creation of Nunavut. It is depicted in the Nunavut emblem, the drum. I'd like to thank the mayor of our community Mr. Speaker.

Today, I rise to say that we as members often travel away from our home communities. I would like to welcome Ms. Williams as our newest Member of the Legislative Assembly. I would like to thank my community and I would like to tell them that I think of them every day.

As members, we often travel away from our home communities. However, we are not the only ones that are away from our families. I would like to recognize people that escort students for sporting events and other activities who often travel away from their homes to be with young people.

For example, my sister Mary Porter is traveling with a dance group from Gjoa Haven this week. She takes very good care of the dance group who are called the Nunavut Performers. They do travel not just for fun or to get away, they are much needed to take care of our children. The same is true of the members who have two or more constituencies, they have much travel to these communities to be able to speak to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

**Member's Statement 005 - 1(5): Budget Deliberation & Nunavut Needs**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I am pleased to arrive today to welcome back all the Members of the Legislative Assembly for our first sitting of the 2001 year.

Mr. Speaker, the public spotlight will be on us for the next several weeks as we begin our deliberations on the 2001/2002 budget.

Mr. Speaker, expectations on us have never been higher. This is the third budget of the Government of Nunavut that has been presented to the Legislative Assembly. Our first budget was basically done prior to the creation of Nunavut, last year's budget was largely a status quo budget. This year Mr. Speaker, we need to make choices.

We need to choose whether to make the investments that are necessary to truly address the housing crisis that afflicts each and every one of our communities. A crisis that continues to see waiting lists of months and years for public housing.

Mr. Speaker, the government is trying to fight a good fight when it comes to making our legitimate case to the federal government for investment and housing. I applaud this. We cannot just sit back and wait for assistance that may or may not be forthcoming at some point, possibly now, possibly later, but maybe never.

We need to act decisively ourselves and demonstrate the Bathurst Mandate's commitment to making housing one of the two primary commitments of this government's mandate; a commitment that is backed with hard dollars that will put roofs over families' heads.

Mr. Speaker, another choice that needs to be made is whether our employees will get a fair deal or not. It is heartening that the negotiations between the NEU and the government will resume in April. I would again urge the government not to approach these talks as though a material gain for our employees is a loss to the government.

As the government has itself acknowledged we are losing good staff to the federal government, to Inuit organizations, and to the private sector. We are not even bronze medal winners Mr. Speaker. We are in fourth place. A fair deal to our employees will address the deficits and programs and service delivery that we are currently suffering from.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek and ask consent to conclude my member's statement.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Proceed Mr. Tootoo.



**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. Mr. Speaker I urge the ministers to talk with their front line staff and to listen to some of the innovative ideas and valid concerns that they have.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents are asking where our spending priorities are as a government. As we go through the budget in the weeks ahead, we need to ensure that departmental plans and promises can be achieved with what is in the actual figures.

Mr. Speaker, members know that the issue of fuel costs has hit all Canadians. We know that the efforts of the federal government to assist lower income Canadians have not been fully thought out. We know that the money was to help a family in Vancouver would not go very far in Ausuiitug, Taloyoak, or Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, I would anticipate that we hear a lot of positive announcements over the coming weeks concerning our government's plans to help the most vulnerable Nunavummiut avoid having to make the choice between heating their homes and feeding their families. That is a choice Mr. Speaker, that we must not force our constituents to make.

Mr. Speaker, members are hearing that their homeowner constituents are having to consider moving back into public housing because they simply cannot afford the sky rocketing costs of homeownership. As my colleague mentioned earlier, this is a terrible step backwards.

Mr. Speaker, we all have an excellent chance to work together in the coming weeks as Members of this Legislative Assembly in the spirit of true consensus to reach solutions and make choices. I am hopeful that we can demonstrate to our constituents the commitment that I know members have to building a plan that moves us forward and leaves no one behind. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

#### **Member's Statement 006 – 1(4): Meeting Nunavummiut' Expectations**

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. June 4, 1993 was a very important day in Ottawa when I was an MP, because we approved the NLCA as the federal government, with Brian Mulroney. April 1, 1999 was a proud day as well because we had our Government of Nunavut and became elected Members of the Nunavut Legislature.

At that time on June 4, we knew that it was expected by the people of Nunavut and the negotiators at that time, just before April 1, 1999 when we were planning for the Nunavut government we all realized the people of Nunavut were expecting something very great for their home.

I was involved in the planning for the Government of Nunavut. So today, Inuit in the Nunavut area are the only reason why we have government, because the Inuit are here. For that reason, at that time the people expected to have the Government of Nunavut realize their expectations.

I wonder what the people think today about what we can do as the Government of Nunavut, what more can we do to help them and assist them. I feel this has to be asked of us as a government. The people's needs and expectations have to be met. How can we help the people of Nunavut so that the expectations are met.

We have to think about that as a government and as elected leaders. Mr. Speaker, I would like to get unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Proceed.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you. We know the things needed in the communities as a government, the people will be expecting the things that they need. For example, NTI has their own agenda and we have to start working with those organizations.

I know things are going to be asked of us that have nothing to do with the Nunavut Government. For example, Nunasi, QC, Sakku, and the Kitikmeot Corporation, those are the corporations that are said to be owned by the Inuit people. But they are going to be asking us as government what is happening with those corporations. As leaders of the Government of Nunavut we are going to have to help the people of Nunavut, so we can achieve their expectations.

For instance, they ask us if the Nunasi Corporation is under the Government of Nunavut. People do not realize that this is not our responsibility. Even though it is not our responsibility we have to try and help those people. We have to explain things to them and work with the organizations so that the needs and expectations of the people are met. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Anawak. Members' Statements. Mr. Picco.

**Member's Statement 007 – 1(5): Nanook School Volunteers & Education Council**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you and this House about some dedicated volunteers here in our community. Last week I met with the Apex Education Council at Nanook School in Apex. Mr. Speaker, the dedicated parents who serve on this council take no honoraria for

their meetings. Mr. Speaker, the honoraria monies are put back into programs for the students of Nanook School and the children of Apex.

Nanook School is one of the smallest schools, student population wise in Nunavut. It boasts dedicated students and active involvement by both teachers and parents. Mr. Speaker, that combination spells success. Eva Michael, the Chairperson and her dedicated council consisting of long time member and vice chair, Jacopoosie Peter, Mark Arsenault, Martha Koovianaktoo, have integrated a family and community first school program that integrates Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit as well as the holistic approach to the educational development of the students.

The long serving principal of Nanook School, Hilary de Silva, should also be mentioned for his ongoing work and his enthusiasm for the past several years at Nanook School. Mr. Speaker, at our meeting last week, we had a wide ranging discussion of education, past, present and future and although Mr. Speaker, we didn't agree on all aspects of the education system, I did leave the meeting with profound sense of pride for the work, commitment and leadership shown by the Apex Education Council. Nakurmiik.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

#### **Member's Statement 008 – 1(5): Polar Bear Cup Hockey Tournament**

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to be back in the House with the members and would like to welcome Ms. Williams into the House and it's nice to see that all the constituencies are represented now. I would like to rise today to talk about the Polar Bear Cup hockey tournament that was held in Rankin Inlet just this past weekend.

There were hockey players from Repulse Bay, Coral Harbour, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet and we were very glad to see the community of Hall Beach being represented. There was a team from Iqaluit who took first place, second place was Rankin Inlet, and third place was Coral Harbour. One of the highlights of the weekend was that the Stanley Cup was in the community and people were invited to the hotel to have their pictures taken with the Cup.

We really appreciated the work of the organizers and the parents that got involved in making the weekend very successful. I'd like to recognize the volunteers in the communities that do a lot of work, organizing hockey tournaments and other events. It helps the community, not just physically but also mentally and we'd like to encourage more to get involved. I would also like to recognize the coaches and the referees that were in the community. So let's encourage them to continue to do a good job. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. If there are no further Members' Statements, we will move 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. Mr. Speaker, I wanted today to recognize the Sergeant-at-Arms. He's Mr. Simon Sigyareak, who is a well-known singer, welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

I would also like to welcome members of my community who are here to meet with government officials. Our mayor of Gjoa Haven, Joseph Aglukkaq, Ralph Porter and David Ijji, welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Welcome to the Assembly. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a visitor. I along with Mr. Iqaqrialu hardly ever have the chance to recognize anybody. But I would like to recognize my daughter Angela Nutarak who is in the gallery and her friend Nathan Tigullarak who is on the other side of the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two members from my constituency. Pitsiulak Pitsiulak, and Oloota Kolola and I would also like to recognize the chair of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Ben Kovic, and my secretary Oleena Nauyuq and Jane Cooper. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an individual that I just met with, the mayor from Gjoa Haven, Joseph Aglukkaq. I met with him earlier and I recognize the hard work that they are doing and they are sitting in the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a member from my constituency Eva Onalik and from Maliganik Qimmirujit Jonah Kelly and last but not least interpreter Mali Curley. Today is also her birthday, so happy birthday to Mali Curley.

**Speaker:** Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome to the gallery first of all Mr. Ben Kovic, who is a good friend of mine and a person who's tried for endless hours to help me with my hunting skills. We succeeded about a year ago but I managed to lose my gas can again and my kamotik box on the way back. I just wanted to thank Ben publicly for helping me.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to welcome to the gallery Ms. Dortha Kunuk who works at our Wellness Centre here and the spouse of our Assistant Interim Commissioner, Mr. Joe Kunuk.

Also, on the other side of the gallery Mr. Speaker, I would like to start off by welcoming three wonderful people Mr. Speaker. Anne Hanson and her lovely daughters Kathy and Mary Hanson-Akavak.

I should also point out Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to visit Anne during Christmas and I found out that Anne is quite a Scrabble player.

Also, sitting close to Anne that you see around a lot in Iqaluit. He's here from western Canada, Mr. Albert Lagowski, who I'd like to welcome to the Assembly.

>> *Applause.*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't see anybody from my constituency. I'd like to recognize my staff member Kathy Hanson who is my executive assistant and from Kugluktuk John Komak who is from the Language Bureau, welcome.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to recognize a person now living in Kugluktuk, John Komak who is working with Culture, Language, Elders & Youth.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a staff member from the Housing Corporation in Arviat who is in the gallery, Mr. Jim Fennel. I would also like to recognize Kojo Koomee. He is going to be living in Arviat. Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to recognize the Chairperson of the Gjoa Haven Housing authority, welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker as members know, our legislature is the only legislature that has a separate section for elders to sit. I am very pleased to recognize a couple of elders, Inuapik who had the honour of lighting the qudlik and Iqaluk who are here from my constituency in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause.

**Speaker:** Welcome to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. There are no others, I'd like to recognize, along with Ms. Thompson two constituents of mine, Jim Fennel, from Housing Corporation headquarters in Arviat and also a new employee, Kojo Koomee who is going to be in Arviat. We have borrowed him on a permanent basis from Cambridge Bay. Welcome. And, lastly I'd like to welcome a good friend of mine the Sergeant-at-Arms this week. Simon Sigyareak who is better known as Arviat's very own Johnny Cash.

>>Applause.

We'll break for a few minutes now. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>Assembly recessed at 2.50 p.m. and resumed at 3.26 p.m.

**Speaker:** Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 001 - 1(5): Update on the Education Act Review

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I hope I can remember how to do this. It seems like it has been a long time.

Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister responsible for Education. I would like to ask the minister if he can update this House as to the progress the department has made at reviewing the new Education Act and where things are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We checked on the progress of the review of the Education Act at the end of last week. Their report has not been submitted yet. After the review is presented to us then we will be giving it to the

Law Review committee. I will let you know when the report is given to me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. I would just like to ask, he mentioned they just received a survey this week and it was, I do not know if I caught it right in translation or not. Is the minister talking about the report that the education review committee did and returned to him. Is that the report that he is talking about.

Or is it the new revised Act based on that report that he just received and sent off to Justice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was trying to report on the recommendations that are coming forward which were reviewed by the working group, which consisted of the people from NTI and also the Government of Nunavut.

Once those recommendations have been brought forward, I will be taking them to the committee, cabinet committee on legislation and will be advising the members of our next step. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker does the minister have any indication of a time frame or when we may expect to see a revised draft that has been approved by the cabinet for members to have a look at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact we were just reviewing the time tables the other day and to the best of our predictions, depending on if there are any delays in the process, we are looking to have these out to the DEAs, and community stake holders hopefully by the month of July, rather June, sorry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear that the first time. Mr. Speaker, in regards to the input or the recommendations from the task force. I understand the department did a survey, received some input from the DEAs as well on some of the concerns that they had.

I am wondering if the minister plans to, at some point, table and provide members of this House with the results of those surveys and the task force reports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize that I did not mention the Members of the Legislative Assembly. We will be forwarding the paper to all the Members of the Legislative Assembly, also the DEAs and the stakeholders.

This will be in June when we forward them for more consultations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

### **Question 002 - 1(5): Status of Regional Health Centres**

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier I talked about health, the nurses and doctors. Last year Minister Ng mentioned that there would be three health centres built; one in Iqaluit, Kivalliq, and the Kitikmeot.

I just want to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services what is the status today of those three health centres. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this file has a long history, I'll try to keep it short. As all members know the 1988 agreement with Health Canada indicated the renovation of the Baffin Regional Hospital was necessary.

In 1998 there was a study done by the GNWT by Medimerge, which indicated a need for two regional facilities, one each in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. The capital dollars were not available under the GNWT. Remember Mr. Speaker, the GNWT went through a major cutback and deficit reduction. Therefore and thus, the GNWT tried to move forward through P3 initiatives. Mr. Speaker the only P3 that we have done, and have some concern with, is the facility in Arviat. I understand that in the next 6-8 weeks it will open.

Mr. Speaker, the government has moved forward for a leaseback agreement with the three development corporations: Sakku, Qikiqtaaluk and the Kitikmeot.

At the present time, Mr. Speaker, we are reviewing the RFP for the functional program review for the facility here in Iqaluit and also in Cambridge Bay. Sakku has come forward now and they have new figures for the construction of the facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to ask again as you mentioned GNWT in terms of the hospital in Iqaluit and the hospitals in Kivalliq and Kitikmeot. The Nunavut Government to date, how are they dealing with this whole process. Will they be reviewing and making sure that information is available to all communities.

We are a new Nunavut Government to date in terms of the ten-year review; we need more information to bring out to the communities about our plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have met I believe it is on two or three different occasions, with the Premier at one point, with the leadership of the Kitikmeot about these facilities. I have also met with the Hamlet in Cambridge Bay just this past summer on the facility. There is support in the Kitikmeot for the facility.

We believe Mr. Speaker, we could make a point, a business case for the facility. I don't think Mr. Speaker, it is acceptable to have patients from Pelly Bay travel two thousand miles away, to deliver a child. I don't believe it is acceptable in 2001, to have a child medivaced to Edmonton, four thousand miles away from their family and so on.

Twenty percent of our total health budget is medical travel. That's twenty million dollars a year. Mr. Speaker, if we had those facilities closer to the ground that is money we could save and spend here in Nunavut for these facilities. The facility that is planned for Cambridge, the facility that is planned for Rankin, those are smaller facilities where we would be able to do minor surgeries, we would be able to do more referrals where we would be able to do deliveries as an example.

Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to visit the Kitikmeot at the invitation of the member, to go to the Kitikmeot to discuss again the facility. We have had discussions with the Regional Development Corporation there that are our partners in the Kitikmeot. I believe there is strong support over there. Your government Mr. Speaker, is moving forward to bring these facilities to fruition as expediently, expeditiously as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response. Mr. Speaker, I just want to mention, for instance in Kugluktuk they go to Yellowknife and Edmonton for medical reasons, to see the doctors. For those residents in Kugluktuk that is appropriate for them, they don't mind that.

But they are worried that if it is moved to Cambridge Bay, there is a concern that those who go to Yellowknife, it might be difficult for them. Has he heard about these concerns in the Kitikmeot or made any plans to deal with that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I haven't had any communication with anyone in Kugluktuk concerning the facility being in Cambridge Bay. I do understand Mr. Speaker, that if all the resources are in one place, will that mean lesser resources for Kugluktuk.

I would suggest to you Mr. Speaker, that if you had three or four doctors based in Cambridge Bay, you would have more medical opportunities for referrals to Kugluktuk with residency based doctors in that region. Right now Mr. Speaker, we have a contract with Stanton Regional Hospital for services to the Kitikmeot. We are in the process Mr. Speaker, of trying to renegotiate that contract.

But that is another territory, another jurisdiction. Mr. Speaker, if the Stanton in Yellowknife and the GNWT says tomorrow we don't want to renew your contract, we don't have enough staff for our own people. Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut has to build the capacity like we are doing with our nursing program, training our own nurses, and we need to get doctors, qualified medical people based in Nunavut.

I would prefer Mr. Speaker, hopefully in five or seven years to have most of our facilities and our procedures and our services delivered right here at home. I would suggest to you Mr. Speaker, that Kugluktuk would not lose out on services, I would disagree with that Mr. Speaker, because I believe that Kugluktuk will receive enhanced services, by having the facility there. So instead of having to send someone by plane three hours away, we could send them to Cambridge Bay.

But again, I would make a commitment to the member to go to Kugluktuk to meet with the Hamlet to hear their concerns about the regional facility going into Cambridge Bay, if that concern is from the Mayor and Council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 6. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Final supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): I keep asking questions about this. Yes, Mr. Speaker, thank you for the response. I hope to make this clearer. If this facility is to be in Cambridge Bay that is fine, if it is running well that is good, I don't really have a question, but I thank him for that information on that facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Havioyak. There is no question, just a comment. We will move on. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Ms. Williams.

**Question 003 – 1(5): Training for Homeowners**

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question of the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. A number of years ago there was training given to people who would like to own their home about maintaining their heating systems. As a government, we would like to make sure that the people in Nunavut can get their own home and I think it would be good to have that training again for those people.

My question is, is training going to be given to those people who want to own their own homes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the communities where they have homeownership, I realize that they have a hard time whenever their furnaces break down, but in some communities, there are people that know how to provide furnace maintenance.

They know about home maintenance, all parts of the home. We would like as a department to have more people capable of maintaining privately owned houses. What we can do is to make sure that a homeowner can be assisted to get training in maintenance. Homeowners that fix their own furnaces and other maintenance items, we can consider this suggestion and there are also a lot of people that can receive financial assistance to repair their furnaces or to get home maintenance done. I will look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Oral Questions. Item 6. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

**Question 004 – 1(5): Assistance for DEAs During Education Act Review**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again my question is for the Minister responsible for Education. Earlier the minister indicated that he would be providing copies of the revised legislation, targeted for June some time to get that out to the DEAs for their review.

Mr. Speaker, it was my understanding in the past, one of the concerns raised by the DEAs was that they were provided with a document that was draft legislation without having any one there that was able to go through it and point out where some of the changes had been made, the differences between the old legislation and the new one. To help explain these things. They were asked at meetings to explain the meaning of what some of those changes were and why they were made.

I am just wondering if the minister plans in the spring, or in the fall, whenever these consultation meetings are being held, if he is planning on ensuring the resources are

there, people to go along and assist the communities with that. Would you be able to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member asking this question again, because I do have to admit that on my first response, I missed out on an important date, regarding the work on the Education Act.

I would also like to comment on the consultations thus far regarding the Education Act. I am a little puzzled because we had written to all the District Education Authorities, the 27 District Education Authorities, encouraging all DEAs to hold community consultations. Indeed the copies were sent to the Chairs of the Council. We also had meetings in the communities that again, provided feedback to the Department of Education on the Education Act.

Also regarding the Act, we had forwarded memos to the MLAs and received only three written replies regarding the content, or rather the timing of the review of the Education Act. These were not convincing numbers. The other, I will just give you an example of what happened, this was also in the community of Iqaluit, we are talking about the community of Iqaluit where radio shows were held and meetings were held with interested stakeholders on the education draft too. Also in Rankin Inlet.

But the other dates that I had not replied to on the first question, was the working group are expecting to have their work completed on the Education Act regulations by the month of March, or shortly after that. There is going to be circulation to the stakeholders but at that time, by June, we will want to have all the stakeholders be able to have a copy of the changes and the final recommendations being brought forward.

Right after the summer holidays, we want to give it enough time that more consultations can be done in the communities to allow adequate time for all the stakeholders to be involved. We will be making sure that we mention the importance of these consultations at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his very clear history of the process that has happened. I was wondering when that was going to come out. I would just like to mention, I asked the minister that when he sends out packages to all the stakeholders and all the MLAs and things like that. The DEAs and the community organizations that were sent things, I remember that when we had an opportunity to go to Cambridge Bay and met with the Council there, the comments that they made was that they received this very large document for them to go through and they were told it was needed back in a week.

They didn't have the opportunity, or they said forget it we don't have the time to be able to do anything and so they didn't do it. But I would like to ask the minister, maybe in light of comments from the DEAs, how many of the DEAs responded and what type of feedback did they receive from those organizations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From the 27 District Education Authorities, there were six community-organized meetings that provided feedback to the department. I will also add that a further five of the DEAs responded having discussed the principles with the teachers, the staff and amongst themselves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am just wondering if the information that you received from those DEAs and organizations, if the minister plans on sharing that information with the Members of this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From these responses we got back from the DEAs I would also add that there were other responses we got, from 23 resources with a long list, which I won't go through today. But to the question, if the department will provide the information that was brought to the department, I will have to check if that was going to be part of the process. If the minister responsible at the time set that up in the schedule and procedure, I would be happy to share that with the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Final supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to go back to my initial question, I don't believe the minister answered it, I don't know if it was just with the other information that was also good to receive. But he indicated that when the revised draft is done up that it will be again sent for consultation to the communities. In light of the lack of input received from the communities and organizations and the members, if especially at the community level, if they are concerned that they just get a document without any explanation or anything.

Will the minister ensure that there are people or resources there that can go through those changes with them, so that people understand the decisions and why some of those changes were made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we forward the recommendations and possible changes to the Education Act, we will make sure that it is clearly stated to all the stakeholders what the intentions are of us forwarding the review are. We will also make sure that we have a clear understanding with the people that we're consulting that if they have any, if they require any clarification to make sure that this will be part of the communication process. There will be no unnecessary delay in the process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

### **Question 005 – 1(5): New Aircraft Required**

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my community we have a plane going into Nattilikmiut area from Yellowknife. First Air travels to Nattilik and people traveling to the hospital often take that airline when a patient is travelling to Yellowknife. If the person is an elder they are often escorted by a child, by their child, their son or their daughter and when the flight is cancelled they often have to return to Yellowknife.

The flight that travels to the Nattilik area sometimes goes back to Yellowknife. We have confirmed in Gjoa Haven, we hear, the Mayor of Gjoa Haven and myself, we often do radio shows to get some information from the public about different concerns, they often talk about using a different airline to bring in patients from Yellowknife or to travel on medical.

I'd like to ask the Minister of Transportation, I don't know if he is responsible for this area but I'd like to know how closely related they are with the airlines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Transportation. Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would like to be able to order them to travel to those communities but we don't really have a say on the routes that the airlines take. But we are presently working on the transportation strategy and to respond to his question, I know that the businesses have become thin in his region.

So we are using the present airline schedules but I expect that there will be changes. I know that Kivalliq Air is the first airline to travel from Rankin Inlet to other communities and with that I know that later on we will probably need to see other airlines traveling through those routes. But once the transportation review has been done we will be dealing with those concerns as they come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, I know that there is a review being done and our constituents will be expecting to see some changes, changes for the betterment for our people.

I understand that there's a review done but when people travel into Yellowknife, I'd like to know when that review might be completed. Are we looking at it being done in a few months.

As a member, Mr. Alakannuark and I have experienced the same problems that our communities have been having, so I would like a response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you. We are completing the review and it will be submitted to the House. We have been approached by different airlines about having input into the review.

As the Department of Transportation there is only so much we can do but we will work with the airlines to make changes for the better.

When members travel, for instance the member from Kugaaruk, if he was to travel home he would have to go through Yellowknife. With Iqaluit being the capital of Nunavut, we are going to have to look at routes going in and out of Iqaluit, and look at how we can better serve people travelling in and out of Yellowknife and other communities.

I know there are concerns regarding health, medical health travel, and as a member I know you could get that information from the patients and relay that information to myself or other ministers that are able to respond.

I know there are concerns with elders; elders have concerns as they end up travelling on medical and then have to stay in Yellowknife a few more days. It's very hard on a person that might not have the money but we will be completing the review this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will be waiting for the review to be done and I would like to thank the minister for responding to my questions and thank him for the work that he is doing to make changes for the better.

I would like, during those reviews, I would like people from our region to be involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Oral Questions. Ms. Williams.

**Question 006 - 1(5): Update on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Committee**

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. My question is, can he update me on how the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit committee is doing, how is it progressing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the member's question, we met the first time in January and set their next meeting for this month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Since they have had the mandate to work on this project for quite some time, I would like to ask the same question to the same minister. Have you made progress to implement Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in the government departments and programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The programs that are being planned for the Nunavut Government and also through out Nunavut offices will be implemented in the Nunavut Government through different departments.

Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit will be implemented in our future but to this date, the exact content of their report is not available. Since they have just started their operations and their meetings, they have not really made any real recommendations so far.

The people in the communities have to be consulted along with the elders and other agencies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently our elders were used by one of the departments. There were two elders who were on CBC and they had two different points of view that they expressed. I would like to ask the present minister when would elder Inuit knowledge be utilized properly, not just by using them for language. Not just to make use of the language but use it as a real working tool that will be taken into effect.

**Speaker:** Mr. Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): In regards to your question, I have no real answer to that question at this time. The elders you mentioned did not come here for my particular



department. I can only say that throughout the Nunavut Government, we will be closer to the communities. Be more responsive and be accountable to the communities. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Supplementary.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the minister answered my question, I'll rephrase it. The government has not implemented any of the elders' recommendations as of yet. They would have to participate fully. Is that what you stated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to her questions, we have no detail as to what type of programs will be used in the Government of Nunavut, but they are mandated to look at some programs that could possibly be used by the government. That is all we have done so far. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

#### **Question 007 - 1(5): Income Support Regulations**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for income support. What kind of income support program is being used. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Is that a question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth or to the Minister of Education. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize, I was not sure exactly what the question was. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Alakannuark could you repeat the question for the minister.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health & Social Services. The social assistance that is provided to the people in the communities, has there been a change to the social assistance policy since we became the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** I believe the appropriate minister once and for all would be the Minister for Education.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question from the member is about the income support review. We still have to review the recommendations before we implement any changes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the minister when those changes to policies or guidelines, in which month and in which year would they be ready to use. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are not really sure when we'll be having the new guidelines ready and we will let the members know as soon as we know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Have you thought about approximately when those rules or guidelines will be dealt with or when do you expect them to be ready. For instance, is it in year 2002 or further on beyond that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I'm not mistaken, I will have to check my department, it should be in a few months. I will let the members know as soon as the guidelines or the policies have been looked at. Perhaps, it will be in a couple of months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

#### **Question 008 - 1(5): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Committee Membership**

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure where to start. It must be because I have not asked a question in a long time. There are a lot of questions that I would like to ask of the ministers.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. Firstly, I just want to him to say welcome to him this afternoon to the House. He mentioned that there's a working group or task force working on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. I just wondered what the membership is comprised of, how many Inuit are there and what's the number of people in that group. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. Mr. Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The members on the committee are from the Nunavut Government and the NSDC and representatives from NTI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on the committee or task force that we are speaking of, what kind of questions would they be asking the Inuit. Are they going to be going through the communities, visiting them, having community tours. Are they going to be interviewing elders, taping them or what. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They will be directing their efforts towards Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit within the government. To see exactly how they can implement Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

Also, the Inuit from the communities that use this Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit will be interviewed and those are the ones that are being targeted with this task force. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Oral question. Mr. Tootoo.

#### **Question 009 - 1(5): Update on Number of NDAP Clients**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nice to get this many chances to ask questions during question period, thanks to my honourable colleagues. My question Mr. Speaker, is for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

During the last session the minister indicated their homeownership program, I believe at that time, had achieved roughly half of what they were targeting for delivery. I believe it was around 21 clients.

I am just wondering if the minister can update us as to how many more clients they were able to assist within that program since then. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Housing. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry that I do not have that figure right now. But I do know that we have helped over 1090 homeowners in Nunavut who have received some form of assistance under our programs over the years.

I am just looking at my information here, I have quite a bit of information. I said that I was confident we would reach our goal of assisting 42 homeowners with this program. When my budget comes and I am doing a report of the last year's budget I will have a better idea but up to that date I had committed that we would be able to assist 42 new homeowners with that program. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I believe the target was 42 and I was just wondering if the minister indicated that she did not have the number of clients that they were able to help as of October. I would like to ask the minister if she would be able to provide us with that information as soon as possible. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Housing. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I said that already, that I would be providing that as soon as possible, the number of homeowners we have assisted with this program. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you Ms. Thompson. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker maybe I could ask for clarification from the minister. I heard two responses. One when the minister indicated that she would provide a report on those numbers during her budget report the first time.

The second time she indicated that she would provide the numbers on that program out of this past year's budget as soon as possible. So I guess I am just looking for confirmation of getting the numbers of the NDAP program from this current year as soon as possible. Hopefully prior to the department coming before Committee of the Whole.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I was saying is that when I do my budget the members will be able to see how many clients we have helped with this program. I guess, as soon as possible means around that time.

But, if the member wants us to provide how many clients we have up to today, we can provide that. But at the same time I'll be repeating myself tomorrow or the next few days before the budget comes or the day my budget comes in. If there is an urgent matter about this program, if the member wants it tomorrow I can provide it. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Time is up but Mr. Tootoo has one final supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister seemed to ask me a question and sure, I'd love to see those numbers tomorrow if possible. That would be great. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** There was no question, it was a comment. Question period is over. Moving on to Item 7. Written Questions. Written Questions. Item 8. Petitions. Item 8. Petitions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

## Item 8: Petitions

### Petition 001 - 1(5): Gjoa Haven Time Zone

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I have a petition in regards to the time zone issue. There are 39 signatures, and I will be directing questions about this to the Minister of Community Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 8. Petitions. Item 9. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Moving on to Item 10. Tabling of Documents. Item 11. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Item 12. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills.

Item 13. Motions. Motions. Item 14. First Reading of Bills. First Reading of Bills. Item 15. Second Reading of Bills. 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.

Orders of the Day for February 22, 2001:

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 in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until February 22.  
Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 4:30 p.m.*

