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Cambridge Bay

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

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(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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**Cambridge Bay, Nunavut
Thursday May 24, 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, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Jobie Nutarak (10.00 p.m.), Mr. Glenn McLean, Honourable Kevin O'Brien, Honourable Paul Okalik, Honourable Ed Picco, Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, Honourable Manito Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Premier.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 079 – 1(5): Government of Nunavut Unveils Inuit Values CD/Poster Project

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the House today of an exciting new initiative being undertaken within the Government of Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Today Education Minister Peter Kilabuk and Health and Social Services Minister Ed Picco will unveil a series of posters that have been developed through the co-operative work of their two departments.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend two very special individuals for their hard work and dedication with this project. Caroline Anawak and Margaret Joyce have spent the last several years identifying these values and using them as the cornerstone for their work in suicide prevention.

(interpretation) The posters, designed by Arviat elder Donald Uluadluak, visually represent values that have been the cornerstone of Inuit culture for generations.

By working collaboratively, the Departments of Education and Health and Social Services have created a concrete example of how Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is being developed and used across government departments in the development of new programs and policies.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education has produced CDs that will be sent to Nunavut schools. Schoolteachers will be able to use the information, including the drawings, stories, PowerPoint presentation and screen savers within their classrooms.

(interpretation) The Department of Health and Social Services will distribute copies of the posters to Nunavut health centres, as well as use them to promote healthy lifestyles and suicide prevention.

These are two significant initiatives, Mr. Speaker, and the value of the content of this work cannot be underestimated as we, as a government, endeavour to improve the lives of Nunavummiut. The government is committed to creating the circumstances to allow Nunavummiut to take full advantage of their potential.

(interpretation) Now, Mr. Speaker, Minister Kilabuk and Minister Picco will publicly unveil a selection of these wonderful Inuit Values posters, which will be displayed in this room for the duration of the session. Koanaqutit, Merci beaucoup, Monsieur President. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 080 – 1(5): Phase II Decentralization Announcement

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to make up for all the time that I spent elsewhere, so I am trying to make as many statements today as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce phase II of the decentralization plan. This year we will be decentralizing three departments and Nunavut Arctic College Headquarters to four communities:

- The Baffin Regional Office for the Department of Health and Social Services will relocate to Pangnirtung. This move will consist of 25 positions;
- (interpretation) The Department of Public Works and Services will complete its decentralization commenced last year by transferring the remaining 6 positions in their Baffin Regional Office to Pond Inlet;
- The Department of Finance and Administration will set up their Baffin Regional Office in Igloolik with 17 positions being decentralized; and
- (interpretation ends) Nunavut Arctic College will decentralize 13 headquarters positions to Arviat.

Mr Speaker, there are, consequently, a number of our staff affected by this decision and I would like to assure the Members of this Assembly that all affected employees will be treated fairly and with respect. (interpretation) Similar to the process used in Phase I, there will be three options for employees to consider; relocation to the community, to accept another position within the Government or finally, resignation.

The implementation of the first year of decentralization has been a success. The communities, the departments and staff have made decentralization a reality. Currently of the 72 positions that were relocated, 40 positions are now filled, and we are continuing to staff the remaining positions.

(interpretation ends) The support from this Assembly has been tremendous and I encourage that to continue. It will take all of us to ensure that this year and next, our final year of decentralization, is equally successful and completed in a timely and effective manner. Ma'na, Uqaqti.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 081 – 1(5): Status of Territorial Parks Inuit Impact & Benefits Agreements

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Koanaqutit, Uqaqti. Mr. Speaker, I would like to update the House on the status of our negotiations with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the three Regional Inuit Associations toward an Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement for Territorial Parks in Nunavut.

As you know, in 1993, when the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement was signed, special provisions were included for Parks in Nunavut. The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement recognized the importance to Inuit of both National and Territorial parks, and the importance of ensuring that the benefits of park development must positively impact Inuit.

Last year, my department began discussions with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the three Regional Inuit Associations toward the development of a “made-in-Nunavut” IIBA. This IIBA will address the opportunities parks can provide in our communities and for Nunavummiut. It will also include training programs, a stronger link between our parks and visitor centres, and assisting our Inuit tourism operators in accessing necessary funds to help build and operate their guiding, outfitting, or other tourism operations.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, Premier Okalik and President Quassa met to reaffirm our commitment toward the IIBA process, and to a timely completion to the negotiations. They have agreed that if substantive progress is not achieved toward an IIBA by June 1, a facilitator will be appointed to advance the discussions to completion.

Following the completion of the IIBA, we will begin the equally important work of developing our park system in partnership with NTI, regions, and communities in Nunavut. Some of these projects are already in development. For example, in the Kitikmeot, we have a number of projects planned for this summer:

We will continue to work with Kugluktuk towards nomination of the Coppermine River as a Canadian Heritage River to identify the cultural, natural and recreational values residents of Kugluktuk place on the River. We will also be continuing the development of Kukluk Park in Kugluktuk.

We will be revisiting the plans developed several years ago for Ovajuq Park which is becoming world renowned for its bird watching opportunities, and we will be updating the Arctic Coast Visitor Centre here in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, last year my predecessor Minister Kilabuk, committed to undertaking attraction development projects for non-decentralized communities – projects which I also support. This summer we will be working with the communities of Kugaaruk, Hall Beach, and Coral Harbour to identify and develop community attractions that will help promote those communities to our visitors.

We will also be working with Gjoa Haven to prepare for the centennial celebrations of Amundsen's successful journey through the Northwest Passage. This story is of global interest, and we will be working with Amundsen's home community in Norway to plan a celebration.

Mr. Speaker, we are entering an exciting time in Parks. The completion of the IIBA will mark the start of the development of a new made-in-Nunavut Territorial Parks Program, and allow us to focus our attention on building that program. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. Ministers' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Minister's Statement 082 – 1(5): Granular Materials Transfer

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Qujannamiik, Uqaqti. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues may be aware, the Department of Public Works and Services has administered a Granular Materials Revolving Fund program. This program was established under the Government of the Northwest Territories in 1991 and involved nine Nunavut communities. Over the past five years, the program has primarily assisted with the management of granular stockpiles in those nine communities.

Mr. Speaker, future direction has evolved such that the Department of Public Works and Services will no longer administer this program. As a result, I am pleased to inform you that my department is in a position to transfer the stockpiles of granular material that currently exist in the communities of Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, Repulse Bay, Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove, Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet, Kimmirut and Clyde River.

Officials from my department have been in contact with each of these communities to initiate the transfer of the existing stockpiles to them. So far, the response received from communities has been favourable.

It is my hope that the communities will accept these transfers so that the existing materials will assist them and their residents with their future granular needs. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Thompson. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 083 – 1(5): Art for the Government of Nunavut Buildings

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to invite the members of this House to attend the opening tomorrow of the display of art at the new Government of Nunavut building here in Cambridge Bay.

Last year, the Department of Sustainable Development initiated a program to purchase the work of local artists for display in every Government of Nunavut building in Nunavut. The program has been very successful, involving more than fifty individual artists.

(interpretation ends) In the lobby of the new government building here in Cambridge Bay, members will see on display the beautiful creations of local artists, which have been selected for purchase by a committee made up of community residents.

I think all members will agree that their choices will provide in this new building a strong link between the community and the Territorial Government, as well as promote the recognition of our artists and the important role they play in the Nunavut economy.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all members will be able to join me at 7 p.m. this evening in the lobby of the new Government of Nunavut building, to recognize the talent and creativity of the artists of Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 210 – 1(5): Executive Masters Program Graduates – Helen Klengenberg & Beatrice Bernhart

Mr. Havioyak: Koanaqtit, Uqaqti. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two former residents of Kugluktuk for their recent success in graduating from the Executive Masters of Business Administration Program.

The EMBA program was a joint partnership offered through St. Mary's University in Halifax and Nunavut Arctic College. The EMBA program began in 1998 with an initial enrolment of 18 students. In October of 2000, Helen Klengenberg graduated from the program followed by Beatrice Bernhart earlier this month.

Helen is now a resident of Rankin Inlet and Beatrice is a resident of Cambridge Bay. Mr. Speaker, programs like this provide a type of educational opportunity that will help our territory's residents gain the skills necessary to build our future. People like Beatrice and Helen are role models for our youth.

I ask all the members to join me and my colleagues from Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet South/Whale Cove in congratulating Helen and Beatrice on their great success. Koanaqtit, Uqaqti.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Member's Statement 211 – 1(5): Suicide Prevention Awareness Week

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a statement about suicide and suicide prevention.

It is something that is a priority within our government. There are quite a large number of completed suicides and there have been two in my community and one was just recent. With those types of incidents, it is very hard on the community and on the residents.

To try to deal with this issue, a number of youth in my community are going to be taken out on the land approximately 20 miles away from the community and I think there are going to be approximately 40 youth that are going to be sent out on the land. The youth will be walking from that point to the community. One of the goals is to give the youth an opportunity to think about and realize what life is about.

It is something that I am very proud of as a resident of Clyde River and I am very proud of all these youth. They are all teenagers who will be walking and overnighing on the trail on their trek back to our community. They will be sleeping over night out on the tundra and they are walking to make the youth realize that suicide is a problem and that youth have the ability to overcome these problems and to realize what they can do with their lives.

This was announced on the radio this morning and again in the afternoon. It is something that I am very proud of. We know that the two communities in my constituency, Broughton Island and Clyde River are co-operating more and more so that the residents of these two communities will have a better lifestyle.

There is a close connection and co-operation amongst the youth in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 212 – 1(5): Public Service Agreement with GN

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to first start off by thanking Stewart Komak for the fine gift of artwork that he prepared for me, it is very beautiful, I had an opportunity look at it. I hope to meet the young man and thank him personally.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to rise today with my colleagues in Cambridge Bay in this House. I had hoped to be arriving here on Tuesday, but the Cambridge Bay wind saw fit to provide me and my colleague across the floor from Iqaluit West a spontaneous visit to Kugluktuk where the local staff from Culture, Language, Elders & Youth and DSD were very helpful and also very pleased to receive the Tim Horton's donuts that I had planned to bring here. Also we spent an unplanned night in Yellowknife where I fortunately was able to replenish my supply of Tim Horton's donuts to bring here.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut reacted with relief to the news this week that our territory will not be facing the possibility of a general strike in the public service.

As we have witnessed over the past few weeks in Iqaluit with the worsening municipal labour situation, the costs to communities and families of such a widespread disruption in public services would have been most serious in our communities. I believe it is also important to note that in a jurisdiction with a high cost of living and the high cost of housing it makes families survive from pay cheque to pay cheque.

A strike is something that many working people simply cannot afford to endure, regardless of their views on the merits of the agreement. Mr. Speaker, we need to think of ways to help us avoid the re-occurrence of costly and protracted disputes. We need to think of ways to ensure that if the give and take of the bargaining process does not achieve consensus, then there are alternatives to deadlock and confrontation.

Mr. Speaker, the Public Service Act that we inherited from the Government of the Northwest Territories was amended in the 1990's by a former government to remove the possibility of arbitration. We hear and speak a lot about the need to make all legislation more consistent with our values in Nunavut. Some of the legislation that has been introduced to date reflects this very well.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that having arbitration as an option is something that the government should seriously consider reinstating into the legislation as it reviews its

Public Service Act. Such an option would be much more consistent with our preference for consensus over confrontation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Member's Statement 213 – 1(5): Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would prefer to be out on the land but I am very happy to be here. I was out of town for the past few days in Kugaaruk with my colleague Mr. Alakannuark.

We got stuck due to the weather conditions here in Cambridge Bay. But I am very pleased that while we were in Kugaaruk that we were able to do some touring and some fishing in Tasiqjuak. We had a very good tour of Taloyoak, Uqsuqtuq, Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk.

We met the people and I met people from Repulse Bay that I used to live with. My younger brother Josepee was there also and I was very pleased to meet those individuals. I would also like to thank the Minister of Education and Health & Social Services for unveiling the posters.

Suicide is one of the priorities of the Nunavut Government and my wife Caroline works very hard on the issue of suicide and suicide prevention. The member from Uqqumiut also mentioned that he was very pleased that the youth are going to be trekking from out on the land to their community.

As a government, listening to the Minister of Social Services, it is something that we are going to have to work on. It is not something that is going to go away by itself. We have to work with the people and have a closer working relationship with them and with the youth.

I know there are a lot of youth out there who have a very hard lifestyle and there has been a change in their culture. Our lifestyle today is very different from before and we have to work harder on behalf of our youth. As community residents, we have to look for ways to do better. We can work through the government but the government itself cannot stop suicide. It is up to the people and the community residents to work together to combat suicide.

I am urging the people out there to work harder on issues that are youth related. We have to understand the youth and what their problems are and what they would like to do. We have to be more receptive to the youth and work harder so that there will be less suicide in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Ms. Williams.

Member's Statement 214 – 1(5): Mining in Nunavut and the Closure of Polaris Mine

Ms. Williams: Qujannamiik, Uqaqti. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to those who have been speaking in this House about mining in Nunavut. I have appreciated listening to the comments of my colleagues from Kivalliq and Kitikmeot.

I have sensed clearly the enthusiasm about the economic development potential for their constituents and communities. Mr. Speaker, as members know the Polaris mine in my constituency in the high arctic will be closing in the near future.

Recently I had the opportunity to participate in a meeting on this issue with stakeholders from the Government of Nunavut, the Federal Government and Cominco Mines. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister of Sustainable Development for his efforts in working towards a GN position that will ensure the process of closing down the mine and cleaning up the site is done in a manner that puts the needs of community residents first.

I recognize the complexity of the challenge ahead and I look forward to helping as the Nunavut Government defines our place in the puzzle. As stakeholders, we have serious responsibilities in this matter and the government must take a leadership role in ensuring these responsibilities are met.

Mr. Speaker, a wise person once remarked that we are only borrowing the land from our children. I believe that if communities have confidence, that mining development will take place in an environmentally responsible fashion and in a manner that recognizes a response to the fact that sudden growth can bring with it a number of social problems.

Then communities will be in a better position to fully embrace such development and to participate as equal partners. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Member's Statement 215 – 1(5): Housing Shortage and Overcrowding

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was sitting at the other end yesterday but I appreciate being moved back here to my proper place.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday I went to the community of Taloyoak and we didn't quite make it to the celebrations that were occurring there. Even though that's the case and the fishing

derby didn't go as expected, there were some people that made it back home eventually and there were no problems.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the issue of housing in Gjoa Haven and in Nunavut as a whole. I will be making some comments through this member's statement. As members of the House know there is a severe shortage of public housing units in all of our communities.

We have all heard from our constituents through the radio. Mr. Speaker, I recently received a copy of a proposal from the Gjoa Haven Development Corporation to lease units to the government for use as public housing. This is an example of innovative thinking on the housing issue.

The suggestion that the government should lease units to provide housing to families in need is a good one. Unfortunately Mr. Speaker, I understand that the government cannot commit to this proposal due to a lack of funds. Mr. Speaker, obviously this is disappointing news. It is too bad that the government can't set aside some funds for this proposal.

Mr. Speaker, we all realize that funds are not unlimited, however housing is one of the core priorities of the Bathurst Mandate and we must do everything possible to reduce the housing shortage in the Nunavut communities and in our constituencies.

Mr. Speaker, I will be posing questions during question period to the appropriate minister on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 216 – 1(5): Training Programs and Future Mine Operations

Mr. McLean: Koana, Uqaqti. Uqaqti, first I would like to say that I am glad everybody in Qamanittuaq is back home and safe. We also had a fishing derby in Qamanittuaq and we had a flash thaw and a lot of fisherpersons got caught out on the land and stranded.

At this time, I would like to commend Shawn Maley, the Director of Community Government & Transportation, for his quick action on sending out Search & Rescue personnel to help locate these people.

Uqaqti, as you know the Kivalliq is virtually aglow with rich mineral resources and precious metal deposits. Currently exploration companies and Inuit prospectors are picking through the rocks and digging into the ground in search of copper and zinc, gold and even the odd diamond.

As each exploration season passes there is a greater probability that a mine will be opening in this region. With the pending sale of the Meliadine West gold project, it is expected that the move toward the construction of a producing mine will be revived.

Mr. Speaker, with figures like 6.25 million being earned by Nunavummiut from the development of the Meliadine area over the past five years and over 40 million being spent on mineral exploration in Nunavut last year, it is clear that we must step up our efforts to keep as much of this money as possible in Nunavut.

We need to be ready with a skilled labour force that is prepared to take on the job opportunities that mining brings. Like the little Boy Scouts say, let's be prepared. While attending various mining conferences like the Nunavut Mining Symposium, which was held in the Kivalliq in November of last year, I came away with two distinct impressions.

One was that Nunavut was rich in resources and the other was that we are poor when it comes to skills that the mining industry is seeking. The latter, Mr. Speaker, we as a government must address. Training programs like those undertaken by the Kitikmeot Employment and Training Partnership, need to be implemented in the Kivalliq as soon as possible.

Partnership programs need to be forged with the mining industry for on the job training where salary costs can be shared. The Government of Nunavut must do all it can to help Nunavummiut to obtain the training and experience necessary to participate in and take full advantage of the opportunities coming out of this recent surge in exploration.

I might add that the Kivalliq Partners in Development has in its hands over 4 million dollars that they seem to lapse every year. Community based training is the answer. Train people in the community and at the same time build infrastructure and maybe some day Mr. Speaker, they will see the gold. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Members' Statements. Mr. Irqittuq.

Member's Statement 217 – 1(5): Suicide Rate High in Nunavut

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will watch the time allowed for my statement.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about an issue I raised on earlier occasions. This is an item that all members are concerned about, suicide prevention and suicide.

I think in 1980 we began to see more suicides in our community and presently I think all the members here today and the visitors, there are so many more that have passed due to suicide. In the 1980's, I believe that a lot of people committed suicide that would probably have been my age today.

When I speak about this it really hurts me because I have lost three family members to suicide and I know that we all go through hard times and because I have gone through it I like to promote suicide prevention. Mr. Speaker, it doesn't matter when your friend or family member passed on, even after many years you hurt and it is something that we often think about and ask ourselves why the individual or the person committed suicide.

Do we realize that when our parents disciplined us as children that when they talked to us that...

...Mr. Speaker, I would like 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. Please proceed.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. We are all aware that as children, even when we were young adults, when our parents disciplined us or yelled at us or hurt us emotionally, there are a lot of things that we will not forget.

There is a lot of pain that we carry from when we were young and if we were mistreated as young people, there are some things that we won't forget. As long as you don't talk to that person who hurt you, and as long as you don't take it out and discuss it with that individual you will always carry that pain with you.

Parents, when they are bringing up their children, I think sometimes parents don't realize that they hurt their children. Sometimes when we yell at our children we tend to forget that we yelled at them and don't think about it again but the child won't forget. So it is just very hurtful emotionally when you are young.

I make this statement because this is the way it is when you are young, if somebody mistreated you it stays with you. For example, the people that went to Chesterfield Inlet to attend the residential school are still hurting. We just need to recognize this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 218 – 1(5): Search & Rescue Committee Volunteers

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, all of us know the search and rescue members in our communities. I wanted to speak briefly about some recent experiences with the local search and rescue committee.

Over the past three weeks, as the members know, there have been two search and rescues. Approximately two and a half weeks ago two young cousins were lost in one of the worst

May storms ever in this community and unfortunately, there was a tragic ending to that particular search and rescue.

It has to be noted I think that there were six search and rescue members out that afternoon in very severe weather conditions. In fact the blizzard was still going on, as they recognized the significance of trying to find the individuals in a timely fashion.

This past weekend as members know, there was another search and that was successful in that they found the individual and brought him back to the community. Mr. Speaker, many times search and rescue members are called out on very short notice, sometimes in the middle of the night to travel in very adverse weather conditions at times.

As I indicated, although a majority of the time there is a happy outcome, in some instances there are tragic results that they have to deal with. I think they all should be commended for their service and their dedication in providing this valuable service to the community.

It is a comfort to many of us that travel out on the land knowing that if things were to go wrong that the capable and dedicated search and rescue volunteers would be there to come looking for you.

So Mr. Speaker, I would like all members to join me in recognizing and thanking all the search and rescue volunteers across Nunavut for their commitment and their tireless efforts to protect our citizens. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 219 – 1(5): Tursarvik School Breakfast Program Funding

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to be back in the House, I was in my community and was not able to come back on Tuesday. I am glad to be sitting here with the members again.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about how happy I am that students at Tursarvik School in Repulse Bay have the opportunity to get a healthy start to each and every school day. Teacher Carmy McLean of Repulse Bay submitted a proposal for a breakfast program to Brighter Futures and I am happy to say that it was accepted.

This program will create employment for one person that will prepare breakfasts that include a variety of hot and cold cereals, fruit, juice, toast or fruit bars. This program will run from Monday to Friday and will serve an average of 50 – 80 students every morning.

Mr. Speaker, this program will ensure that students start off with a healthy breakfast that will help them learn better. Ms. McLean is a teacher and Vice-Principal at Tursarvik School. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 220 – 1(5): Cambridge Bay Session

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this historic sitting here in Cambridge Bay has contained many firsts. Tonight the Assembly will sit from 10 until 2 to celebrate the rising of our spring sun.

Mr. Speaker, this is also unique and it is something that is Nunavut specific. The opportunity to come and sit in Cambridge Bay has had its critics. Mr. Speaker, most of this criticism is around the costs. But Mr. Speaker, the intangible costs of meeting in Cambridge Bay, of members and ministers and our own Iqaluit based staff to be able to travel to see other parts of Nunavut and to meet, to interact with the youth, the elders and Mr. Speaker, the leaders is priceless.

To be able to represent the Assembly of Nunavut and demonstrate Mr. Speaker, that almost one third of the geographic size of our country of Canada is not centred on one physical place but it could be in the Keewatin, the Baffin, or indeed Mr. Speaker, here in Cambridge Bay. That's priceless.

Like many of the staff and members here who have been away from home since the first week of May and won't be home for at least another week, it can be difficult to be away from your family, children and spouses at a time like this.

Mr. Speaker, I too had reservations about the logistic and financial costs of this sitting. But the hospitality and the warmth of the people of Cambridge Bay and the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, the opportunity to live in another place in Nunavut and see a different perspective of our territory is worth the time and effort to be here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Moving on to Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Havioyak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize this person, perhaps you will see this individual every day now

that she has arrived, I want to recognize our Sergeant-At-Arms, Martina Anavilok. Thank you for arriving safely.

Today she has the opportunity to be with her older sister. I want to recognize Mary Ilisuak. As adults we learn every day and I want to recognize Beatrice Bernhart. I want the young people to see her accomplishments and it is good to see her success.

I also want to recognize Ruth Wilcox, Beatrice's younger sister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If members will indulge me again. I have some constituents that I would like to recognize. Mrs. Kuptana, originally from Umingmaktok. Jimmy and Ruby Haniliak are with us here again.

Ruth Niptanatiak Wilcox and her sister Beatrice Bernhart who Mr. Haviyok has recognized already. James Eetoolook the first Vice-President of NTI. Charlie Evalik the President of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association. Clare Basler, Mary Avalak who was our Sergeant-At-Arms last week. Joanne Apsimik, her daughter and Atima Hadlari.

George Ilisiwitch with the Department of Education here in Cambridge Bay as well. I would like to recognize, although he doesn't claim to be a constituent, Charlie Lyall. Charlie as many people know is always talking about not liking coming to Cambridge Bay but he seems to spend an awful lot of time here.

I would like to say for some of us who were on the flight coming back from BHP on Monday, as you know there was a bit of inclement weather and we had kind of a tough landing. It was hard to see but it is the first time ever I have seen Charlie Lyall clap on getting to Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter, applause*

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought Charlie Lyall was always here, so I would like to recognize him. I would also like to recognize some people from Taloyoak as the member for Nattilik. From the school in Taloyoak I would like to introduce the pages from my constituency.

They are Chuck Bissell Lyall, Meagan Bissell Lyall, Jacob Jayko, Sheila Tularialiq and Aaron Qayutinuaq. They are from Taloyoak, welcome to the House.

>> *Applause*

Welcome and I'd also like to recognize from Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven, who is my CA from Taloyoak and is also here, May Porter, welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if I represent this individual who is from Rankin, I'd like to recognize Jackie Nakoolak and John Hicks from my constituency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, I'd like to recognize the Nunavut Development Corporation members, who have been working very hard in their position to promote marketing of arts and crafts from Nunavut.

Behind me, Jackie Nakoolak is the chairperson and the president is John Hicks. Jackie King, Wilf Wilcox, Kolola Pitseolak, Peter Keenainak, Jacopie Maniapik, these are individuals who are working hard in Nunavut to develop business. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For me it's ladies first. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank an individual who has been very friendly and a friendly host indeed, she's fed us well at their cabin during our day trip. I'd like to thank her and her family for the hospitality and the snowmobiles and food we had. I want to recognize, as I said ladies first, Ruth Wilcox.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank and recognize Mr. John Hicks. Also the other half of Madam Ruth Wilcox, Wilf Wilcox.

>>Applause

And a constituent of mine Jacopie Maniapik.

>>Applause

And also the rest of the board from NDC. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to welcome some people today to the gallery. First of all I'd like to welcome Peter Keenainak who has been with QC for a long time, and involved in the fisheries. A couple of years ago, I drew his name on a ticket and Peter won a new truck, I'd like to congratulate him now because I didn't congratulate him then because I wanted the truck.

Also with us today in the gallery is a guy who has been in the north a long time, I don't know how many years this man's been in the north, he was with us for a long time, he moved to PEI and he's moved back recently. He's with the Labour Standards Board. I think it was about twelve years ago I had an opportunity to work the picket line with this gentleman with the late Roger Cousins and Mr. Cousins taught many of us here in this room and is well known. I remember that really well. Mr. Richard Gillis with the Labour Standards Board.

I would also like to welcome to the gallery, Mr. Speaker, another person who has been around the north a long time, professor, educator, and innovator, a person well known for his skills, Mr. Ian Rose, Professor Ian Rose of the Department of Education.

I would like to welcome two other people. One is the chair of the local health committee here, as Mr. Kilabuk said, she's a great cook but she's also a great conversationalist and she seems to know how to get me, put me in positions where I can't say very much, which makes her unique Mr. Speaker, is Ruth Wilcox.

>>Applause

And Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss without mentioning a good friend of mine, I've known him for a long time, he's hard to miss, he's also very tall and is a gracious host, a compassionate man who represented this community for a long time as mayor, he's well known throughout Nunavut, Mr. Wilf Wilcox. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I noticed a few people before but actually have not been sure how I would introduce them. However I'd like to recognize former neighbours in Coral Harbour, Jackie Nakoolak, now living in Rankin Inlet, who took me out on my first polar bear hunting trip in the foreign country where I came to from Pond Inlet originally, I came to Coral Harbour, my first year, he took me out on a caribou hunting trip.

I decided since it was flat country, I thought, what I could do is travel straight back to Coral Harbour and I tried that and I saw muddy areas and the rocks, lots of rocks, stand up straight and then they freeze in the fall. By the time I got to Coral Harbour, I had not much kamotik left but I got home. Everything wore out in one night.

I also would like to recognize my cousin, Jackie King who makes beautiful embroidery, her own designed parkas and wind pants and everything else. If you need something beautiful, just give her a call and she makes beautiful things and she will really be helpful in that.

I also would like to recognize Ian Rose, ...Rosie...

>>*Laughter*

...and right behind you, those who taught me how to be a Minister of Education and I would like to thank them for their great introduction to the bureaucracy and everything else. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to recognize one individual, his wife isn't here, Charlie Evalik. His wife brought us a bunch of dried fish for the MLAs to eat in my apartment and cooked caribou for us to eat. We really appreciated that and the people have been so good to us here in Cambridge Bay, we've got good water delivery, the garbage is being picked up, the roads are fine and I think the capital should probably be moved here because I like living here. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Since we've been in Cambridge Bay people have been very hospitable and we have learned a lot from this community. Learning new things, every day. So I'd like to recognize one individual Phoebe Hainnu, from Iqaluit who is here with us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I also would like to recognize one of my constituents, and a good neighbour of mine, Jackie King. Welcome to the Gallery.

>>*Applause*

Moving on to Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 245 - 1(5): Public Service Act Review

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think there was a conspiracy there. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Human Resources.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my member's statement, I talked about a piece of legislation that we inherited from the GNWT that being the Public Service Act. As the minister is aware, as all members are aware, all our legislation was just transferred over without looking at whether or not any changes were necessary to make them better suit the needs of Nunavummiut and the priorities set out in the Bathurst Mandate.

I'd like to ask the Minister of Human Resources when he envisions including the Public Services Act to be reviewed and assessed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, even as we speak there has been some consideration of clauses in the Public Service Act. Right now, we haven't formalized any legislative proposal that's going to be coming forward yet but there are different options that are being investigated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in light of the recent events that have gone on with the Nunavut Employees' Union, would the minister be willing to consider amending the Public Service Act to reinstate arbitration into the collective bargaining process to ensure that the negotiation process can be brought to an equitable conclusion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, taking a look at arbitration would obviously have been one of the options. There are different forms of arbitration, one has to recognize as well, if you are looking at arbitration or binding arbitration, or depending on what would be considered.

But obviously the Nunavut Employees' Union, as the bargaining agent for their employees, we would want to get input from them to see what their position would be as well. We wouldn't arbitrarily put these into place without some kind of indication of their position on that matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to hear the minister say that, I wouldn't want them to as he indicated, I'm sure they wouldn't want to just to have done it arbitrarily, without any input from them.

What I'd like to ask the minister is if he'd be willing to consult with the Nunavut Employees' Union, to look at a mutually agreeable way of including arbitration into the collective bargaining process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're always willing to consider and consult with our partners to see what their desired method would be. Taking into account, of course, what the government would want as far as what our position is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware and I indicated in my member's statement, the Government of Nunavut is the largest employer in Nunavut and many of these employees are forced to subsist from pay cheque to pay cheque. Many of these people voiced their concerns and fears of how an extended strike can impact the ability to support themselves and their families.

Given this, does the minister feel and think that it would not be in everyone's best interest to amend the Public Service Act to include arbitration in the collective bargaining process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let's not forget Mr. Speaker, the membership of the Northern Employees' Union has voted to accept the government's offer. It's the leadership of the Northern Employees' Union that chose to implement a strike. So it has to be clear on the circumstances on how far the strike could have gone if it had carried on.

So I think in all fairness, one really has to reflect, it's really a matter for the union themselves to take upon themselves to figure out the direction that they want to head. If the membership wants to get away from the conflicting methods that they have chosen, some of their leaders have chosen to take, in this past strike experience, really that comes down to what the membership wants and for them to decide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 246 - 1(5): Housing Units Planned for 2002

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, under members' statements I said earlier that I was going to ask a question, in representing my constituency and on behalf of Nunavummiut.

In the summer of 2001, as we are all aware, the government announced to Nunavut that they would be building 47 units in Nunavut. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Housing. In the summer of 2001, I was wondering if the Nunavut Housing Corporation has any plans within that department for the year 2002 to build a number of units and how many. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The units that will be built I know are not going to cover the housing shortage because of our limited resources. For the communities that we're not building units in, we have provided funding to retrofit the old units. We approved our main estimates as our members know, we have to approve them once a year, for the next year, main estimates.

We will be building next year, I don't know how many units we will be constructing because our budget estimates have not been approved for next year. Once we approve next year's budget it'll be easier to tell you how many units we will be building but I can't tell you how many units we will be building next year today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): I understand the response by the minister and thank you, we are aware that as a government we have limited resources, Mr. Speaker.

Lack of funding is a barrier but looking back to 1994-95 in that area, when it was GNWT, the federal government stopped funding for housing. At the Kitikmeot Regional Council at the time, I remember Tom Butters was the Minister for Housing at that time. I'm sorry Mr. Speaker, I'm trying to make my preamble very clear, I know that my questions is getting long so I apologize Mr. Speaker.

In the GNWT days the federal government stopped providing funding for housing and they built privately built units along with the assistance of the government and they had contractors building the units. I know that your department has limited funding but can the minister tell me, as the Minister responsible for Housing, if you can come up with that kind of a program where the private companies, private businesses can built units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We had asked private businesses in Nunavut if they have units that are not being used and we were going to lease their units for five years. That has been completed and we're now leasing these units, there were 33 units within Nunavut and this would cost about 5 million dollars for the leases.

Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons, after the construction of the units, if there is a unit available for lease, it costs a lot of money to pay for the maintenance and operations of the unit. We have over 3 thousand units that we are using and they cost a lot of money. There are tenants who pay 32 dollars for their rent from social services and it's not enough to cover the maintenance of the unit. For that reason, to make new units available, we would have to find new money.

Mr. Speaker, I could start considering that suggestion but only if we get new money and that's when we can do other leases of units from private companies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes we have already leased units from private companies because of the housing shortage.

As the Nunavut Government we could be assisted by these private businesses if the government can agree to that kind of lease. I would like to ask the minister although we do have limited funding and the year 2002, or prior to 2002 within this fiscal year, did you look for additional funding from the Federal Government and what was the response because we are experiencing a housing shortage crisis.

Can the minister tell us what has been done to apply for funding from the Federal Government. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I have been working with the Federal Government and to date the Federal Government understands there's a housing crisis in Nunavut. It's evident that the Federal Government understands that.

We have talked to MP Nancy Lindell, it's evident that she's been trying to make her colleagues aware of the housing shortage. I've already discussed this with the Federal Government but the Federal Government does not provide funding for social housing.

They provide us with O&M dollars and that's the only funding we receive from the Federal Government but they do not provide any funding for the construction of units.

My officials and staff have been working with Federal Government officials and staff and just recently the President of Housing Corporation Pam Hine has met with the Standing Committee of the Federal Government for housing.

She's now got a seat there to represent Nunavut. The Federal Government is quite aware and understands the housing shortage, and understands that we need additional funding. I also spoke with Paul Quassa, and he said that we can discuss this matter with his staff and I've asked him to go down to Ottawa with me, in September. So these are in the works. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand but we have to represent Nunavut to alleviate the housing shortage. Communities want to look for ways helping to deal with this housing shortage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member for Uqsuqtuq and Taloyoak works very hard on these issues and he made a point of having meetings with me to discuss these issues. The leaders of Uqsuqtuq went to Iqaluit to meet with me and I responded exactly the same, I told them that we would need new money in order to build more houses.

The ideas are very innovative but if we were to lease out these units, we would have to find additional funds or new monies, so that's the problem, the shortage of resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Ms. Williams.

Question 247 - 1(5): Inuit Traditional Sewing

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will be directing my question to the Minister of Sustainable Development. My question is, Inuit women are very excellent seamstresses, and they create their own unique designs. We also see the pages and the people out here wearing pieces of clothing that were sewn by Inuit women.

Usually, when the women are taught how to sew sealskin pelts they get somebody from down south, are there going to be any training programs developed for sewing.

Speaker: Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is an excellent question that was posed by Ms. Williams because it's Nunavut related. I cannot respond to your question at this time. I will be responding to your question some time this week

after I find out what kind of programs are out there and it's extremely important to have sewing programs.

At the Montreal Trade Show, the products were very well received and I think your question is extremely good so I will be responding to you some time this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to ask again, are there going to be training programs in the smaller communities and if there could also be a tannery built in Nunavut. Thank you.

Speaker: Just a point of clarification, the question was posed to the minister and he did not take it as notice. But he said he would not be able to answer until next week and the member is now posing another question so the minister may take this as notice. Proceed.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could also look at that question. In regards to the tannery, I believe there was one in Broughton Island and they tanned sealskins and so on. Now that there's more demand for sealskins, and since they're popular again, we could look into building a tannery somewhere, if it seems like a long-term demand for sealskin, we could look into the idea of a tannery.

We could look into it with my department and see if it's feasible to build a tannery in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Just another caution to members and the minister. First of all the member has to stay on the same subject and pose the supplementary question on that question. Now the minister took notice by his answer to the second one. So I put that out as a caution, I will allow at this time the member to complete her questions. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much for that education, I sometimes need to be reminded about the parliamentary customs.

The minister stated that there would be some training programs provided for sewing programs in the smaller communities and he also stated that he would respond to my question next week. Is it going to be possible for the minister to start the planning process so that the communities can access these training programs and we can start identifying instructors who can teach the students how to sew skins. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to sewing programs, there have been sewing programs in communities and also in my community.

It's a something that's very popular with those who are put into those programs. The Department of Sustainable Development can look into the types of programs that are available. Because of course, we don't want to lose the Inuit customs and traditions and that is part of this. We will look into it further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 248 – 1(5): New Inuktitut Writing System

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't think I raised my hand. I want to direct this question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth about the Inuit writing system.

In my constituency, there is a concern about the new Inuinnaqtun writing system. Some are in favour and some are not. Also, others do not want to lose their original writing system. The writing system in the schools is also changing.

I want to ask the minister what he thinks about using the Q's and R's in the new writing system. What is happening with this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the member's question about the syllabics and orthography that is used in the regions, I can't tell you because I don't know the writing system.

My department would prefer to listen to the people and see what they would like instead of imposing the kind of writing system they should use. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As an example, our elders today want to use their old writing system because it is easier for them. On the other hand we have a new writing system that is being used and taught in the schools with the letters R and Q.

These are two different ways of writing. As minister, which writing system would you prefer to communicate with the public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The R's and Q's that the member mentioned don't apply to me because of course I use the syllabic writing system. But in the Kitikmeot area, like I said earlier I think it would be better if we listen to the people because they have to use the writing system that they are comfortable with.

In the schools, I know they teach the system and for myself I can't exactly say which I would prefer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I can say this in English. Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. When we hear this, this is the minister's portfolio, I want to say on behalf of Kugluktuk that our children will have to use this way of writing.

Perhaps to make things easier and less confusing for our young people, there may be a way we can make sure that this is the best possible writing system. If the minister could meet with the communities it would make it a lot easier and simpler to understand the wishes of the people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Just a final reminder to the members to keep their preambles short. You are really testing my leniency here. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth has some money that can be accessed to be used for languages and culture and for elders and youth. These funds from my department are accessible through proposals.

However, I think the question that you posed would be better responded to by the Department of Education. I think that you should talk to the Minister of Education or possibly the minister and myself can get together and discuss this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Government of Nunavut and the departments as well, I want to find out for sure what writing system is going to be used by the Government of Nunavut.

In the Department of Health & Social Services and Community Government & Transportation as well, if we work together the language of Inuit and Inuinnaqtun will be improved overall. If we work together and talk to the Hamlet Councils as well, we would be able to see for sure what will be done in the future.

Sometimes there are two different writing systems, the old and the new. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Government has stated that they want to use Inuktitut in the workplace. This is something the government has always said.

I know there are more people using the Inuktitut language. The departments know what they would like to do but the Inuktitut language is used in the workplace. That's how I can respond. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 249 – 1(5): Housing Task Force Recommendations

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last year before March 31, we were asked to sit on the Housing Task Force and I was the Chairperson. We were reviewing the housing situation in Nunavut and we had several tasks and made a number of recommendations.

I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. We haven't really seen the results of the Housing Task Force so I would like to get an update from the minister on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the Housing Task Force recommendations stated that we should create a Housing Corporation and that is done. We are working on the task force recommendations on leasing units and adjusting the rent scale.

There were 15 recommendations and they are in our business plans for implementation as the basis of Nunavut housing programs in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that some of the recommendations have to be dealt with right away. We had to make recommendations that could be implemented right away.

My question is about the rent scale. We haven't seen changes to the rent scale and we are often approached with questions about the rent scale. So I would like to ask about that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have gone on the radio and informed the public about housing and we have put out press releases about our activities. In regards to the rent scale, we had to review the rents for different types of units and we gave that information to the housing authorities and we received some responses.

In March, in Rankin Inlet there was a conference and although the changes won't be implemented right away, we were considering whether we should keep the 32 dollars a month for rent or whether that should be changed. Different considerations are being made right now and since March the members asked us to look into this, so we are doing that.

We discussed the rates for units, whether they should all be the same or different for each type of unit. So that is what we are doing presently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was a conference in March and the review is being done now. When does the minister expect the review to be completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for chairing the Task Force as he did a very good job. I expect that since the conference in Rankin Inlet we would probably be able to present the rent scale to the House in the fall.

The documents presented to me have been tabled in the House in the last session in Iqaluit. So I will continue to inform the members of our progress. I expect it will be done by the fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 250 – 1(5): Fuel Subsidy for Hunters

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Sustainable Development. My question is what kind of assistance are the hunters receiving for fuel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been dealing with this for a while and are still working on it. We are working on the subsidies for hunters with NTI.

There are 641 applicants and 428 have been approved, 67% of the applicants have been approved for a total of 128 thousand 400 dollars. Some of the communities have not submitted their applications yet but we expect that this will continue to proceed smoothly.

Our staff member in charge of this project took some time off. Since he is now back we expect the applications to be processed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 251 – 1(5): Invoices Paid Within 20 Days

Mr. McLean: Koana, Uqaqti. Uqaqti, my question today is to the Minister of Finance. At the end of March I had the privilege of attending the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting that was attended by at least 70 business people from the Kivalliq region.

One of the main concerns that was brought up to me and it is in the form of resolution number 11, is that the Government of Nunavut has a policy of paying local suppliers within 20 days. However, it frequently takes 60 to 90 days for local suppliers to receive payments.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I got a phone call this morning from a travel agency saying that they were owed over 1.2 million dollars and it is overdue. Can the minister let me know if he is advising his staff to pay these bills within 20 days. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can say that generally when the Finance Department gets requisitions for cheques they turn them over in a fairly expedient fashion. Sometimes there are delays in the paperwork that come forward from the departments quite frankly that lead to some delays.

But I can tell you in the instance of travel agencies and hotels for the travel and accommodations where government employees do spend a significant amount of dollars and there have been concerns raised by the industry about receivables that seem to be on their books a lot longer than acceptable. We are trying to move away from the accommodation and travel warrant type of system and instigating as I indicated in the past, a credit card system where the suppliers can be paid almost instantaneously in respect, from the credit card supplier.

So that's the move of the government in the future and we hope to have that fully implemented at the latest in the fall, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Koana, Uqaqti. That's the answer I was looking for. The minister said and I remember asking him a question in the House about issuing credit cards to senior government employees and I think he did that. Has he thought about issuing credit cards to most employees that are responsible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, right now it depends on each department and their requirements. So we have left it up to the senior managers in each department to assign the credit cards to individuals that require them.

Of course we do have a lot of safeguards that we have put in place. There are personal declarations that employees have to sign off on to recognize that any personal charges they are responsible for of course. The onus for us of course is to ensure that for government expenditures that the employees are paid in a timely fashion as a result of out of pocket expenses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Koana, Uqaqti. Uqaqti, the government seems to be moving in the right direction in joining the rest of the governments in Canada in being able to pay our bills.

Mr. Speaker, is there any way that for small contractors that are doing housing projects, purchasing computers or bidding on contracts have a mechanism where if they haven't been paid in 30 days or 45 days, how they go about it. Also, could there be some public awareness for these individuals on how to get paid on time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have in the Department of Finance, we do get calls from suppliers and usually what we try to do is backtrack to the department that issued the request, or whatever it may have been, to try and exactly track down where the delays may have been.

So we have actively pursued any inquiries that have come forward. But having said that, Mr. Speaker, if there are more than what we would expect, it is certainly something that we would review. We are constantly reviewing our payment procedures to ensure that all suppliers can be paid in as timely a fashion as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Question 252 – 1(5): High Price of Goods and Services

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Transportation. I have raised this question in the past about the cost of living and the costs of materials for homeowners.

Can there be a review done on the cost of goods in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Education is looking at the cost of living in Nunavut. It is very expensive to live in

Nunavut as everybody knows. The Department of Education is looking at this presently and we are doing a transportation strategy in Nunavut and looking for ways to lower prices in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when might this review be completed. When does the minister expect the review to be completed. Will it be done this year, next year or perhaps he could give us this information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Education is doing the review and because we are working together on the review of the cost of living and the transportation strategy, we would expect the review to be completed perhaps in a few months.

It wouldn't take a year but perhaps in a few months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, for that response Mr. Minister. Once the review has been completed and the cost of living is so high in Nunavut but once the review has been completed, do they expect that the cost of living will be lowered. Do they expect the cost of living will be lowered once the review is completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): I just heard from my colleague that the price of food is being reviewed by Department of Education and Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs are also doing a review on fuel, gas and other essentials. I think that if people from the south saw the prices up here they would be alarmed and the Parliament in Ottawa would probably be surprised to see how expensive a turkey costs because it's like 92 dollars in some areas of Nunavut.

And, so, the Department of Education and my department will be working together to decrease the prices and we have also have had discussions with Department of Indian and Northern Affairs regarding the Food Mail Program.

We are working on the Food Mail Program so that shipping items to Nunavut will be less costly. Once this is completed and once the Transportation Strategy is completed we will be able to present the review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Question Period is now over. Returning to Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Bill 5 - Loan Authorization Act 2001-2002 – Committee Report

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services has reviewed Bill 5, the Loan Authorization Act 2001-2002 and wishes to report that the Bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. And Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive rule 68(5) and have the Bill moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. There is a request to waive Rule 68(5) so the report can be referred to the Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays. There are no nays. The Standing Committee Report is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Premier.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 028 – 1(5): Status of Contracting Back 2001 – 2002

Hon. Paul Okalik: Koanaqutit, Uqaqti. It is my pleasure to table this document titled, "Status of Contracting Back, 2001-2002", which reflects the fact that contracting back has been reduced considerably over the past two years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 16: Motions

Motion 006 – 1(5): Changes to Standing Committee Portfolios

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this motion is for changes to the standing committee portfolios. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kugluktuk, that Tabled Document 1 - 1(1), Terms of Reference for the Standing Committees, be amended as follows:

The Department of Justice be moved to the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit from the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development and further;

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth be assigned to the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit from the Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health and that the Standing Committee Culture, Education and Health be now known as the Standing Committee on Health and Education and furthermore;

The Legislative Assembly has chosen to make revisions to the membership of the Standing Committees and therefore, Rebekah Williams, Member for Quttiktuq be reassigned as alternate member to the Standing Committee on Health and Education from the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Picco.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 9 – Change of Name Act 2001 – Second Reading

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet South/Whale Cove, that Bill 9 – Change of Name Act be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to create a new Change of Name Act for Nunavut. The new Act will allow applications for name changes to be made to the Registrar for Vital Statistics instead of going through the courts.

Mr. Speaker, this is to simplify the process for people wishing to officially change their names. The fees for the name change will also be waived for a one-year period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Picco. To the principle of the Bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Bill 9 has had second reading and accordingly the Bill stands referred to a committee. Second Reading of Bills.

Before we proceed this afternoon, I'd like to inform the members that at 4 p.m. today there will be a mock sitting of the Legislature. This sitting is being carried out by the grade 7 class of this high school.

>>Applause

The grade 7 class has elected a full slate of members complete with Cabinet Ministers and a Speaker. It is my pleasure to invite all the members and everyone else who would like to participate in this exercise to come and sit in on this 30-minute program.

A great deal of time has been put into this program and we'd like to see as many people here as possible.

In accordance with the authority vested in me by motion 002-1(5) we will recess until 10:00 p.m. this evening. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>Applause

>>House Recessed at 3:51 p.m. and resumed at 10.01 p.m.

Speaker: Item 18. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If it is possible, I would like to return to Item 2. Ministers' Statements.

Speaker: Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 2. Ministers' Statements. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Please proceed Mr. Anawak.

Revert to Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 084 – 1(5): Canada Summer Games 2001

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on August 11, 2001 Nunavummiut and the rest of Canada will witness the debut of Team Nunavut at the Canada Games in London, Ontario.

The Canada Games are held every two years alternating between winter games and summer games. These games provide the highest level of competition in Canada and act as a stepping stone to the Commonwealth Games, the Pan-American Games and National Teams.

Canada's Olympic Team often has former Canada Games participants. Sport Nunavut, a division of the Department of Community Government & Transportation, has the mandate to develop representative teams for Nunavut in multi-sport competitions such as the Canada Games.

For this year's Canada Summer Games, Nunavut will be represented by athletes and coaching representatives in wrestling. These athletes have attended numerous competitions in southern Canada over the past three years.

A media guide highlighting team members will be available in June. Nunavut's involvement in the games has provided an avenue for a higher standard of coaching development in Nunavut. Involvement in multi-sport games like the Canada Summer Games is a great boost to Nunavut's sport system.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the games are a collaboration and a celebration of the cultural diversity of Canada as well as a sporting event. Three young innovative leaders in the fine arts will represent Nunavut in the cultural fine arts program at the Canada Summer Games.

This program provides an opportunity to showcase Nunavut's artistic talent and gives them an opportunity to interact with equally talented Canadians. This opportunity of a lifetime will contribute to the realization of our young representatives' artistic goals.

Recognizing the potential for young Nunavummiut, Sport Nunavut has decided to sponsor four athletes and four coaches to attend an educational symposium held in conjunction with the Canada Games. Topics range from sessions dealing with sporting activity in today's society, fair play in sport as well as training and inclusion issues in sport.

Their participation will provide them with valuable tools as leaders of sport in their communities. These capacity building tools will enhance Nunavut's sports structure. We will also be partnering with our northern neighbours to demonstrate traditional arctic sports during the Games. Representatives from the Yukon, NWT, Nunavik and Nunavut will showcase traditional sport.

Three of our finest young athletes have been chosen to represent Nunavut. Participation in the Canada Summer Games is an exciting opportunity for Nunavummiut. It provides and opportunity to showcase Nunavut talent and acts as a capacity building tool in making our communities proud. It also provides Nunavut athletes an opportunity to serve as role models for the youth of Nunavut.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to unveil the uniform that Team Nunavut will proudly wear at the Canada Summer Games. T. Fox Graphics in Iqaluit made the official walk out dress. Ivalu Limited of Rankin Inlet produced the hats, sweatshirts and shorts and the Team Nunavut bags were silk-screened in Baker Lake at the Jessie Oonark centre.

The team pins were designed in Nunavut and our model was born and raised here in Cambridge Bay. Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce Mr. Jason Tologanak, mission staff member for Team Nunavut and the Team Nunavut uniform.

>>Applause

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to wish our athletes all the luck in London. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Anawak. Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters, with Mr. Puqignak in the Chair. We have bill 5 and bill 7.

Item 19: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairperson (Mr. Puqignak) (interpretation): Thank you. Good evening members, Premier and visitors. During the committee of the whole, we have Bill 7 and Bill 5. What is the wish of the committee. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we would like to deal with Bill 7, the Integrity Act and once we are done with Bill 7 to proceed with Bill 5, Loans Authorization Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. I would like to invite Ms. Cooper up to the table. Welcome Ms. Cooper. The minister responsible may proceed with his opening comments. Mr. Ng.

Bill 7 – The Integrity Act – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to have the opportunity today to appear before the Committee to introduce Bill 7, the Integrity Act.

This new legislation creates standards for Members of the Legislative Assembly in performing their duties of office. It establishes the highest standard for ethical leadership in Nunavut.

On behalf of all members, I would like to thank the Conflict of Interest Commissioner of Nunavut, the Honourable Robert Stanbury, for his excellent work in bringing forward a comprehensive set of recommendations concerning this issue. I would also like to thank my colleagues in this House for their contributions in moving this initiative forward.

Mr. Chairman, this is a comprehensive Bill that incorporates four important elements. It has been designed using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit as its foundation; it considers the realities that we must deal with in Nunavut and in our communities; it incorporates approaches being taken on these issues in other jurisdictions within Canada; and it builds on our own vision for open and accountable government in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, the current provisions governing conflict of interest for members are contained in Part III of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. This legislation was duplicated from the existing NWT legislation at the time Nunavut came into being on April 1, 1999. The new Bill before the House, if passed, will replace this section with a stand-alone statute called the Integrity Act.

It is a core principle in any democratic government that elected officials must put the public interest ahead of private gain. Members have put a high priority on this important principle since the creation of Nunavut. You will recall, Mr. Chairman, that this House adopted a code of Members' Obligations in May of last year. A section of the code reads: "I will not condone actions that are dishonest or which exploit positions of privilege for personal gain." Mr. Chairman, we have set high standards for our own conduct and members have acted in accordance with these standards over the past two years.

Mr. Chairman, as Nunavut grows, it is our goal as Members of the Legislative Assembly to review our legislative base to ensure that it is appropriate for the needs of Nunavut.

As this piece of legislation specifically relates to elected MLAs, the Management and Services Board of the Legislative Assembly requested Nunavut's Conflict of Interest Commissioner, the Honourable Robert Stanbury, to conduct a comprehensive review of the relevant legislation and to make recommendations as to how we could establish a new conflict of interest regime in Nunavut. His report, *For a Culture of Integrity*, has now been tabled in this House by the Speaker.

Mr. Chairman, members have met with Mr. Stanbury over the past year to discuss his report and recommendations. As a result of this important work, Department of Justice officials were directed to draft the new Bill, which is before us this evening.

Mr. Stanbury was directed to carefully consider how Inuit traditional knowledge and the realities of representing small communities in Nunavut could be incorporated into a new Nunavut approach. Mr. Stanbury consulted widely and well on this important aspect of this initiative.

Under the new Bill, the current Conflict of Interest Commissioner will be called the Integrity Commissioner. The Commissioner will have a greater role in providing advice to members, ensuring an emphasis on prevention, rather than simply punishment. The process is designed to be conducive to a quick resolution of issues.

Mr. Chairman, there are a number of Inuit values that have been incorporated in the new Bill to reinforce the approach that we want to take in the future. These include:

- Processes that are informal, flexible and timely, with a view to quickly restoring harmony;
- Respect for individuality, independence and non-interference, in the context of community responsibility;
- Advice by a trusted and respected person as problems arise;

- Encouraging confidentiality and internal process to resolve problems, but recognizing that the community is responsible for monitoring behaviour and fostering accountability;
- Dealing with problems in a progressive manner, recognizing differences between less significant problems and ones that would have a lasting impact on the community;
- Encouraging individuals to take responsibility for their actions, while ensuring that respectful treatment, advice, counselling, discipline and remedial action are all part of the system; and
- Ensuring consensus with respect to ultimate decisions on sanctions, and ensuring that these decisions are made by the whole community.

I would like to provide some illustrations of how these have been incorporated in the new legislation.

The new procedures will be simplified and rely on less paperwork. Now, there will be one member's disclosure form, which will be accessible to the public.

The current forms require expensive accounting statements and complex financial assessments. Now, there will simply be a need to disclose the nature of the private interest. For example, a member would disclose that he or she owns a plumbing company or an outfitting operation, but not the specific value of the company. The new legislation recognizes that in order to determine whether there is a conflict of interest, it is really only necessary to know the source and the nature of the private interest -- regardless of whether it is a small value or a large one, the principle is the same.

The new procedure allows members and their families to operate private businesses or have private interests in their communities. These businesses may be a party to a contract with government -- provided that the Integrity Commissioner authorizes it -- but only on the basis that the contract is unlikely to affect the member's performance of his or her duties of office. As under the current legislation, Ministers are subject to much stricter rules.

The new Act expands the definition of family, including child and spouse. It recognizes that any family member living with the member who is dependent on the member or the Member's spouse, or any child treated as a child of the Member, or anyone living in a conjugal relationship with the member is close enough to the member that their private interests must also be carefully scrutinized to ensure that there is no conflict of interest. This is in keeping with both the Nunavut traditional approach to family, as well as more modern recognition of personal relationships.

The Integrity Commissioner will have a much more significant role to play in providing advice to members. The current system essentially only requires disclosure forms to be

given to the Clerk of the Assembly and asks the Conflict of Interest Commissioner to investigate and adjudicate conflict of interest complaints. The new process puts more emphasis on prevention, by requiring annual meetings of members with the Integrity Commissioner. It also encourages members to seek advice and written opinions from the Commissioner if they have any questions about whether their private interests may be in conflict with their public duty.

The new process will include a wider range of sanctions in the event of a request for review and a finding of a contravention. Our primary approach will be that if there has been a wrong, how can we make it right? For example, members may be asked to publicly acknowledge their conduct or pay compensation. By putting the emphasis on remedial action rather than simply punishment, members will be encouraged to be open and to participate in solving the problem.

There is also a specific provision in the new legislation that if a contravention is found to have occurred, there will be no sanction if the member took all reasonable measures to prevent the contravention; the contravention was trivial, committed through inadvertence or an error of judgment made in good faith; or the member was acting in accordance with the Integrity Commissioner's advice, having disclosed all material facts known to the member. Again, it is our hope that this provision will encourage members to participate fully in any review process, so that it is resolved quickly and with a minimum of expense.

However, because we do take this very seriously, the range of sanctions also provides that a member's right to sit and vote in the Legislative Assembly may be suspended, for a specified period or until a specified condition is fulfilled, or -- in the most serious of cases -- that the member's seat be declared vacant. The integrity of the whole Legislative Assembly is compromised if a Member acts improperly for personal gain or the gain of others and it is therefore important that this sanction be in the list.

Members of the Legislative Assembly will have the ultimate say on what sanction will be imposed, and on issues such as paying for the legal costs of any party. This would include legal costs of the person requesting the review, as well as the member. However, it is the Integrity Commissioner who makes recommendations on sanctions or costs and the Legislative Assembly may only adopt or not adopt the recommendations; it may not alter the recommendation. This is to ensure that the whole issue will not be reopened in the House and, in effect, another review conducted.

In some jurisdictions, it is only politicians who may lay a complaint. In Nunavut, we want members and the public to be able to make a request for a review, so that the people of Nunavut can continue to play a key role in monitoring behaviour and ensuring accountability. In addition, the Legislative Assembly may request a review of a member, the Premier may request a review of a minister and the Integrity Commissioner may initiate a review on his or her own.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut's Integrity Commissioner will be involved from start to finish in the event of an inquiry. The Integrity Commissioner will also be the adjudicator. We do

not see the need for a separate adjudicator to become involved in an inquiry. This will result in less duplication and less cost, and will use the Integrity Commissioner's skills, knowledge and judgment, which are all reasons why we have appointed the Commissioner to assist us in dealing with these types of issues.

Mr. Chairman, as I have noted earlier, the new Act continues to require members and, in particular, ministers, to arrange their personal affairs in a way that promotes public confidence in each member's integrity and to honour the expectation that they will operate with openness, objectivity and impartiality. However, it also provides for some flexibility to deal with the realities in our communities.

The new Act recognizes that as Nunavut moves forward in its economic development, it will be increasingly important that individuals who enter public life are not required to sever all connection to their private businesses, nor require the same of their families. We need entrepreneurs in our communities and we need their entrepreneurial spirit in the Nunavut Government.

Mr. Chairman, by allowing the Integrity Commissioner to review individual circumstances to determine if the public interest will be served by allowing members or their families to operate in the private sector and contract with government, we will ensure the highest standards of service to the public in our communities. In some cases, this will require the use of arms-length trusts and -- in all cases -- the careful scrutiny of the Integrity Commissioner. Coupled with the Government's commitment to open, fair and transparent contracting and hiring practices, we believe that we can ensure public confidence and impartiality in these important decisions.

That concludes my opening comments, Mr. Chairman. Both Mr. Stanbury and I look forward to responding to any questions or comments that members may have. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr. Minister you can approach the witness table with your witnesses now. Thank you. If you would like to introduce your officials at the witness table, so we will know how to address them. Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is the Honourable Robert Stanbury, Nunavut's Conflict of Interest Commissioner. To my left is Mr. Ralph Armstrong, legislative counsel with the Department of Justice. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. I would like to ask the members if they have any opening comments. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the new Integrity Act, in the speaking notes, Mr. Ng was saying and I also believe that Inuit Qaujimagatungangit can be used as a foundation in this process.

Even though we have this in place, I would like to find more ways to integrate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. We have never actually experienced the actual Act and we don't know where the loopholes are. But according to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit our elders, when we were younger they would discipline us every time they saw something wrong with us.

So according to their ways, we were disciplined and this has to be integrated more. As Members of the Legislative Assembly we know that we can have problems in our lives. In the past we were not using Inuit traditions as much and as residents of Nunavut we have an entirely different culture.

If an individual is reprimanded and if they take the discipline to heart that this is a way to get better and they can stop doing what they did wrong before.

So, this is Inuit traditional culture and language. In our culture if anybody, who did something wrong, if they had conflict, according to the method of Inuit disciplining in spite of what the individual had done, they look for ways to improve and better the life of the individual.

According to our culture, we cannot change right away but perhaps by the second or third time when you are actually do what you were told by the elders the person can change their ways. I have experienced it and I know it.

So, we have to look for ways to integrate this method of discipline into this, because I believe that people took a lot of time, it took a lot of time for individuals to develop this method. And I know that this will be used as a foundation as Inuit, as people of Nunavut know in the communities in the small, especially in Nunavut, the communities are quite small and as Inuit people in one individual community everybody is related to each other.

So, if we are going to be dealing with conflict of interest how can we improve this. For example, if your spouse and your children, by working with the people you love, we have to look for conflicts, according to the opening comments.

I have been thinking, in my community the population is about 8 hundred and they are all related to each other in one community and we have to support each other to run our private businesses.

When we want to develop Nunavut by supporting each other it helps the development at the community level because we have to find ways how to develop economically in our communities. The smaller communities and the larger communities of Nunavut according to the way they educate themselves and not just us, once we experience it further we can make amendments.

But, personally, I am very proud to see this Bill. But in the future I would like to see the results of the problem areas once we experience some problems. We are a new government, we still haven't dealt with many Acts, so that we can reflect the needs of Nunavut.

We really don't know where we can improve the areas and as we experience this further we'll learn more on how to apply this in regards to the conflict of interest and it's going to deal with the justice system too. When it also consists of the courts, we have to find ways to integrate Inuit disciplining ways or methods. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. At this time we are on general comments. If you would like to make your general comments in regards to this, the floor is open now for it. Bill 7, we are dealing with Bill 7. General comments. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll keep my comments a bit shorter than my colleague from Clyde River. But I want to echo a few of the things he said in regards to small communities and we are related to a lot of people in our small communities.

Our family base is quite large, it's not like southern Ontario or Manitoba where you have constituencies with anywhere between 50,000 to 200,000 people in them. Our constituencies have anywhere between 350 and 5000 people.

In the past and in the future you are going to have people running for politics that have a business background or involved in small business because civil servants have a tendency to stay in their jobs because they have security whereas business people come out and run for politics because they want to hopefully change the future.

And they have, you know, I'm not saying a better vision, but they have serious concerns about employment opportunities and how to make the community better. In most cases, people in the private sector have a better grass roots approach to the community and they like to help it more.

I'm very pleased that we finally got around to this in the government in bringing forward an Integrity Act. I like the sound of it already, more than conflict of interest. Because when you say conflict of interest it says exactly what it says, conflict.

Where integrity has a much better meaning and it's a nice word. I could continue on to say that what happened in the past is the past and I think the old government will go down in infamy as probably looked at and frowned upon and scorned by governments of the day.

I'm not trying to offend anybody but it's no secret when a Premier is taken out of his position because of conflict of interest that it hurt the whole territory and at the time we were part of that territory. I certainly hope that nothing like that will happen in this territory because it is all taken to heart.

I read the Integrity Act and I will ask questions tonight about it in my reading of it. It sounds and it feels more like an Act that members can feel more at ease, because when you are a businessperson in this government you feel uneasy.

I for one felt uneasy being a small business person in this government because if you go out and try and advance your livelihood and you are a politician you are frowned upon and even more so if you are a businessperson rather than a just a politician with no business interests.

So, I for one am happy that this has finally come about. It's the second year of our term, I think it's good that it's come at this point because now if it's going to be tested we'll have time to look at it.

It's like everything else, it will be tested I think and we'll see how we fare with it. But I'd like to thank you for all your hard work that you put into it Mr. Stanbury and in my short time that I've known you, I've got to know that I think I can feel confident that this Act will protect the public interest and the members also. Koana, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. General comments. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to make a brief general comment. Yes. I believe that we need this Integrity Act and I'm very pleased that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit was used as its foundation.

When we say Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit we often think where and how we can integrate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, we still can't see how we are integrating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit but, although we say that we want to use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, how can we start using it and make it visible.

According to Inuit culture and the method disciplining of an individual who was in conflict, the Inuit method is a method of discipline. If it is a young individual who's had a conflict, the elder disciplines them verbally and if the elder sees where the problem is, the individual being disciplined can listen to what he's been told or not, if he doesn't want to.

So, this is Inuit traditional knowledge that could be used, this method could be used. The Conflict of Interest Act, the actual fact is that if an individual today has a problem they can't really talk about it.

So, it's up to the families and individuals according to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit if there was a problem experienced they could talk and resolve the situation that's Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit tradition by talking with each other to resolve the situation by talking about it and resolving the issue and everything.

Everything goes back to normal and they improve their lives that's Inuit traditional knowledge. I also want to say that if an individual infringes on a government statute according to the law, qallunaaq law, sometimes they are not allowed to talk to each other.

This creates more problems, as it does not resolve the situation. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit traditional knowledge is the fact that people talk to each other to resolve their issues.

The Conflict of Interest Commissioner knows that we might infringe or break laws, but how can we improve the Act by using Inuit traditional knowledge and by making it visible and useful and to integrate it into the system. We can also use those traditional methods today so that they could be implemented in the future.

And, also I'm very happy about this Act, and I'm very interested to hear the fact that we are using Inuit traditional knowledge. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. I have another member on my list under general comments. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Stanbury, for I think, a very fine piece of work and I'm very pleased to see this piece of legislation before the House.

I think that the strength of any government is its ability for openness and accountability to the public that it serves and I think that this Act goes a long way in helping to do that. I think it also, personally I think it is good that it shows we are bringing it forward as a separate piece of legislation. This shows the significance of taking it out of the Executive Council and Legislative Assembly Act and making it a stand alone Integrity Act.

That alone shows how we feel it is important to have something like that out there and separate. I think the ideas that are integrated into this new piece of legislation are great. Simplifying it so that the general public can take a look at it and understand it and they won't need to hire a lawyer to try and decipher it and figure out what it says.

I think that alone, people being able to understand what it is goes a long way in building that public confidence in the government and it clears up any possible misunderstandings a lot easier. So I think it's great to see that in there.

I am also really glad to hear the emphasis on prevention instead of, I always believe it is better to be proactive and take care of a problem before it becomes a problem. I am very glad to see that emphasis on prevention in this legislation.

As a couple of my colleagues already indicated, Nunavut, not only the communities, but Nunavut itself is a very small territory and there are people who are related to everybody in one way, shape or form if you go back far enough. I think it is good that it shows and recognizes those types of things in the Act. Again this is one of the pieces of legislation like I spoke about earlier today about having our legislation reflect our needs and our circumstances in Nunavut.

I am very pleased to see this one here do that and I will be asking a few questions just for clarification, but hopefully we will be seeing more legislation come forward with similar outcomes as we see here in this one and the values and the good work that have been put into it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. We are under general comments. Are there any further general comments. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when the minister was making his opening remarks, I was impressed with the work that was done. The comments talk about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. I am glad to see that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is included in here, although in the past we hardly ever spoke about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

I am glad to see that it has been included in a lot of the reports. My colleague earlier spoke about how the Inuit used to discipline the people in their community and I agree with him about when we look at the reports and see Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit included in reports.

Hopefully, in the future all the items relating to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit will be implemented. When we talk about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and later on I will be asking questions regarding Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, hoping that today, presently, we often go through hard times and under Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit we are working hard to integrate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit within the government and within the Canadian government.

As Canadians, we follow the Constitution and we often don't agree with it, parts of it, but, it's very important that we follow the rules and the legislation. We often come across disputes regarding federal legislation and there are some things that we don't agree with but quite often, we think that under Inuit knowledge a lot of areas could be corrected.

So, this is one of the problems that we have as Inuit in Nunavut and I will be raising some questions on this to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. The comments are very clear. While we are on general comments, are there any other general comments. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman this Bill 7 is related to all the members and it's put together very well and I appreciate the work that Mr. Stanbury did. I'm glad that the members were able to have some input and I just wanted to express how a great job Mr. Stanbury did and I know that this will help us with the work that we do within the Legislative Assembly.

It also relates to funding that we often seek and as Inuit quite often, Inuit complain about members helping their own relatives or their immediate family once they become members.

However, I am glad that there is this Integrity Act so that the people know that we have something to follow. With this Act, it will disallow members from supporting only family

and we quite often have worked not knowing what was in the Bill or the Act and now we have something to base our decisions on.

So I really like this bill as a member and those are my comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Thompson. We are on general comments. Madame Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also want to state my appreciation for the work that was done on this bill and I would also like to welcome Mr. Stanbury to the House. He has done a lot of work and a great job.

I feel that the Inuit have to understand what we are working on and what we are dealing with this evening. This Act is to ensure the members work honourably. As a member, we will have to follow this Act and like the old Act it has been put together very well. It is something that we will have to follow as Members of the Legislative Assembly and as leaders.

I think the Inuit would be very interested in what's in the Act. I just wanted to express my appreciation for the work that has been done. I will also be asking questions at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Williams. We are on general comments. The comments that are being made by the members, I think the members are being repetitive, so while we are on general comments I would like to have the Member for Kugluktuk be the last one before we go on to questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make a brief comment. The people that I am thinking about are our youth because they will be using this. We are to use the elders because we were elected on this basis. I don't want to forget our youth because they are going to be our leaders.

If they see a person elected into office doing dishonourable things, we have to be role models. We want to listen to the young people because they are going to be our leaders. I just wanted to make these brief comments to make the young people aware that they are going to be our leaders. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. I was going to have you as the last person to make general comments but I now have Mr. Picco. He is the next member on my list. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening. I would just like to start off by saying how very pleasing it is to see such an excellent turnout here tonight in Cambridge Bay. It is almost ten after eleven so I really appreciate the general public showing up for this important Bill in committee of the whole.

Mr. Chairman, first of all I would like to start off by saying that as a new government we have a chance to reform government and to bring about legislative change and to create and bring into force unique legislation that reflects Nunavut. But it is also a standard, Mr. Chairman, I would suggest to you that it is a standard that needs to be achieved, has to be achieved and seems to have been achieved nationally with what we have done with the Integrity Act.

This Act is uniquely a made in Nunavut approach and as mentioned, even the name Mr. Chairman, Integrity Act is a drastic departure from the generic conflict of interest legislation that you find in every other jurisdiction in this country. I think the incorporation of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit within the Act itself, if you have an opportunity to read it over, you will see that's reflected throughout the legislation that is before us.

I think it is important also to note also Mr. Chairman, that Mr. Stanbury is an old friend of Nunavut having been the genesis, and I say that without fear of contradiction. The genesis of the funding of ITC, the forerunner of NTI and the reason why we are here today from over 30 years ago when he was the Federal Minister with the Federal Government of Canada that actually sponsored and gave the first funding to Tagak Curley and the ITC to begin Nunavut.

Mr. Stanbury is a founding member of the Nunavut Arbitration Board, he is a member of the Canadian Council of Administrative Tribunals. He is a former politician and I think all that background with Nunavut and his legal background is reflected in this Act. The committee that had an opportunity to select Mr. Stanbury as the Integrity Commissioner did an excellent job in that selection.

I have been pleased and privileged having known Mr. Stanbury for many years and having worked with him on the Nunavut Arbitration Board and some of the other boards and agencies that we have just discussed.

I would like to finish my opening comments, Mr. Chairman, by saying that this piece of legislation today is something that I believe that in two years from now when the term of this legislature is over, it is something that we will be able to look back on and be proud of.

The fundamental role of any MLA is to pass legislation and hopefully your legislation is to enhance and help the electorate and the people that have elected you. So the people that you have voted for represent you in the legislature, it is not simply standing up and answering questions, the rhetoric that we hear a lot of times from politicians.

An Act like this Mr. Chairman, I would suggest to you lays bare the involvement that the member has not only in his public life but in his private life and I think that's what is important here tonight.

I do have a couple of specific questions also Mr. Chairman but I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address the Bill today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. I said a little while ago that Mr. Picco would be the last speaker.

But in view of the important legislation that we are dealing with and we are being taped at this time and because we are not going to be the only members, there's other members that are going to be coming in the future that will be elected to this legislature. If there are any more comments from the members, I will allow some more members to speak. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Act that we are dealing with tonight is very important and I thank Mr. Stanbury and the people who put this Act together.

And the Act that we are dealing with talks about members and the ministers and what they have to go through as Members of the Legislature and we have to, we have to let the public know that as Members of the Legislature and as ministers we have a lot to follow.

Are we going to have to make it so that it is understandable to the public. Say, for instance, the things that the RCMP have to deal with and what we have to follow in this Act and we have to make sure that the public knows about the Act and that we are not to be in conflict with the job that we presently do.

I just wanted to clarify that to the people that voted us in here, so that they could have an understanding that we have a law and this is territorial legislation, just to let the people out there know.

And to make sure that they are aware that members have a law that they have to follow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Any further comments in regards to Bill 7. If not we will continue with Bill 7, Integrity Act. We are under general comments. If there are no more general comments from the members we can get to questions on Bill 7.

Just before the members ask questions, I would like them to address the chair, so I could recognize the people at the witness table and to recognize myself as a chair. Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to find out about the family members that are mentioned in the Act, maybe if you could clarify this to me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman the main purpose for the reference for the member's child or family or spouse or anybody dependant on that member that's living in the same household as a result of those private interests are deemed basically or hoped to be the same as the members.

So, I think it's important that these private interests, I think we all felt that it's important that these private interests be disclosed to the public on the disclosure forms because of that relationship with the member and those in his or her immediate household. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you for the response and my other question relates to the family. Not all of household members usually have jobs in Nunavut, there could also be a conflict within a family in regards to them being in a wage economy.

Perhaps if you could explain to me what kind of conflict they would encounter as a family.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Mr. Stanbury to give some examples for the member to speak on that particular issue. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Stanbury go ahead.

Mr. Stanbury: Thank you for the question. It does go to the heart of the question of including members of the family in the disclosure requirements in this Act. I would be reluctant to give you examples because I don't want to try to anticipate things on which I might have to rule.

But it is not only being recognized in this Bill in Nunavut that any dependant members of the family might have interests which could be favoured by a legislator but this is a growing recognition across Canada in similar legislation.

You asked me in preparing proposed legislation of this kind to take into account not only the conditions and environment of Nunavut but also the trends in this kind of legislation across Canada.

And while you want to be very Nunavut specific and make sure that it's relevant to the environment of Nunavut, I recognize that you also want it to be at the leading edge of the developments of Conflict of Interest legislation in Canada.

And the definitions that we have put forward here are consistent with those of the most recent legislation in provinces and territories. For instance it is very similar to Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and the Yukon. So that there is a growing recognition that there is potential for favouring, a potential for legislators being perceived to favour any dependant relative living in their household.

Now, this proposed legislation would not prevent any of those people from for instance contracting with government or being employed by government, that would be impractical as some of you have pointed out, in this jurisdiction. But it does oblige you, it would oblige you to be open about who those people are who are dependant in your family so that the public can make a judgement of whether or not they are being favoured.

One of the main principles of this proposed legislation is openness. So what is being proposed is that the people who are related to legislators, who might be perceived by the public to be potentially favoured by the legislators, are known to the public. As a number of other provisions in this bill, the opportunities are not restricted but the information available to the public is expanded, so that the public can make a judgement, so that you can make a judgement yourself, about whether or not the actions of a Member of the Legislative Assembly are fair to the public as compared to his or her actions in relation to his or her family.

The family, not just in Nunavut, but across Canada, is being perceived in a larger context and I think the definitions in this bill take into account not only the conditions in Nunavut in a practical way, but take into account the trends across the country. I stress that it does not limit the opportunities of members of the family, it just obliges the legislator to make clear in public who those dependant members of his or her family are so that everyone can be open and can make their own judgement about the fairness of legislators' activities.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Stanbury. Just before I recognize Mr. Iqaqrialu, I just want to let the members know that when we are dealing with legislation all the members are given the opportunity to ask questions. This Act relates to the members, whether they be minister or ordinary members. The ministers can also ask questions about the act because it is related directly to the ministers and the members.

We are making a foundation with Bill 7 for ourselves as members and as ministers and this is going to be our Act. I just wanted to let the members and the ministers know that they can ask questions as well. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask another question. Being a Member of the Legislative Assembly, when you live in your own community we want to treat all people the same. There are usually grants of money that are given to the public when they request it and they usually approach members to assist them.

It seems like there has been a problem for me when members of my family want to be provided with assistance from the government for example, and I assist the people that are not my family and it has been a problem whereby I am not able to help my relations.

This probably has to be amended by this Act, or addressed in some manner.

Chairperson (interpretation): I didn't hear a question, but if there are any comments from the witness table. Mr. Stanbury.

Mr. Stanbury: Thank you. It should be clear that there is nothing in this bill that would prevent the member from treating his family members in exactly the same way as any other constituent.

It is perfectly acceptable under the proposed statute to assist members of your family in accessing the same kind of benefits as are available in the same way to all your other constituents. So certainly there should be no misunderstanding in the general public that a member cannot assist his own family or a member of a legislator's family cannot be assisted in the same way as any other citizen of Nunavut.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Stanbury. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for noticing me right away and giving me the opportunity to ask questions. In regards to the bill I wish to ask a question of the minister.

Of course this bill if it is passed will affect all of us as Members of the Legislative Assembly and if the member or his child or one of his immediate family members should have a conflict, is it only applied then. Is there a punishment or sanction.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman, if it is deemed that there is some form of contravention where a member would be deemed to be in a conflict of interest, then the Integrity Commissioner can recommend sanctions against any member, if that were to be the case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for responding to my question. The reason I asked is because I wanted to get the information. I will just use this as an example, to clarify the meaning of my question.

For example, if an elected member had a fight or assaulted his spouse or acted inappropriately in any way, would this Act be applicable as a contravention and would there be a sanction. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Mr. Stanbury.

Mr. Stanbury: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. That's important I think to understand that this proposed Act would not in any way interfere with or duplicate the criminal law. What it does is to recognize that you have accepted obligations that go beyond the criminal law.

This is a very special kind of law as has been pointed out because you are usually, as people who have been elected to govern the territory and govern your people, you are usually passing laws to govern others. This is a law in which you have chosen to make rules to govern yourselves. It is a very fundamental law for the Legislative Assembly as has been pointed out.

But it does not in any way venture into the area of criminal law or moral law, except to the extent that it sets probably the highest standards of any such law in Canada for the conduct of your public duties. This is a law which you are passing to govern yourselves in the performance of your public duties. That is the focus of this law.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Stanbury. We are under questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have a question that I would like to pose about the opening comments. It is about this comprehensive bill that incorporates four important elements including the use of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit as its foundation.

It considers the realities that we must deal with in Nunavut and in our communities. It incorporates approaches being taken on these issues in other jurisdictions within Canada and it says here that you are using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit as the foundation. Could you elaborate further and tell me if you worked with any elders in order to have this designed using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Did you use elders to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and who were they.

What Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit are we talking about when we say it is used as a foundation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if you go to the report "For A Culture of Integrity", which was the review of the conflict of interest legislation that the Speaker tabled earlier today. On page 8 there are documents that were reviewed and there are significant references on Inuit traditional knowledge.

There were a half a dozen reports that were reviewed in detail by the research staff of the Conflict Commissioner in drafting some of the legislation that is before us today. Also in discussions with members as you may recall, in various caucus briefings and

Management and Services Board briefings that the Conflict of Interest Commissioner had with members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You probably didn't understand my question. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, when we say that and we say that it is incorporated, what did you use to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into this bill.

I am asking this question, for myself I am not quite sure what Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is. But I do agree with the contents of this bill, I am in agreement with everything in this bill. But when we include Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and the incorporation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit I disagree at that point. I believe in traditional knowledge.

If I go back forty years for example, and if you worked with elders between the ages of 60 and 80 I would believe that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is being used as the foundation and that is why I am asking this question. What Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is incorporated into this bill. What is included. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I don't profess to be an expert on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and I know there are different interpretations even amongst my Inuit colleagues in this House when we speak about what Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is or what it means.

I can say, as I said earlier, that the staff that were supporting the Conflict of Interest Commissioner and the Conflict of Interest Commissioner himself reviewed the documents. There were extensive reports and I can read them out for the member.

The report from the September Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit workshop in Nunavut September 29 and 30, September 1999 that was held by Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. There were interviews with Inuit elders volume 2, perspectives on Inuit traditional law by Nunavut Arctic College in 1999. There was various internal discussion documents and presentations prepared by individuals and departments in the government on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, which included Human Resources and Sustainable Development again in 1999.

There was the major justice retreat and conference that took place in Rankin Inlet in 1998. The report from the Nunavut Social Development Council on that retreat. The Inuit Way; A guide to Inuit Culture, 1989, by Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association and again another major elders' conference that was held outside of Rankin Inlet from April 25 to 28 in 1983 by the Inuit Cultural Institute.

Those are some of the main documents that were drawn upon to get a sense of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Now at the same time Mr. Chairman, if the member is referring to

what specifically is in the legislation as far as trying to recognize Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, there are provisions that the Integrity Commissioner in this case, when the bill passes, will be able to draw upon elders for consultation on specific cases.

Even to go as far as, providing the member allows it, for a member who may be in a position of being reviewed, allows that they can discuss the circumstances of his or her situation with elders provided the confidential matters on the specifics of what is being reviewed.

So that process has been laid out in this legislation. We are hoping, you know there is nothing formally laid out in procedures on how to do that yet, but we know in our current judicial system, there have been developments where elders can participate in judicial proceedings. We are hoping and are confident that the Integrity Commissioner once this bill becomes law will be able to work with members and with others that will involve elders in the proceedings of the work that the Integrity Commissioner has to carry out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of course, you can't respond to my question. It is quite hard when you ask questions about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, because of course none of us know fully about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. You said that there were a few meetings here and there to discuss Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

You mentioned Pauktuutit Women's Association and other organizations that had various meetings and so on but there is nobody who knows all of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. I am not saying that I am opposed to this bill. But what I don't like is paying lip service to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. A lot of people say that they are going to put it together basing it on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and to myself it is just paying lip service, without really meaning anything.

It is like a declaration, it is usually just there without really meaning anything. I would like to emphasize that I am not opposed to this bill, but what is in there that is Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. If somebody out there hears Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, of course, they are going to be pleased but the problem is we just pay lip service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I didn't hear a question. It was more of a comment. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am really glad to hear some of the comments and answers that I have heard so far especially on the idea that this legislation is at the leading edge of this type of legislation in Canada.

I think that can remind us all of the opportunities that we have to be able to pick things from other jurisdictions and integrate them into our legislation. I am really pleased to

hear that and it is something that we have an opportunity to do with the creation of Nunavut and integrating those types of processes into the development of our legislation.

Dealing with this specific legislation I know that there has been a change and it is now called the Integrity Act and the main thing that it was before was a conflict of interest. I am just wondering if the definition of conflict of interest itself has changed within this new legislation or has it remained the same. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, obviously if there is deemed to be a personal benefit to a member it is a conflict of interest, but in fact from that perspective it hasn't changed. In fact with our legislation, the Integrity Act, we feel that it has actually been broadened from the perspective that right now, as long as a member knows or reasonably should know that there is an opportunity to improperly further his or her own private interests, if that situation were to happen, that he or she should reasonably know that language.

It is not good enough to say that he or she didn't know, if something were to happen and that individual were found to be in a conflict of interest situation. So from that perspective it has been broadened from the current conflict of interest legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe, Mr. Chairman, if I may, Mr. Stanbury would like to add to that as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Stanbury.

Mr. Stanbury: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister has said the conflict of interest definition has been broadened in this bill. The words, "knows or reasonably should know", are an important addition to the definition in section 8, as the minister has pointed out.

That was recommended by the NWT Review Panel, which is analyzed in my report entitled, "For a Culture of Integrity". But this bill goes one step further and it draws as the honourable member has pointed out, it draws from other advanced legislation in the country to add the words, "or improperly to further another person's private interest".

In other words, it recognizes that there can be a conflict of interest not only if a member were to unfairly favour a member of his or her own family, but if the legislator were to favour anyone's interest improperly.

So this is the strongest definition of conflict of interest in any legislation in Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Stanbury. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am really pleased to hear that and I think that will go a long way in the public perception that we now no longer have a Conflict of Interest Act, they may have had some concern as to whether it was still an Integrity Act, not just another Conflict of Interest Act. I believe that it does, with that.

Another thing that I would like to ask Mr. Chairman, is in the minister's opening comments, he talked about including a wider range of sanctions that could be imposed by the Commissioner if an MLA is in violation of the Act. I am just wondering if he could give some examples of some of the types of sanctions that have been added. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Either one of you can respond. Mr. Stanbury.

Mr. Stanbury: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One example which responds to the member's interest in the potential use of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and traditional knowledge, drawing on the principles of Inuit values that are traditional, is that the member might be required to publicly acknowledge his or her conduct.

There is, I think even found on the wall of this room, as an example of Inuit values, the willingness to apologize and to recognize and take responsibility. I think other members have mentioned that here tonight. So that is one possible sanction which is unique to Nunavut in laws of this kind in Canada.

The minister mentioned that compensation or costs could be ordered to be paid by a member or to a member. The Act would also provide that if a member became liable by order of the legislature for one of these financial sanctions, the funds could be deducted from the member's pay. Or the financial sanctions could be recovered in a court of law.

So these are strong additional sanctions. There is also a provision for the Integrity Commissioner to consider and recommend any other sanction which may be appropriate. So this allows a great flexibility to examine the nature of the activity that has been found to be in contravention of the act, and to assess the seriousness of that activity, to assess the appropriateness of a remedy without restriction to a hard and fast list.

It would give the Commissioner the flexibility to be creative, if you like, in recommending a sanction and it would give the Legislative Assembly, because the Legislative Assembly makes the ultimate decision, that flexibility in making sure that, if you like, the sanction fits the contravention. Getting away from the terminology of the penalty fitting the crime. Because as you have pointed out, as the honourable member has pointed out, there is a whole new spirit in this Act.

The whole spirit of this Act is that an assumption that all Members of this Legislative Assembly regard politics as a noble profession. That they know the public expects the best of them, the highest standards of them and that they expect the highest standards of themselves.

So while the standards set out in this Act are probably the strictest of any legislation in Canada, or perhaps the world, because as far as I have examined legislation, I believe with the statement of purpose, the statement of principles, the statement of commitment and the accountability that is built into this Act, I think you have the strongest commitment to high principles and high standards of any legislation that I know of.

The purpose of having flexibility in the sanctions is to make sure that the sanctions are refined to acknowledge that there may be a wide range of seriousness of contraventions and I don't think anyone wants a member of this legislature to be sanctioned in any way unfairly. On the other hand you want to have the flexibility to make the sanction fit the contravention and if it is a serious contravention, it might be, as the minister has said, serious enough to warrant that the member's seat be declared vacant.

It might be serious enough that the member be required to pay compensation, either to the government for a loss of the government, or to some member of the public for loss as a result of his or her actions. There is a flexibility that may allow the legislature to require any financial sanction to be deducted from a pay or to be recovered in court.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Stanbury. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think that we can all agree that this is a very thorough and extensive list of options that are available and I for one feel that having heard the answers that I have heard feel confident and comfortable with this legislation.

One of the other questions that I would like to ask Mr. Chairman, is any legislation or any rules that you have that govern yourself are only as good as the ability that one has that is appointed to be the referee, or in this case the Integrity Commissioner, the power that the Commissioner has to look into and investigate and conduct a review thoroughly and have the ability to access the materials that he or she may need to access in order to come to a proper report and findings in a potential complaint.

I am just wondering Mr. Chairman, if the minister or the Commissioner, could explain a little bit about the powers that the Integrity Commissioner will have and the authority that they will have to be able to conduct these reviews. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Stanbury.

Mr. Stanbury: That's me, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. That is I, I should say. I'm satisfied Mr. Chairman, that the commissioner whoever it might be, today or in the future, has all the powers necessary to subpoena either people or documents if necessary in an investigation or review and including if necessary the powers of a commission under the Inquiries Act.

I think the member raises a question which touches on the independence of the commissioner as well and I think it's important to recall that unlike in at least one other jurisdiction which is in the news these days, the commissioner under the Nunavut legislation is an officer of the Legislative Assembly.

Is chosen by the Members of the Legislative Assembly. Is accountable to the Members of the Legislative Assembly. Can only be removed by Members of the Legislative Assembly and incidentally in this Act could not be suspended or emasculated in his powers by the Legislative Assembly, if the Legislative Assembly were to lose confidence in its Integrity Commissioner which we all hope that would never happen.

But if that should ever happen the Legislative Assembly as a body, are the only people who could remove the Integrity Commissioner, not the Premier, no one else but the Legislative Assembly.

So, I hope that is reassuring to the honourable member. You have put a lot of trust in your Integrity Commissioner, but the Integrity Commissioner has all the powers and the independence that I think you want an Integrity Commissioner to have so that he or she could carry out the functions that you are giving him or her in this legislation.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Stanbury. I will be saying your name properly from now on. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question, in the speaking notes on page 8 it states, (interpretation ends) I would like to ask a question, could you explain how the new system will be different from Cabinet Ministers and regular Members of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Stanbury.

Mr. Stanbury: Mr. Chairman, I assure you I would have much more difficulty with your name than you would have with mine.

>> *Laughter*

But I'm trying to learn and with your help I will. Thank you. I would draw to the honourable member's attention that there is a, that this Integrity Act is divided to make it a little bit more digestible than the previous law that you've had to contend with, so that there's a clearly delineated group of sections that apply to all Members of the Legislature and followed by a group of sections that apply to ministers alone.

I might just say in passing, you will note that in this statute the Speaker is not treated as a minister but as a regular member, because in most jurisdictions it is recognized that the Speaker does not have the same circumstances applying to his or her activities as a minister.

But the sections that I would refer you to are sections 16 to 20 in the bill in the proposed Integrity Act. Ministers are not permitted to engage in certain outside activities without either their interests being placed in a blind trust, or receiving the explicit authorization from the Integrity Commissioner for the carrying out of those activities.

Some of those activities are, not engaging in employment or the practice of a profession. They are expected to be devoting most if not all of their activity to the job of being a minister. They cannot engage in the management of a business carried on by a corporation. They cannot carry on business through a partnership or a sole proprietorship or hold an office or a directorship unless holding the office or directorship is one of the minister's duties as a minister or the office or directorship is in a social club, religious organization or political party.

A minister is not permitted to hold or trade in securities or commodities. But as I mentioned, one of the features of this legislation is flexibility to take into account as far as possible the unique characteristics of our environment and the variety of situations that might arise. So that for the first time, legislation in Nunavut would provide explicitly for a blind trust which would have to be approved by the Integrity Commissioner, or in the alternative, and I think it might be more commonly used, an explicit application to the Integrity Commissioner for the authority to do a particular thing which otherwise would not be permitted.

That would only be authorized if the Integrity Commissioner were to feel that it would not interfere with the proper performance of a minister's duty.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Stanbury. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Everybody looks very nice with their T-shirts.

(interpretation ends) How will the process avoid lengthy and expensive inquiries in this Act.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Mr. Stanbury.

Mr. Stanbury: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood the question, how would this legislation more readily avoid the necessity of lengthy, expensive inquiries. Is that the question.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is that it said in the speaking notes that the current system is very lengthy and expensive. How is it going to be different.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Stanbury.

Mr. Stanbury: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to refer you, I will try to keep this shorter than some of my answers and not refer at length to the report, "For a Culture of Integrity". But I would like to refer you to the analysis of the existing law which was done by the NWT Review Panel.

They put the emphasis on the desire to have a less expensive and timelier alternative to a full public inquiry. Unfortunately, without commenting on the procedure in another jurisdiction, I don't think that particular objective was fully achieved in the NWT. What we have done here, and you can see the rationale in my report, what we have done here as the minister has said, is to provide that the whole process provided for in this statute, is to be carried out by the Integrity Commissioner.

Now, there is no division between the authority of the Integrity Commissioner to advise and to come to recommendations and authority given to an outside arbitrator for instance, who would have to in effect, start over again with an inquiry.

The process here is designed to resolve issues as quickly as possible, restore harmony with the Integrity Commissioner having responsibility for the whole process, from advising members to dealing with giving members written opinions if requested, to responding to requests for review, formerly known as complaints. Requests for review either from other members or from members of the general public, coming to recommendations, making recommendations to the House.

Even the House is required by this legislation to promptly decide on whether or not it wishes to accept the recommendations of the Integrity Commissioner and what disposition it would make of a review.

So I think there is a certain amount of competition with me in the unveiling of new attire in the House, but it is very attractive. I hope the witnesses will also receive those attractive T-shirts which I presume are in celebration of the session under the midnight sun, which I am honoured to take part in. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Stanbury. Before I recognize Ms. Williams, I'd like to inform the members and visitors that we are putting on our t-shirts because it is after midnight now and if you go outside, the sun is still out. We are meeting under the midnight sun.

>> *Applause*

And for the visitors, even though it's after midnight, a lot of the visitors are still here and we appreciate that you are able to be here and during the month of May and June the sun is always out. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'm not done asking questions yet. You have to pay attention now. This question could be answered yes or no. So, will this Act apply to senior members of the public service, such as Deputy Ministers in the government.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: No, it doesn't Mr. Chair. But there are other provisions and policies and guidelines in respect to government employees and it is, the government is looking at trying to revamp some of those policies and procedures and look at how we can try to improve them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Koana Itsivautaq. I just want to follow up on a question my colleague Rebecca Williams asked in regards to Deputy Ministers and senior civil servants having to follow this Act and maybe, you know, it's a good move that they don't have to follow. I'm sure there's old policies and procedures in place for civil servants in regards to conflict of interest.

It's no secret with decentralization and the government being closer to people that there's going to be more senior bureaucrats and civil servants living in communities and in most cases they have an opportunity to get in business as much as anybody.

Do you foresee a separate Act covering all the civil servants in conflicts of interest. Because they'll be out there applying for the same grants and contributions and contracts down the road as the private sector will be and I foresee some clashes starting to happen.

So, is it just going to be each department make up their own policy and procedure or will it be a whole new Act come forward or policy come forward that will blanket the whole civil service. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you. The government is reviewing our current versions of what we have to govern our senior managers and employees right now. It's a bit premature to say whether we would enact legislation.

But it certainly an issue that we are trying to make some progress on and trying to improve and make things clearer and obviously try to eliminate any potential for conflict of interest for our senior managers, Deputy Ministers and employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Koana Itsivautaq. The reason I bring this up is that Nunavut is a new territory, we are looking for investment and a lot of senior civil servants and civil servants have good pay cheques and they also have good equity. In their homes, in their bank accounts and we don't want to discourage them from investing in Nunavut because they are stakeholders in the territory also.

But my fear is do we want the civil servants to be in direct competition with the private sector and that's again where I'm saying as long as something comes out it doesn't have to be legislation as long as it's a policy that everybody can identify and look at in regards to being likened to what we are looking at passing tonight.

So will the government commit to bringing this forward in the near future or is it just something that is going to be put off to the side for awhile. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, Mr. Chairman, it is something that the government is serious about. But having said that we wanted to wait, certainly for ourselves as the leaders, to enact our own Integrity Act so that we can say that we as the elected leaders have put ourselves in the highest ethical position in trying to deal with this issue and we would expect that our civil servants would follow suit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Koana Itsivautaq. I will try not to keep you up much later here tonight cousin. But there are just a few questions that I would like to ask. Just a last comment on that and I don't want to sound like I am picking on the senior civil servants or the bureaucracy, but in all cases, in most cases if not all of them, they have more inside information on the government than MLAs and maybe even cabinet ministers. But that's just a comment.

My next question is, in regards to section 36, "Any person, including a member who believes on reasonable grounds that a member has contravened this Act, may request the Integrity Commissioner to review the facts and give a written report on the matter".

Is this new to what it used to be, and why. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, no it is not new, because as members may recall, it was probably more politics involved in the past than conflict complaints by members filing against members in the NWT legislature. We are fortunate that we haven't had a situation like that yet in Nunavut and hopefully with the passage of this bill, the possibilities are minimized if members follow the advice and regularly

confer with the Integrity Commissioner to ensure that they are not put into a situation where they could possibly be in a conflict of interest. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Koana, Itsivautaq. It says, the part that I actually noticed, does that mean any citizen of Nunavut can come in and file a conflict of interest allegation against an MLA. Was it always like that. So that was always the case, because like I say I am new to this Legislative Assembly and I am still a bit of a rookie.

So that was the same as it used to be in the existing legislation and it hasn't changed. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes that's the case. It hasn't changed from that respect from the existing Conflict of Interest Act. Sorry, the existing Legislative Assembly and Executive Council provisions and the new Integrity Act provisions.

Any individual if they feel that there is a potential for a conflict of interest may lay a complaint or ask that the Integrity Commissioner investigate in any circumstances in relation to the member's activities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my final question and it is almost frivolous. If somebody in a community wanted to file a conflict of interest allegation against an MLA, the person certainly wouldn't go in and ask the MLA where the office is.

How is the general public going to be involved in knowing that this Integrity Act is going to be out there for the people to protect them from potential corruption or whatever conflicts or integrity in the government. So if a person, a citizen of Nunavut wanted to file a conflict of interest complaint against an MLA, what is the procedure out there for just a simple person out there on the street to do.

How are they going to know about it and who do they contact. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Stanbury.

Mr. Stanbury: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the honourable member looks further into section 36 he'll note that whether it be a Member of the Legislative Assembly or anyone else this is not something that people are invited to do lightly. It's a, they have to approach it responsibly and therefore there is a procedure to follow.

But this, I think this Act will be already be on the website of the Legislative Assembly, as soon as it's passed. Perhaps it's on as a bill now.

But the public has immediate access to all the provisions of this Act on the Legislative Assembly website and it is my plan to have a website for the Office of the Integrity Commissioner, which will perhaps explain in briefer terms for public consumption and for that matter for the ease of the members how to go about accessing this statute, the procedures of this statute.

There will probably have to be as well, a brochure so that people who don't have access to the electronic means of information will also be able to get that information readily. And if members have any other suggestions, I think members themselves of course, recognize a responsibility and an opportunity to educate and inform their own constituents about all matters involving the territorial government.

And I think members will probably use this statute as an educational tool, one member already tonight has mentioned the importance of youth in the community, I hope this statute can be used not only to inform the community but, not only to inform the Members of the Legislature and inform youth but to inspire all those people.

To realize that the standards and the principles of the Members of the Legislative Assembly are very high and they are willing to be held to those standards.

Chairperson (interpretation): The last person to ask a question is Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mine will be very short. Before I get to my question on a different page, I'd like to go back a little bit to what Mr. Iqaqrialu was asking the House Leader since this is not a regular members and the ministers debate here as House Leader with everyone else in the House.

About where is the traditional knowledge in this legislation. I'd like to assure the public that there is in every aspect inclusion of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, if we would have read a little further on page 5 of the House Leader's statement, it is this Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit that is providing an advice to members. Ensuring an emphasis on prevention rather than simply punishment, that is an IQ.

He was also stating that maybe traditional knowledge, maybe something like what we would have known 60 years ago. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is everywhere, in schools. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is also present in every life that they have known a long time ago. To date we have the kamotik as Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, we did not invent the kamotik. That's old skills still used today. A lot of things are being improved through Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, by recognition that traditional knowledge works and is still the best method, of us having that principle.

Traditional knowledge in hunting is still used today. A lot of things are still used today. I just want to make that clear so that the public are not confused about traditional

knowledge that has been forgotten. We are talking about traditional knowledge that is still known for our assistance.

My question is on page 12 of the House Leader's statement. He stated that the new Act recognized that as Nunavut moves forward in its economic development, it will be increasingly important that individuals that enter public life are not required to sever all connection to their private businesses.

I guess my question is, this statement is only good to the term but not for the renewal on the private business, unless the Commissioner approves and authorizes for it to be renewed for the private business. Qujannamiik.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Which of you wishes to respond to the question. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not certain, neither of us is certain what the question was. Maybe if the member could try to re-phrase or clarify that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This paragraph seems to indicate that the minister can continue to carry on his private business. What I am reading from the statute or the bill is that you can carry on your business if you had a business before you were elected or became a minister, but if you get elected again and become a minister again, you cannot be continue, you cannot be renewed on the government contracts or things like that unless you are authorized by the Integrity Commissioner. Qujannamiik.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Ng. Sorry. Mr. Stanbury.

Mr. Stanbury: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The honourable member is correct that, if he is referring to a government contract, a member who has a government contract, or has a company with a government contract, would not be able to renew that government contract after his election without either the business being put into a blind trust before that should happen, or it should be authorized explicitly by the Integrity Commissioner.

Insofar as carrying on business generally is concerned that applies only to ministers and ministers as I mentioned in a response to another member are more restricted in carrying on any kind of outside activity without the authority of the Integrity Commissioner in any particular case or having had a blind trust approved by the Integrity Commissioner. So, I hope that response to the honourable members question if not I'd be glad to supplement my answer.

Chairperson (interpretation): If there are no more questions after Mr. Arvaluk's question I was going to suggest a break for fifteen minutes. At this time I will recess, we will recess for fifteen minutes and we will get back.

>>*House recessed at 12.30 a.m. and resumed at 12.54 a.m.*

Chairperson (interpretation): Good morning...

>>*Laughter*

...I still have some names of people who want to speak or do you want to go line by line or clause by clause. Do you want to go clause by clause now. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): We are under Bill 7, Integrity Act. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a short question, I would like to welcome the people at the witness table and I believe that this Act is very good for the members and the ministers.

I have nothing against the Act but I have a question being an elder and being an Inuk. My question is the Integrity Commissioner says that if a person breaks the law, if the member breaks the law they have to pay either a fine or they have to go to court but following Inuit traditional knowledge in that part of the punishment and the paying restitution where does the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit come in, in that part or in that section of the Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Stanbury.

Mr. Stanbury: Mr. Chairman, certainly the intention of the Act is that this would be a particularly important stage of any consideration of an activity by a member a particularly important stage for calling on the wisdom of elders, not only in terms of the assessment of the seriousness of the contravention but in terms of appropriateness of the suggested sanction.

Certainly, a fine is one of the alternative sanctions as it is in the present law and the provision for recovering of any financial sanction in court is partly to recognize some people against whom costs might be ordered would not be Members of the Legislature.

Conceivably a person outside of the discipline of the Legislature might be found to be responsible for some of the costs of a review and it would be particularly important in that case to have access to the courts to enforce payment of an order of the Legislative Assembly.

But if the member's question or concern is would traditional knowledge and Inuit values be brought to bear on the consideration of sanctions, certainly that is the intention and the Integrity Commissioner, I would anticipate would want to get the assistance/wisdom of elders at this stage of the process.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, thank you for the response and I understand your response. What I am trying to ask is exactly where in this Act is Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. I don't think that was responded to, but it's all right you don't have to respond to it. That's okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my last question.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. I didn't hear a question. When we go clause by clause there will also be some questions from the members. The members are given the opportunity to ask questions during clause by clause.

At this time I will give the two individuals an opportunity to ask another question. Okay he will ask the question when we go clause by clause. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't have any more questions. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman for giving me the opportunity to ask a question. Under page 2 of the minister's speaking notes, I am not sure that they will use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit as the foundation. It says that it has been designed using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit as its foundation is what it said in the minister's opening comments. Is it like that as well in English.

Is it the same as the Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. If any of those seated at the witness table wish to respond they may. We have been here for pretty close to four hours and Minister Ng already mentioned in his opening comments that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit will be designed into this Act.

Some members have been asking whether they can get a response from the minister and the other witnesses in regards to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. The members at the witness table have tried to explain the concept, or the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit being designed into this Act. So after saying that, I would just like to say to the members that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit will be designed into this Act.

But Mr. Stanbury and Mr. Ng cannot really answer that part of the question because it is designed into the Act. Because we are new members I know that it is going to take a little while for Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit to come into force. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will read the Inuktitut. "Mr. Chairman this is a comprehensive bill that incorporates four important elements. It has been designed using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit as its foundation".

I just want to find out whether the Inuktitut and the English are exactly the same. If that is the case it already states that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit will be placed in this bill. I just want to find out whether the English and the Inuktitut are the same. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Yes, everybody got the copy of the comments. So Mr. Ng, can you just clarify for the member.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the English and the Inuktitut is the same Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng for the response. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question that Mr. Iqaqrialu had. It is the same thing in Inuktitut and English. When we go clause by clause, when we get to section 29 it talks about the elders advising the conflict of interest commissioner and the elders know the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

This is in section 29 so when we get to that the members will have a better understanding. We have been looking for Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in this Integrity Act, but it is in section 29 that the elders will be giving advice to the Commissioner. Although it is not in every section of the Act, the elders will be assisting the Commissioner. The English and the Inuktitut are the same in the opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. I didn't hear a question. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit has been questioned by the members. Just before we got Nunavut, we also stated that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and the values would be incorporated in the legislature and the government. That's our foundation, so I think everybody knows by now that we never had an Act like this before.

It is a new Act that we are dealing with and it is very different and it is very comprehensive and it is based on Inuit knowledge. It is not one of those bureaucratic pieces of legislation. It is directed to the people of Nunavut because we are unique in Nunavut and it can't just be based all on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in every section.

We never had businesses before, but Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is incorporated into this Act because it is unique and it is different. If it was conflict legislation which it is, but the wording is not used as much. It's a different title, Integrity Act, and it's following the traditions of the Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Anawak. It's just a comment and I didn't hear a question, just to clarify to the members. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to comment a little bit on in regards to the issue.

When a person is in conflict, as we all know in the past when a person is in conflict in our tradition the person who is in conflict was often reviewed in regards to how or why the person is in conflict.

In the past, as we know, this is what our tradition has always been. Although we are all people, Inuit and qallunaaq, and the Inuit and southern traditions comply in regards to how people resolve their conflicts. I just want to make that comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Clause by clause. Bill 7, Integrity Act. Page 1. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 1. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 2.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Definitions, 3. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 3. Clause 4. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 4. Clause 5.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 7. Clause 6. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Availability of Statements. Clause 7.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On clause 6, I would like further clarification. Within thirty days after a change or event that occurs after the filing of public disclosure statement. Could you clarify that point or the whole clause. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this is for after the filing of the annual disclosure statement. If there were a substantive change between that and the next anniversary, in other words if you filed a statement today and two months from now there was a significant change in your financial situation then you would be required as a member to within 30 days after that change to provide a supplementary disclosure form to notify the Integrity Commissioner of that change and the public. Or a family member, anybody that is included as part of this Act, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. The English and the Inuktitut page numbers are different. In the Inuktitut page 7, clause 6. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): On the same page. Clause 7.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Inuktitut page 8. Clause 8. Do you agree. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On clause 8, a member shall not make a decision or participate in making a decision in the performance of his or her duties of office or otherwise exercise an official power. Could you clarify that please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well Mr. Chairman, this clause is intended to say that a member shouldn't make a decision or be involved in a decision where he or anybody that is part of this Integrity Act that is deemed to be a dependant or deemed to be in a conflict of interest situation as a result of his relationship with that member, where that decisions may financially benefit that member or his or her dependant.

In other words, their private interests. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Clause 8. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 9. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 10. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 11. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 12. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 13. Agreed. Just a minute. Clause 12 or 13, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where did this 400 dollar figure come from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Sorry Mr. Chairman, I'll point quicker next time. Mr. Chairman, this is the same amount that came over from the conflict of interest act. So we decided to leave that value, that monetary amount the same for the purposes of the Integrity Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: This amount may be fairly old because it is coming from the Conflict of Interest Act, that has not been changed according to what the value of those presents or gifts may be. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman even though that limit is there as you can see, the Integrity Commissioner can authorize individuals to retain a gift of a larger value. The whole principle here though is that there is a disclosure for that gift that is received by a member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Arvaluk anything else. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Never mind it's already been responded to.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 13. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 14. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 15. Agreed

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 16.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 17. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 18. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 19. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 20. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 21. Agreed. On clause 21, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This excludes, does 21 exclude regular members, does that not require them to wait six months.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes the member is correct it's only for ministers, not non-cabinet members. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 21. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 22. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 23. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 24. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 25. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 26. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 27. Oh, on clause 26, Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Clause 26, for any reason if the Integrity Commissioner determines that he or she should not in respect to any particular matter under this act, the Commissioner on the recommendation of the MSB may appoint a special Integrity Commissioner to act in the place of the Integrity Commissioner in respect to the matter. Further clarification please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this means that as indicated here, if there is any reason that the Integrity Commissioner feels that he can't carry out or review a certain matter, for whatever reasons, it could be a conflict, it could be personal circumstances, he may be ill, a family member, whatever the case may be. It allows for the appointment of a special Integrity Commissioner to deal with that issue until it is concluded. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Clause 26. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 27. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 28. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 29. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 30. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 31. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on clause 31(2). A person who contravenes subsection (1) is guilty of an offence punishable on a summary conviction and is liable to a fine not exceeding 10 thousand dollars.

I would like further clarification on 31(2). Which subsection (1) are we talking about here. Are we talking about 31(1). Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You have to look at subsection 1 first of all of clause 31, where it says no employer shall take or threaten any action with respect to the appointment of a person because the person has in good faith provided information to or testified before the Integrity Commissioner.

So this is intended to protect anybody that brings forward a complaint against a member or a minister and not have them be penalized for doing that. So it is for the protection of anybody that may want to lay a matter before the Integrity Commissioner for him or her to review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On clause 29 (2) the Integrity Commissioner may consult with elders. On 31, if there were any contravention would that clause 31 mean that the elders would be involved then if they are liable to be fined not exceeding 10 thousand dollars. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqittuq. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if there was an offence under clause 31 then that would be subject to the court to administer that matter. It would be up to whoever was presiding over that case to decide whether or not, under the judiciary, whether or not an elder or elders should be consulted on that matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Clause 31. Do you agree. I am sorry. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted further clarification on that clause. No employer shall take or threaten any action with respect to the employment. What are we talking about. Are we talking about no employer, who is the employer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, the employer is any business or organization that has employees that are paid by that organization or business or government for that matter.

Primarily here we're probably looking for all intents and purposes at government employees that possibly may have knowledge of members or ministers that they might want to bring forward for review to the Integrity Commissioner so as to protect, like I said any individual that might have a reason to believe that there are circumstances that require a review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Do you agree with clause 31.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 31. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 32. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 33. 33.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 34.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 35. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 36. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Any person including a member who believes on a reasonable grounds that a person has contravened this Act...to protect ourselves according to this clause, can we protect ourselves under this clause. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman this is to allow, to specify if an individual wants to bring forward a request for review to the Integrity Commissioner but it has to be in writing.

I don't know, I'm not certain of the member's question, but I mean, if I can, what I think he is getting to is once that happens obviously the Integrity Commissioner would enquire of the member and try and ascertain some facts around the allegation to see whether or not there are reasonable grounds there that would require him or her to investigate a review further.

So, the member would be given an opportunity of being able to respond or indicate to the Integrity Commissioner his or her views on that particular matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 36. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 37. Do you agree with it.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 38. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 39. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 40. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 41. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 42. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 43. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 44. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 45. Do you agree. Clause 45, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a quick question here is another, it says here that the report requested by the Premier is given only to the Premier, I just want to get a clarification as to why that clause is in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To answer this question you have to refer to clause 38, which in that it says that the Premier may in writing request that the Integrity Commissioner review the facts and give a written report as to whether a minister has contravened any, and this is the key here, additional written requirements established by the Premier for ministers.

So in this circumstance, over and above the Integrity Act that we have here, the Premier can ask his or her ministers for additional requirements. So if he or she feels that those additional requirements may be contravened, then he or she can go to the Integrity Commissioner and ask for his or her opinion on that specific matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Clause 45. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 46. Agreed. Do you have a question on clause 46 Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Just a little clarification here, probably it is done well in Inuktitut. But on 46 (c) that the member publicly acknowledge his or her conduct or misconduct. Why people sometimes say misconduct or sometimes people say conduct. Is conduct a legal form to express that in the Act. Qujannamiik.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Stanbury.

Mr. Stanbury: Mr. Chairman, misconduct is a form of conduct but conduct is a broader term than misconduct. So we have chosen conduct arbitrarily. I hope it is better than limiting the terminology to misconduct.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Stanbury. Mr. Arvaluk. Enoki.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify. If I publicly acknowledge my conduct by apologizing would I then be forgiven according to Inuit traditions and culture. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct if that is what the sanction or the recommendation is from the Integrity Commissioner. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we contravene any statute we are then charged and have to go to court. If I was charged and if I did not go through the courts for a long time and if I publicly acknowledge my misconduct would I then be forgiven. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. Mr. Stanbury.

Mr. Stanbury: I guess it would be Mr. Chairman, it would be dangerous for me to anticipate what an Integrity Commissioner might recommend in any particular circumstance. But the effort here is to introduce the concept of public acknowledgement and apology which I understand as an amateur in the field, understand to be part of the Inuit tradition.

I don't think anyone could guarantee that simple public acknowledgement and apology would be the only sanction imposed. It would depend on all the circumstances.

But of course this is not a court procedure, this is not a breach of a statute in the sense of a court imposing some sanction, this is a process in which the Integrity Commissioner would make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Assembly would decide whether or not the recommended sanction or sanctions would be suitable in the particular case.

The Integrity Commissioner might recommend one or more of the range of sanctions in any particular case depending on the circumstances. But the ultimate decision would be that of the Legislative Assembly.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to clause 46. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 47. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 48. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 49. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 50. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 51. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 52. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 53. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 54. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 55. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Is everyone awake. Clause 56. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 57. Agreed. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It states here that the Integrity Commissioner shall at any time that he or she considers appropriate. So I was wondering if they could clarify that clause for me, where it states, considers appropriate or inappropriate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Stanbury.

Mr. Stanbury: Mr. Chairman, it is possible that the Integrity Commissioner might want to bring to members' attention some situation in the course of working with this Act, some difficulties that might have been encountered in the administration of the Act.

It is hard to anticipate what it might be, but I thought that it would be useful, and I think it is provided for in at least one provincial statute, I thought it might be useful to give the Integrity Commissioner the possibility of making a report at other times than just waiting for the end of the year. He or she might want to bring something to the attention of members that they might want to take action on before waiting for an annual report.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Stanbury. Clause 57. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 58. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 59. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 60. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 61. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Bill 7, Integrity Act as a whole. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Does the committee agree that this Bill 7 is ready for third reading.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Minister Ng and your officials. Thank you for appearing in front of the committee and you look good in those t-shirts. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would, Mr. Chairman just a few closing remarks. I would like to thank the witnesses that appeared with me, Mr. Stanbury and Mr. Armstrong. Also Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Mike Spakowsky were the ones that drafted the legislation along with significant input from the law clerk Sue Cooper.

There's also as you know the Director of research Mr. Alex Baldwin and many of the Legislative staff, the Clerk, Mr. Quirke and many of the other Legislative staff involved in this. And of course all the members for their input over the course of the MSB meetings and the caucus meetings that we had on this to bring it to where we are today and finally put some conclusion to this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you members.

>> *Applause*

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. The Act was well done and we are glad that we completed this item. We still have Bill 7 to deal with and now Bill 5. What is the wish of the committee. Bill 5 is very short. The Loan Authorization Act 2001-2002. Does the committee agree that we are going to deal with Bill 5.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Bill 5 – Loan Authorization Act, 2001-2002 – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The purpose of the Loan Authorization Act is to facilitate lending to municipalities. It will benefit municipalities which may not have the ability to borrow from commercial lenders.

The Loan Authorization Act sets the upper limit for municipal loans for the 2001-2002 fiscal year at 2 million 500 thousand dollars. The government is requesting a loan limit of 2 and a half million dollars to ensure that we are able to meet the needs that may arise in municipalities.

If the requirements do not materialize the loans will not be made. The Departments of Community Government and Transportation and Finance and Administration advance loans only after a careful scrutiny.

Only applications of merit are recommended to the Minister of Finance for approval. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. You can take a seat with your officials at the witness stand. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman as the Chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services, I would like to let the members know that we reviewed Bill 5 – the Loan Authorization Act, 2001-2002.

Members of the committee are aware that this piece of legislation is introduced on an annual basis with the only substantive change from year to year being the upper loan limit being allowable under the Act.

Members have no difficulties with the core principle of the bill as it constitutes a vehicle by which municipalities may access funds for development purposes. Members have noted with interest that the 1999-2000 Loan Authorization Act established an upper limit of 10 million dollars. The 2000-2001 Act established a limit of 5 million dollars and this year, the 2001-2002 Act establishes a limit of 2 million 500 thousand dollars.

Mr. Chairman, this raises the question as to whether this represents a trend towards less demand for loans from municipalities or perhaps whether the criteria established by the government for making such loans has become more stringent in recent years. The committee would recommend that when loans are made to municipalities under the authority established by this Act, that all members of the Legislative Assembly be formally advised in writing by the government as to which municipalities have received loans and for what purposes and in what amount.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments and the committee recommends passage of bill 5 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

A Member: Hear, hear

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. We can go to the bill. Bill 5. I would like to ask the minister if anyone is going to join him at the witness stand. No. Any general comments. We will proceed. Bill 5. Loan Authorization Act, 2001-2002.

Clause 1. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 2. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 3. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 4. Agreed. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In respect to the committee's concern of decreasing amounts, I guess my direct question would be is there a sign that there are fewer requirements for loans from the government for land development and things like that. What does that declining amount represent. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I couldn't speak about the reasons specifically why there would be declines. There is a possibility that there are enough developed lots in the majority of municipalities that there isn't a significant land development that is required. It could be that they are finding conventional sources of financing, commercial sources of financing that may be competitive to the municipalities.

Or it could be that they are financing internally, having the capabilities being in a strong financial position to be able to carry the debt on their own land development. So, there's certain other avenues certainly open to municipalities besides loans from the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Does that, the land development under this program include for the communities who may lack gravel for example, and may require crushing of rocks to obtain crushers and things like that. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. It's not for any capital equipment Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Loss of Authority. Clause 5. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 6. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 7. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 8. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 9. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 10. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 11. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Bill 5 as a whole. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Bill 5, Loan Authorization Act, 2001-2002 as a whole. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Does the committee agree the Bill is ready for third reading. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 6. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister for appearing in front of the committee. I think we have completed the items. Mr. Irgittuq.

Mr. Irgittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would now like to report progress.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. The Speaker is able to come back into the House.

Speaker: Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 7 and Bill 5 and would like to report that Bill 7 and 5 are ready for third reading. And Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder. Is there a seconder. Mr. Alakannuark will second the motion.

>>*Laughter*

The motion is in order. All those in favour. Against. The motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 5 – Loan Authorization Act, 2001-2002 – Third Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Rankin South/Whale Cove that Bill 5 – the Loan Authorization Act, 2001-2002, be read for the third time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 5 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

Bill 11 – Supplementary Appropriations Act No. 1, 2001-2002 – Third Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baffin South that Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriations Act No. 1, 2001-2002 be read for the third time. Thank you.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. Against. The motion is carried. Bill 11 has had third reading. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Bill 7 – Integrity Act – Third Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to close off today with the third reading of Bill 7. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nattilik, that Bill 7, The Integrity Act be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

A Member: Hear, hear

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Against. The motion is carried and bill 7 has had third reading.

>>Applause

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Clerk. Item 22. Orders of the Day.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders of the Day for Monday May 28, 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 the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Before we adjourn, I would ask members to stay behind after the adjournment to have some photos taken in front of the tent ring so that we can have a record of this historic session under the midnight sun in Cambridge Bay. In accordance with the authority vested in me this House stands adjourned until May 28, 2001, 1.30 p.m.

Sergeant-At-Arms

>>House adjourned at 2.05 a.m.

