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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Jack Anawak
(Rankin Inlet North)

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Table of Contents

Opening Prayer	34
Ministers' Statements.....	34
Members' Statements.....	35
Orders of the Day	42

A.

Daily References

Thursday February 22, 2001 34

B.

Ministers' Statements

005 - 1(5): Notice of Tabling 2001-02 Budget (Ng)..... 34

006 - 1(5): Proposal to Hunt Polar Bear by Harpoon (Akesuk) 34

C.

Members' Statements

009 – 1(5): Effects of Kitikmeot Polar Bear Quota Cuts (Puqiqnak) 35

010 – 1(5): Congratulations to Rebekah Williams (Ng)..... 36

011 – 1(5): Encouraging Youth (Alakannuark) 36

012 - 1(5): Coral Harbour Commercial Caribou Harvest (Arvaluk) 36

013 - 1(5): Rescue In Pond Inlet (Nutarak) 37

014 - 1(5): Iqaluit Street Names (Tootoo) 37

015 – 1(5): Responsibility as MLA (Iqaqrialu) 38

016 – 1(5): Commercial Fishing in Amittuq Region (Iqittuq) 39

017 – 1(5): Kitikmeot Regional Games (Havioyak)..... 39

018 – 1(5): Polar Bear Plate Hockey Tournament (Anawak)..... 40

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday February 22, 2001

Members Present

Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Honourable Jack Anawak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Donald Havioyak, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Irgittuq, 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, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Mr. O'Brien): I would like to ask Mr. Havioyak to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Good afternoon Premier, members. Before we start the proceedings today, I just want to give you an advance notice that we will be watching the weather very carefully as it may be necessary to close the session today. We will be advised by the staff in the next short while.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Ng.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 005 - 1(5): Notice of Tabling 2001-02 Budget

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I'd like to inform the Members of the Legislative Assembly that on Tuesday February 27, 2001 that I will table the Government of Nunavut's 2001-2002 fiscal year budget. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 006 - 1(5): Proposal to Hunt Polar Bear by Harpoon

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In recent weeks there has been a great deal of television, newspaper and radio coverage on a proposal to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to hunt a polar bear with a harpoon.

In a letter to the Member from Uqqummiut this week, copied to all other members, I outlined the reasons why I decided that this hunt should not proceed.

(interpretation ends) I would be pleased to meet with any member who wishes to discuss this decision in greater detail.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise this House that on Friday last week, February 16, I met with the President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Mr. Paul Quassa, and the Chairperson of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Ben Kovic.

We met to discuss the events of the last month, and to discuss how our organizations can work more closely together on these important issues. This was a positive and productive meeting, with a focus on the future.

As members know, NTI, NWMB and our government are currently working on the consultation process for a new Nunavut Wildlife Act. It is within these consultations that we hope the very important issue of harvesting methods is discussed and debated by Nunavummiut and that the resulting legislation reflects the experience, wisdom and practicality of our hunters.

(interpretation) Later in this session, I will be making a statement on our approach to consultations on the Wildlife Act, and the proposed schedule.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker I appreciate the very practical and positive approach that the President of NTI and the Chairman of NWMB brought to our meeting last week and I assure members that this will be the approach we take as we sort through the challenging process of building the made in Nunavut Wildlife Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Ministers' Statements. Moving on to Item 3. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 009 – 1(5): Effects of Kitikmeot Polar Bear Quota Cuts

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A recent survey of Kitikmeot polar bears said the number of bears has declined and therefore the Department of Sustainable Development has told the people of the Kitikmeot that the quota should be cut from 32 to eight polar bears for the region.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, our quota has been cut. This year, 2001, when the quota has been used up there will be no more hunting due to this new quota. Mr. Speaker, this cut will greatly affect many Kitikmeot hunters that use polar bear hunting for traditional sports hunts by dog team.

The cut will adversely affect the income that was generated through this activity. The people that like to eat polar bear meat will miss that facet of their life and the new quota will affect the people that sell the skins. In the near future, we would like this quota issue to be resolved. I will be directing questions on this issue to the Minister of Sustainable Development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Mr. Ng.

Member's Statement 010 – 1(5): Congratulations to Rebekah Williams

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of all my constituents I would like to congratulate Rebekah Williams on her election victory, welcome her to this Assembly and state that I look forward to working with her along with all my other colleagues as we move forward in representing both our constituencies and Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 011 – 1(5): Encouraging Youth

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today with all the MLAs here today and all the ministers that are present here in the year 2001. I hope that this year that we can work closely together. At times we will have difficult decisions to make but at this time, I would like to thank everyone for being here.

I would also like to mention that there are more young people here in Nunavut than at any other time and I want them to look forward to the future and be aware that they have to live a very difficult life because of the changes in their lifestyle. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

Member's Statement 012 - 1(5): Coral Harbour Commercial Caribou Harvest

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just came back from Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet. The people of Coral Harbour are busy with the commercial caribou hunt and in the middle of February they harvested enough caribou to prove that this year's hunt will be successful. They have harvested over 1 thousand caribou so far.

The amount that they could sell is set by weight but I believe they will be able to successfully catch enough caribou to last the year. They have a quota of 6 thousand

caribou on Southampton Island but with only one buyer, there will be a surplus. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Mr. Nutarak.

>>*Applause*

Member's Statement 013 - 1(5): Rescue In Pond Inlet

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I want to speak about some members of my community of Pond Inlet. At the end of August there was a boat trip to Mount Deer. On their way back at the end of the day, it became stormy and their motor broke down.

A rescue team had to be dispatched and a search was started. Luckily, teacher Jane Thomas brought a camera with her. She was able to use her flash to have the rescue team locate them. They were found and rescued at that time.

They are doing well today. The members of the boat trip were Louise Smith a nurse, Jane Thomas, Nancy Hovica, a teacher and Grant McDonald, an RCMP officer. These were the members of the trip. I would just like to say that I am very happy they were returned to the community safely. Thank you.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 014 - 1(5): Iqaluit Street Names

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I want to start off today by just mentioning that I was talking to my constituents and they said you guys in here are always serious and never smile. So I'll start off with a smile for everybody just to show we are not always that serious.

Mr. Speaker I rise today to draw the attention of the House to an exciting initiative by the Municipality of Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, when we convene in Iqaluit for the fall session later this year, members from outside of the capital may notice it'll become a little easier to find your way around town. Thanks to the hard work of the Town's administration, and in particular of the Iqaluit Fire Chief, Mr. Wheaton, the naming of the Iqaluit street signs is in the works.

Mr. Speaker, while I must advise members that I am not sure if we will ever have a Picco Place, or a McLean Lane, or a Kilabuk Corner in this community.

>>*Laughter*

The development of street names and signage will provide a number of benefits to all residents. It's expected the response time for emergency services will improve and this is

an important public safety issue. It will also help to support the development of 911 services. The pride of residents in their community will grow as people are being asked to provide suggested names over the next few months.

One excellent idea I have heard is to make at least one street name for every community in Nunavut in keeping with the spirit of Iqaluit being the capital for all of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, our town plans to introduce signs in more than one language. The use of Inuktitut on street signs will be a good step in serving to promote the use of language in the community.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it will be good for the Arctic Winter Games next year to welcome athletes from elsewhere in Canada and abroad to a Capital City in which they will be able to find their way around without too much difficulty. We want Team Nunavut to beat the competition in a fair match, not through default because the other team got lost on the way to the event.

I ask members of this House to join me in applauding this initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Member's Statement 015 – 1(5): Responsibility as MLA

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the people of Nunavut and of the creation of Nunavut. What I am about to say is very important to me and it happened on the morning of February 15, 1999, at 10.15 a.m.

This was election day. After the election, I was given the task by Nunavummiut to protect their own land here in Nunavut and to handle its affairs. To me this means to protect our wildlife while looking after the land, running our own lives, using our language to run our own affairs.

This happened so that people outside of Nunavut would not run our affairs. Mr. Speaker, to elaborate on this, if we are going to work with people from outside of Nunavut, they should listen to what we tell them to do and respect our culture and not to try and run us. Mr. Speaker, we are Nunavummiut, with our own land and our own government and we are going to keep our culture alive and promote it.

Mr. Speaker, these issues are very important to me and I wanted to express my feelings on this. The day I am talking about was a very important day to me and I respect my land. When I look out on the land I am able to say that this is my land and we will have to try and live our lives as best we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member's Statements. Mr. Irqittuq.

Member's Statement 016 – 1(5): Commercial Fishing in Amittuq Region

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have also been told that when our sessions are being televised, the members always have long faces.

>>*Laughter*

I would like to welcome Rebekah Williams into the House. Today I would like to talk about the Amittuq riding and the communities of Igloolik and Hall Beach. I would like to talk about our economy as it relates to the harvesting of resources. There is a lot of wildlife in my constituency and I know hunters have a hard time selling products that result from hunting and fishing.

I will use selling Arctic Char as an example. There is about an 80 thousand pound quota of fish for us in our area. But when our hunters go fishing they can't sell the amounts that they used to.

I think we are going to have to look for ways to benefit our people in this area. During question period I will be raising this issue with the Minister responsible for Sustainable Development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Just as a note of interest, I have also been told that I don't smile enough. But if the members had to sit in this chair for two or three hours you would know that your chairs seem much more luxurious than this one.

>>*Laughter*

Next on our list we have Mr. Havioyak.

Member's Statement 017 – 1(5): Kitikmeot Regional Games

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about our youth...(interpretation ends)...who took part in our regional games over the weekend of February 2 to 4. Teams entered badminton, minor hockey and boys' basketball events. With the hard work and training of their coaches and the team players, our team pulled off a huge success and the winning goal for Kugluktuk.

The badminton team won gold in the 10 category, in basketball the Wolves won the gold, in minor hockey bronze. In minor hockey there were eleven players and two coaches. Badminton had six players and the coach and basketball there were eight players and one coach.

Mr. Speaker, with the youth participating in sports and having fun, they have done Kugluktuk proud. Congratulations to the teams and coaches who have worked very hard. Thank you very much to Kugluktukmiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 018 – 1(5): Polar Bear Plate Hockey Tournament

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This weekend I had the pleasure of being in Rankin Inlet to see the Polar Bear Plate. This invitational tournament has been held in Rankin since 1999. This tournament displays the talents of our midget aged hockey players. Mr. Speaker, there was some very fine hockey played at this tournament.

I would like to congratulate all the teams, players, coaches, officials and organizers who made this tournament possible. I would especially like to recognize the work and great players on my riding's team, Rankin Inlet.

I'd like to recognize the achievements of some promising young Rankin Inlet hockey players. As everyone who has been reading the paper knows, Jordin and Terrance Tootoo have been turning heads in the Canadian Junior Hockey Leagues in the south. Jordin and Terrance will also be featured this Saturday on Hockey Day in Canada. Terrance is once again the captain and one of the leading scorers on the OCN Blizzards of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League. Terrance has been offered a chance to play at the University of Alaska in Anchorage next year under a full hockey scholarship.

Jordin Tootoo is currently starring for the Brandon Wheat Kings of the Western Hockey League and is currently ranked by central scouting to be selected in the second round of the 2001 NHL draft. Since Christmas, Jordin has been Brandon's leading scorer and has continued to keep his opponents honest with his huge body checks and physical game. Jordin participated in the Prospects Game this year in Calgary, which showcased the very best Canadian junior players in Western Canada. In the skills competition, Jordin registered the hardest slap shot at 96 mph and the fastest time in the 150-yard sprint. Last summer, Jordin was selected captain for Team Western in the World Under 17 Hockey Challenge in which they finished first and Jordin led the team in scoring.

The Canadian Hockey Hall of Fame obtained his jersey after the series for induction to the Hall. In January 2001, Jordin was selected as the Keg player of the month for the Brandon Wheat Kings, which awards the most valuable player of the month on that team. Not bad accomplishments for a young Inuk youth from Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, if I could have consent to finish my statement.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you. In addition to the Tootoo boys, Rankin Inlet has also sent Kyle Tattuine south to attend school and play Junior B hockey with Norway House, Manitoba and Dustin McDonald is being courted by the Red Deer Rebels of the Western Hockey League. Pujoot Kusugak is currently the captain of the Carleton Place Kings in the Ontario provincial junior A hockey league, who are currently in first place.

The athletic success of all these athletes speaks to the support and guidance of their family and friends. But it also speaks to the incredible job that the coaches, officials and volunteers do in organizing minor hockey in Rankin Inlet and providing an environment where the development of hockey skills are nurtured in conjunction with teamwork, cooperation and academic success.

The challenges that the volunteers involved with Rankin Inlet Minor Hockey face are similar to most Nunavut organizations; lack of volunteers, lack of competition, limited numbers of coaches and officials, cost and most of all the limited length of the hockey season operating in a facility that uses natural ice. Virtually all arenas in southern Canada have the capacity to produce artificial ice in order to extend the playing season to a more practical and productive amount of time. Hockey seasons for most organizations utilizing artificial ice normally commence in September and end in April.

Today, in Nunavut communities that lie geographically south of the Arctic Circle, the global warming trend has dramatically reduced the hockey season in the facilities that utilize natural ice. In most communities now, it is impossible to install natural ice before the end of November and the spring weather plays havoc with ice conditions as early as the beginning of April.

Mr. Speaker, as MLA for Rankin Inlet North, I ask all my colleagues to support this government in developing a policy that makes the use of our recreational facilities a year-round possibility and not just a building with limited uses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. I regret to inform the members that we will be closing the House. We have contacted the RCMP and the weather is not getting any better. I know the members were in full agreement to stay but we have to be considerate of the staff, some of whom live out of town and their families and children and so on. So we will be closing the House.

Just before we do that I have two points. I would like to recognize two individuals in the Gallery, Mr. Carmen Loberg and Mr. Cameron Clement from Norterra.

>>Applause

On a sadder note for my second point, I would like to send my condolences to the family of Mr. Ted Thompson. Mr. Thompson passed away earlier this week suddenly, and I am sure I say this for all the members that our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Meeting of full caucus today is cancelled.

Orders of the Day for Friday February 23, 2001:

1. Opening 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. The House will close for the day and resume tomorrow at 10 a.m. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House Adjourned at 2.02 p.m.*

