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Cambridge Bay

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Kevin O'Brien
(Arviat)

Ovide Alakannuark
(Akulliq)

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Jack Anawak
(Rankin Inlet North)

Enoki Irqittuq
(Amittuq)

Hon. Ed Picco
(Iqaluit East)

*Minister of Community
Government and Transportation*

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

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

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

Uriash Puqiqnak
(Nattilik)
Deputy Speaker

Hon. Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit West)
*Premier; Minister of Executive
and Intergovernmental Affairs;
Minister of Justice*

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

Glenn McLean
(Baker Lake)

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk
(South Baffin)
*Minister of Sustainable
Development*

Hon. Kelvin Ng
(Cambridge Bay)
*Deputy Premier; Minister of
Finance and Administration;
Minister of Human Resources;
Government House Leader*

Donald Havioyak
(Kugluktuk)

Jobie Nutarak
(Tunnunuiq)

James Arvaluk
(Nanulik)

David Iqaqrialu
(Uqqummiut)

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk
(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Education

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

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(Quttiktuq)

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Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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**Cambridge Bay, Nunavut
Monday May 28, 2001**

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

>>*Prayer*

Assent to Bills

Speaker: Good afternoon members. Before continuing on with the Orders of the Day, I have a note here from the Commissioner of Nunavut addressed to myself. It states:

I am pleased to provide assent to the following Bills.

Bill 5 – Loan Authorization Act, 2001-02 – Assent

Bill 7 – Integrity Act – Assent

Bill 11 – Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 1, 2001-02 - Assent

Signed by the Commissioner of Nunavut, Peter Irniq.

Continuing on with the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Ng.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 085 – 1(5): Minister's Absence

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise members that the Honourable Paul Okalik will be absent from the House today and tomorrow to attend the Western Premiers' Meeting. Thank you.

Speaker: Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Minister's Statement 086 – 1(5): Graduation in Pond Inlet

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to inform members of a graduation that took place in Pond Inlet on May 25th. It is an exciting time for the community as it is the first graduation at the Bachelors of Education degree level taking place outside of Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize today that the successes of the graduates are a result of their hard work and dedication.

These thirteen graduates are joining a growing list of Inuit educators in Nunavut. They are; Joatta Arnakallak, Geebowah Arreak, Rhoda Atagootak, Susie Enook, Akoela Kautainuk, Yvonne Kayotak, Tuqqasie Killiktee, Carmen Kyak, April Kyak, Joanna Nutarak, Meeka Qamaniq, Elijah Tigullaraq, and last but not least Naomi Tigullaraq

Please join me in congratulating the graduates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister Ng.

Minister's Statement 087 – 1(5): Government of Nunavut Staffing Capacity & IEP

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to be able to provide Members of the Legislative Assembly with the Government of Nunavut's fourth quarter staffing capacity and Inuit Employment statistics for 2000 and 2001.

Mr. Speaker, as of March 31 2001, 80% of the 2,717 positions within the departments, boards and agencies of the Government of Nunavut were filled. We are making steady progress in filling vacant positions. At the end of the same quarter last year we were reporting that only 68% of identified positions were filled. This is a significant increase in one year.

Mr. Speaker, of all the filled positions, beneficiaries occupy 943 or 43% of the 2,171 filled positions. We are continuing to experience a great deal of competition between both public and private sectors for beneficiaries and I am pleased to see that this number is staying relatively stable.

Mr. Speaker, the Staffing Division of the Department of Human Resources has initiated 134 competitions during the last quarter of this fiscal year. Overall, we are making progress towards our goal of full capacity and a representative public service, notwithstanding the many challenges that face us.

Whatever progress we have made in the last quarter of the last fiscal year, we may see some slight decline in numbers in the next report, due mainly to the Nunavut Employees' Union job action. During the job action the department was not able to advertise, recruit or hire any unionized positions.

Now that the NEU membership has ratified the Government of Nunavut's final offer, the Department of Human Resources will renew its full staffing process. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Department of Human Resources and all Government of Nunavut departments for working hard over the last year in their efforts to recruit staff.

Their combined efforts have been very successful in moving us from 68% staffing levels to 80%. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Minister's Statement 088 – 1(5): Report on Fuel Rebate Program

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to report on the success of the Nunavut Fuel Rebate Program.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the high cost of fuel to Nunavut households, the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced a Fuel Rebate Program. This program provided households with low to moderate incomes which are responsible to pay for their own home heating fuel, a fuel rebate cheque in the amount of 450 dollars.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that this program was a great success with over 1,360 households receiving a fuel rebate cheque with a total cash value of over 612 thousand dollars.

I must take this opportunity to thank the staff from the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the local housing organizations who assisted with the delivery of this program at the community level. The staff dedication and hard work can be measured by the success of this program. Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 089 – 1(5): Greenland Arts Festival

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I was invited by the Honourable Simon Olsen, Minister of Industry for Greenland to attend the Greenland Arts Festival, which takes place this week in Nuuk.

The business of this House has kept me here in Cambridge Bay.

(interpretation ends) I am pleased to report however, that there will be strong representation from Nunavut at this important international arts event. Three artists from Iqaluit, Ross Kayotak, Thomasie Etuangat and Aaju Peter, and Jolly Atagooyuk from Pangnirtung, Pierre Aupilardjuk from Rankin Inlet and Bobby Anavilok from Kugluktuk will attend the festival.

The participation of these artists in the Greenland Festival has been organized by the Nunavut Arts & Crafts Association and received financial assistance from the Department of Sustainable Development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Minister's Statement 090 – 1(5): New Social Housing Units

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give members an update on the Nunavut Housing Corporation's commitment to increase the number of social housing units in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the Nunavut Housing Corporation has implemented the Minister's Task Force on Housing recommendation in the interim report and have successfully delivered all 100 new units to the communities. We have made a very positive impact on the families that have moved to these new units.

Mr. Speaker, another 2000-2001 housing initiative was to lease up to 40 social housing units for a five year period. Although the budget did not allow us to achieve our goal of 40 units, I am pleased to report that the Corporation has completed its review of available properties and have entered into lease arrangements for 33 units.

In addition, the Nunavut Housing Corporation identified a total of 17 homeownership units. These units were located in communities that did not have any potential homeownership clients. We were not willing to leave these units vacant. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that the 17 units have been transferred to the social housing portfolio.

Mr. Speaker, through these three initiatives and the Housing Corporation's commitment to build 50 new social housing units this construction season, we will be able to provide an additional 200 desperately needed social housing units to Nunavummiut in a two year period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

A Member: Hear, hear

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Ministers' Statements. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 221 – 1(5): Youth Trek for Suicide Prevention

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today give you an update on the youth that trekked from out on the land to Clyde River, which happened last week.

The youth of Clyde River stayed overnight and trekked 20 miles. There were 39 youth participating. Four of them had to be picked up as they could no longer walk and some of the youth were falling down from exhaustion by the time they reached our community.

This was a suicide prevention and awareness program that the youth were doing. It is something that we are very proud of and it shows us what we can do to prevent suicide. I am extremely proud that the youth of my community did this. I would like to have the communities of Nunavut more aware of suicide prevention as something that the youth can initiate.

Give the opportunity to the youth so that they can overcome their challenges so that they can have a long and fulfilled life.

It has been extremely beneficial to the people of Clyde River and there were no dry eyes by the time the youth arrived to the shores of Clyde River. If I was there I'm sure I would have been emotionally affected the same way. Again I would like to say that I am very proud of our youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Member's Statement 222 - 1(5): Post Secondary Tuition Costs

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to thank the communities in my constituency. We were able to include them in the tour that we went on to Taloyoak and Uqsuqtuq with some of the MLAs.

The mayor from my community stated that he was very thankful that the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Government of Nunavut were able to visit the community. So on behalf of the mayor of that community I would like to say thank you to the members. I will not state all the names but I would like to thank Minister Ng, Minister Anawak and Minister Kattuk and all members who participated in that tour.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make a statement about a concern that was given by a parent about a student attending university, that the present package for student financial assistance does not even cover half of the actual tuition costs.

This is a concern for the parents because they will have more than one child wanting to attend university next fall. These and other parents are not sure how they will be able to pay for tuition for more than one dependant in university.

Mr. Speaker, I will be asking questions later to the Minister of Education because I am sure this is a concern to all Nunavummiut who have children who are planning to attend university in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 223 - 1(5): Iqaluit Wrestling Team

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to start off first by recognizing the efforts of everyone from the Iqaluit Fire Department, the Airport Fire Department, EMO and the RCMP who were involved last night in fighting the fire at the First Air hanger in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the efforts of several students of Inukshuk High School who represented their school, Iqaluit and Nunavut last month in the Four City Wrestling Festival in London, Ontario.

Brendan Doherty, Luke Joamie, Nanauk Kusugak, Andrew Morrison, and Daniel Young were accompanied by their coach and principal of Inukshuk High School, Mr. Terry Young, to this tournament.

Mr. Speaker, Daniel and Nanauk both won bronze medals in their weight categories and I'm told that all of the athletes that participated did extremely well in the tournament and they also performed well as ambassadors for Iqaluit and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the members to join me in thanking and congratulating our young athletes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Member's Statement 224 - 1(5): News Report on Cambridge Bay Session

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all I extend my congratulations to the youth that the Member for Uqqummiut spoke about. It is a very worthwhile effort and something that we should support.

While we have been here during this session we have done quite a lot of things. There was the Loan Authorization Act and the Integrity Act that we dealt with in our midnight

session. There was also the Change of Name Act which we dealt with and we have one other Act that we dealt with.

Also, yesterday we went to Kugaaruk, Taloyoak and Uqsuqtuq. Those are some of the things that we did while we were in Cambridge Bay. Our Human Resource Minister also announced that we have come to an agreement with the union.

So those are the things that we have dealt with this week. But I was a little bit surprised this morning. I don't know if my skin is too thin but when I was listening to the radio this morning somebody asked what we did while we were here in Cambridge Bay.

It was reported that we've had a good time all along. It sounded like we were just here having fun and being on vacation. That is what that surprised me a little bit when I heard that on the radio this morning. But we did do a lot of work. We worked extremely hard and of course there were some fishing trips or excursions and so on.

But while we were here we worked extremely hard, so this morning was a bit surprising. If I was listening to the radio over there I would just think that we were here on vacation. Maybe my skin is too thin but I would like the people out there to know that we worked extremely hard. But again when we had the opportunity to go fishing or to go seal hunting or to do some other activities, of course we went.

Also our staff, our interpreters and Members of the Legislative Assembly worked extremely hard. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 225 - 1(5): Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I lend my support to my community of Baker Lake in its efforts to bring the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan to finalization.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Baker Lake has worked for some time in co-operation with the community of Lutsel'ke on the management plan for the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary. From 1994 to 1997 the Akinilik planning committee helped to prepare the plan.

More recently in March of this year the two communities met again to review the plan. Mr. Speaker, the communities of Baker Lake and Lutsel'ke have a long history of living on the land in this area and they share a common interest of protecting the land, water and wildlife of the Thelon.

They have worked together to determine the best ways to manage their heritage and resources. At this point Mr. Speaker, at this point the community of Baker Lake and Lutsel'ke have agreed to accept the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary management plan in principle. I urge the Minister of Sustainable Development to also accept the plan in principle and to work with his counterparts in the Northwest Territories to provide the resources to the communities of Baker Lake and Lutsel'ke to proceed to a Joint Management Board.

A Joint Management Board needs to be established so that certain key issues within the plan can be re-addressed and re-drafted with consultation in the communities. With the appropriate resources in place a plan can be finalized this summer.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that the Department of Sustainable Development recognize the efforts of these communities and lend its support to the finalization of the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan.

I shall be asking the minister some questions on this issue at a different time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 226 – 1(5): Igloolik Community Hall Extension

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a statement about something I have spoken about before, the Igloolik community hall.

Igloolik has a population of approximately 1,200 or more and all the members know about the community hall because you have gone there before. As members know there is not much room and it is a safety issue when there are too many people in that community hall.

Mr. Speaker, when we look at the capital plans, I would like the members and the ministers to consider the extension of that community hall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 227 – 1(5): Kugaaruk Fishing Derby

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Excuse me for my hoarse voice. I was happy that we were able to travel to my community yesterday. Also Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say how happy I was to see so many participants at the fishing derby held in my community of Kugaaruk last week from the 19th to 21st.

I could not even begin to count the number of people that actually came. Mr. Speaker, the fishing derby participants travelled to Kugaaruk from Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak and Repulse Bay. This derby certainly brought together all the people that live in and around that area.

It was a very nice sight to so many tents and people that had relatives staying with them. Mr. Speaker, I could visually see how this derby brought to all participants the feeling of togetherness as Inuit used to gather. There were smiling faces, happy greetings, laughter and joy amongst the winners and those that did not win were still very joyful.

Mr. Speaker, the first prize was a snowmobile that was won by Uqsuqtuq's Pirguneek Kumagak, and the second prize was 2,500 dollars won by a person from Taloyoak, Ulugak.

Mr. Speaker, I am inviting members and anyone else to join us in this event if they happen to be around my community next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Ng.

Member's Statement 228 – 1(5): NEU Job Action

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to address the Legislative Assembly and the leadership of the Nunavut Employees' Union on the recent job action here in Cambridge Bay and in communities across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased, as are all my fellow MLAs that the Nunavut Employees' Union membership has voiced their opinion and accepted the Government of Nunavut's final offer. As the Government of Nunavut has repeated throughout this debate, the final offer struck a balance, it was fair to our employees and responsible to Nunavut's citizens.

The decision by the Nunavut Employees' Union to conduct their vote by secret ballot is one that I applaud. A secret ballot enables an individual to express his or her opinion without fear of reprisal or retribution.

In theory this process should be free and clear of intimidation. An individual should be free to express his or her own opinion and form their own thoughts without being stage managed and intimidated by their elected leadership. This forms the basis of democracy.

During the recent strike activity across Nunavut, union members have picketed Government of Nunavut facilities and freely expressed their opinion on the issues at hand. Freedom of expression is constitutionally guaranteed and underpins one of the basic freedoms that we, as Canadians, enjoy.

I respect a difference of opinion, as do all Members of the Legislative Assembly. Yet I expect individuals to express their opinions in a manner that is respectful of others. Mr. Speaker, some union members did not hold respect for differing opinions during the recent job action.

Some individuals have targeted myself, as the Minister of Finance and MLA for Cambridge Bay, as a focal point for their demonstrations and protests. These same union leaders have personalized this dispute between the Government of Nunavut and the Nunavut Employees' Union through their personal attacks on my family and I.

Mr. Speaker, it is well known that it was only a handful of the elected union leadership who led the charge in targeting my family and I in their demonstrations and protests. They have also been leading the charge in sanctioning strike action to advocate their demands and furthering their personal agendas.

More seriously, Mr. Speaker, these same individuals have been intimidating other union members into joining the job action on the picket line. Mr. Speaker, I will be tabling a copy of an e-mail correspondence later today, for all Members of the Legislative Assembly and for the public to see.

It clearly shows that intimidation, again that some union leadership were practicing, during and leading up to the job action. I would like Mr. Speaker, to read some excerpts from this e-mail into the public record of the Hansard, once I have permission to continue on in concluding my statement, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: I believe the minister is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays. There are no nays. You may proceed, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, members and honourable colleagues. I quote Mr. Speaker:

"Please, no bodily harm. Tempers will be high and everyone hates a scab who first undermines our struggle then takes the benefits of it. However, that person will be photographed and their name recorded.

They will be subject to full union discipline, which means being expelled from the union and possibly fined. " Unquote.

Quote again. "Once a person is expelled from the union they are a non-union worker in a union job. The employer may either move them to an excluded position or replace them. We don't expect the employer to replace them, however we will file an expedited grievance and request that an arbitrator compel the government to remove the person. The person will not have the benefit of representation at grievances, and will have to furnish their own legal counsel if they are involved in a grievance." Unquote.

Quote again. "There will be a wall of shame at the union hall to remind people who the scabs were. We may send a delegation of picketers to the individual's home to counsel

them about the harm they are doing to their brothers and sisters who are accepting the burden of social justice. I guess their neighbours and family will wonder what sort of person would betray everyone that way." End of quote.

Mr. Speaker, these are actual excerpts from e-mail correspondence which was inadvertently copied to management on April 11 between known union supporters. Mr. Speaker, this is reprehensible and infringes upon the most basic tenets of democracy, a person's right to choose without fear of intimidation.

Threats by the union leaders that their membership would lose their jobs and be publicly humiliated for not participating in job action is no way to run a fair and democratic process. I do not know...sorry, Mr. Speaker, I do know that attacking an individual's credibility, intimidating individuals to support your views, creating an escalating confrontation is not in following the Cambridge Bay or Nunavut way.

Furthermore, it goes against all basic principles of human decency. Mr. Speaker, we in Nunavut have a long tradition of free and public votes. We are no stranger to this process, as we have witnessed countless votes over the last several years that have both selected the leadership of our territory's governing bodies and land claims organizations.

Free votes have also been used as tools for Nunavummiut to decide upon key decisions of public policy that guided both bureaucrats and politicians in the formation of our territory. Issues such as gender parity, selection of our territory's capital and the boundaries of our territory are among some of these issues.

While the issues varied Mr. Speaker, the processes in which they were conducted were very similar. These votes were held free of intimidation or coercion. Secondly, the questions on the issue under consideration were clear and easy to understand. Finally, and most importantly, vote results were made available for the public's review and scrutiny.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Employees' Union has not lived up to the convention surrounding a free vote by not releasing the vote results to either their membership or to the public. Nunavummiut, as do all NEU members, have every right to know the vote results.

Mr. Speaker, this same thing happened during the union strike mandate vote last fall. We were advised only of the percentage of support that the union received for a strike mandate. However, we were not advised of voter turnout. This process has already been mired by intimidation, coercion and bullying that is not acceptable in this day and age.

I challenge Mr. Speaker, I challenge the union leadership to do the right thing and release the vote results for the public record. I further challenge them Mr. Speaker, to reform their electoral practices to publicly accepted standards of disclosure.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Employees' Union has many wrongs that need to be righted. They must start to repair their tarnished reputation with the people of our territory by

releasing these results. I look forward, as I believe many union members and many Nunavummiut do, to seeing these results and getting a true appreciation of the support that the Government of Nunavut had on its offer.

Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of fairness, openness, accountability, not only for the public, but more importantly for their own membership, releasing these results is the right thing to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 229 – 1(5): Thor Simonson's Book

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking first Kirsti Anavigak, who presented me with a gift and a folder last week. So I would like to take this time to thank her and join Mr. Tootoo in congratulating and thanking emergency response for the First Air fire at the hangar last night.

Mr. Speaker, very few Nunavut residents have written and illustrated their own book. Mr. Speaker, of that select group of authors, certainly very few are just entering their teen years. Mr. Speaker, Thor Simonson, a 13 year old cartoonist from Apex has joined this select group of Nunavut authors.

Mr. Speaker, many people outside of Iqaluit know Thor from his comic strips that have appeared in Nunatsiaq News. Thor has been working hard on this project for over a year and has contributed his saving and earnings toward the publication of his cartoon booklet.

Mr. Speaker, this type of project takes a lot of work and co-operation, but Mr. Speaker, with the help of several local Iqaluit businesses, as well as support from businesses in Ottawa and most importantly support from his friends and family, Kirt, Rannvah and Bjorn, they have made this publishing possible.

Mr. Speaker, to purchase a book by Thor, you can contact Thor or Rannvah Simonson in Iqaluit at 979-3183 or by e-mail at paperboy@rannvah.com.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you and this House join with me in congratulating a fine young man and a Nunavut youth role model, Thor Simonson, for his accomplishment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 230 – 1(5): Suicide Rates - Deline & Kugluktuk Youth

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a very short statement in terms of our culture. All people, elders and youth, have complications in our lives. We have worries to deal with, but we survive. When one is worried, it is difficult for that person. We all know that. For some of our youth, when they run into difficulties, suicide is on their mind.

I just want to comment very briefly that in 1998, people from Deline and Kugluktuk gathered together to discuss these types of difficulties, their worries. The goal was to try to make the future brighter. One of the lessons was that without discussing a problem, it won't be rectified.

This summer in August, people from Deline and Kugluktuk people will come together again. The goals are the same, which is to try to improve the outlook of everyone's lives.

We all have to discuss problems and difficult issues with a friend or family member, a brother or sister, to whomever. Life can improve for us, our youth, our family members, parents, in-laws. Life can improve with those discussions. People of Kugluktuk and Deline will come together in August 2001. That is why I want to bring this out so that people are aware of this event. That is what I wanted to bring out today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 231 - 1(5): School Summer Break

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the community of Cambridge Bay for being able to take me out during my time here.

I rise today Mr. Speaker, to talk about the summer break and the teachers travelling home or taking some time off during the summer. In my community of Rankin Inlet the parents will go on the radio and express their appreciation to the teachers that took care of their children during the year.

So at this time I would like to express my appreciation to the teachers and to congratulate the students who will be completing their twelfth grade. And, Mr. Speaker, in the Keewatin, it is probably not just in the Keewatin, but quite often just before the summer break the parents who aren't working in the summer often take their children out on the land and these young children will be going out and learning our culture by drying meat and fish.

In Iqaluit, the students will be getting out of school on June 26. In the Keewatin, a lot of the schools will be sending their kids off about the first week of June. I just wanted to make that statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Just before we move on. I would like to ask the members to join in offering our sincere condolences the family of Louie Komak who died accidentally a few days ago at the young age of 23. He leaves behind a wife and two small children. Also to let the family know that they are in our thoughts and prayers, to his mom Martha, his dad Tony, and his wife Glenis.

Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 253 - 1(5): Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my condolences to the Inuknak family in Baker Lake for the tragedy that happened there yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Sustainable Development. The department's business plan indicates that it will begin implementation of the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan this fiscal year.

Can the minister indicate whether any resources have been allocated to assist the communities of Baker Lake and Lutsel'ke in finalizing the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The parties have been dealing with this for a while now and we will reviewing as to what else we can do to help as the Department of Sustainable Development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister commit to providing resources to assist these communities in finalizing the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will look into this further and we will do as much as we can to assist the people that are working on the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was the answer that I am expecting. The departmental business plan indicates that it will work with the Kivalliq Inuit Association, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to begin implementing this plan.

Can the minister provide an update as of his department's communication with these organizations today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I will be able to give that information to the member as soon as I gather that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister addressed his counterparts in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I haven't spoken with my counterparts in the Northwest Territories on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Iqittuq.

Question 254 - 1(5): Igloolik Community Hall Update

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier during my member's statement, I talked about the size of the community hall in Igloolik. I have a question for the Minister of Community Government & Transportation.

Can I get an update about the status of the community hall in Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of the concern in Igloolik. I have travelled to Igloolik a few times in the past and have noticed that the size of the community hall is too small for the community.

As Community Government & Transportation we have discussed this issue of community hall sizes in Nunavut, that includes Igloolik and other communities. We realize the concerns that the communities have regarding the size and safety.

When we were in Igloolik the community passed on their concern about this and we will try our best to deal with that concern. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, is the minister stating that the community hall in Igloolik will be placed high on the priority list during their capital planning. Does he believe that this item will be put on the list. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure if it would be in there. We realize that this is a priority for Igloolik. However, we are low on funds for capital programs as everyone realizes. I will keep the member informed. One of the problems that we have is the amount funding for capital. The cost of building these facilities has increased, but we will be working on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it was last year the minister stated that the communities are able to put out their own contribution and the government would be open to that type of arrangement. Is the government still open to this today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I met with the community of Igloolik this was brought to my attention. One of the questions was whether they could use their surplus to build the facility.

We support any ideas that the community may have. If the community is able to support us in finding funds to build such a facility, it would be easier for the facility to be built. So we do support any ideas or suggestions from the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Final supplementary.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He has already responded to the last question I was going to ask. I was going to ask if they could give us funds for the design and the blueprints of the building. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I said Mr. Speaker, that if we were able to find funds we would be able to assist the community. We encourage any assistance that we can receive from the community.

So Mr. Speaker, if the community would like to do this, we would be able to discuss it with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 255 – 1(5): Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti Review Committee

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister responsible for Public Works and Services. I would like to first off thank the minister for the response to my written question on the NNI policy and the status of the contracting policy review committee and the contracting appeals board.

Mr. Speaker, in her response the minister indicated that to date, the contracting policy review committee has not been formed and it is basically the same thing for the contracting appeals committee.

I would like to ask the minister if she could inform this House as to when these committees are going to be struck and what is causing the delays in them being formed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I believe there are two questions there. Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The problem with the contracting policy review committee for not being established yet, has been that NTI has been refusing to participate in the contracting policy committee review before the contracting appeals board has been established.

So none of those have been going forward because of the fact that NTI have not participated well with the process. My staff have been available for them and we are trying to resolve that and we are using the Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs department to mediate on behalf of Public Works and working with NTI and our department. Because we really need to get the appeals boards off the ground since there are appeals coming forward.

There has been a disagreement coming forward from the two parties so that has been delaying the process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I agree it has been almost, it has probably been a year now since this policy has been implemented and these are fundamental parts of the policies and these committees need to be struck.

I would like to ask the minister if she has any indication as to when these committees will be formed and when they will be able to overcome the obstacles that she has alluded to with NTI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I couldn't tell you when a consensus will be reached but there has been some progress happening since the Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs has been mediating on behalf of the two parties.

I would very much like a consensus to be reached because I have some appeals that have been on hold because of this disagreement. I have met with the President, Paul Quassa, we have a very good working relationship, it's just that with this particular policy it has become delayed because of that disagreement coming forward from the NTI party.

So I couldn't tell you when, what dates this will be processed through. We have to come to a consensus and we have not been able to reach that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated that there are some outstanding appeals to be heard and according to the policy itself the board is supposed to convene within 21 days of receiving a challenge and rule on it.

I guess I am wondering if there are only portions of this policy being implemented and will there be, or could there potentially be any outstanding liability on the government, as a result of these challenges not being dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I will talk in English for the benefit of the member. Up to date it is unfortunate that this has not gone forward very well because NTI refused to participate in the process.

However, according to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, we have to be working with NTI as a partner and we have to come to a consensus on our policies to make things move forward. At this time I am not aware of any legal implications because of this being delayed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my understanding of an appeal is that someone that has bid on a contract isn't happy with the outcome of it and is appealing it and there is a potential of them winning their appeal and the contract being given to them.

Now, if there are two being held, what two are they and are they projects that have been put on hold pending these hearings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I couldn't tell you the names of the appeals, but nothing has been held up because of these two appeals, or there may be three now.

As far as I know, the contracts that have come forward have been done and the work is being done in Nunavut, but there are appeals that have to be dealt with and we can't do them unless we form a committee and the terms of reference are agreed upon by the two parties because that is our agreement under the Nunavut Land Claim. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 256 - 1(5): Update on Replacement for St. Theresa's Hospital

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to pose my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Picco. First of all, I would like to thank the minister for being able to go to Chesterfield Inlet and have a meeting with the residents.

The people of Chesterfield Inlet wanted to get a new building that would house handicapped patients that are presently in the old hospital. Could the minister give us an update or the status on what is happening there. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity as the member said to go to Chesterfield Inlet to meet with the residents and tour again the St. Theresa's facility. It is a wonderful facility.

The concern seems to be Mr. Speaker, that the facility may not be up to code. If the government assumes responsibility for the facility itself then we would have to bring it up to code. At the present time Mr. Speaker, in negotiations with the Catholic Church, we have increased their budget by 6 percent to allow them to operate the facility for another year.

That gives us breathing time to be able to look at what is the best option for the Government of Nunavut. The Premier has stated several times in no uncertain terms that we have to look out for the smaller non-decentralized communities.

There is a major economic impact in Chesterfield with the St. Theresa's hospital. With that being said, we are just awaiting in consultation with Public Works and Services, another review of the code situation to see what the total cost of the facility would be if we had to upgrade it and to see what the other options are available at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister stated while he was visiting in Chesterfield Inlet that Public Works and Services would review this matter as soon as possible so that we can make a decision on what we are going to do with the St. Theresa's hospital. It has been quite a while now since you made that statement.

When do you think that you will be able to get the report from Public Works. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was in Chester with the member about six weeks ago just after the Nunavut Association of Municipalities meeting. What I can say Mr. Speaker, is that we have a couple of options that we are trying to look at.

One is the cost to upgrade to bring the St. Theresa's hospital, which is a old building, I believe it was built in 1932. It is too expensive. We can look at an RFP possibly where we could build a new facility under an RFP to operate a similar facility in Chesterfield Inlet.

That is what we discussed with the members of the community. But, before I can go to that decision I have to know what the total cost is. There is some concern Mr. Speaker, I am glad the member mentioned this in his question.

When they did the evaluation the first time, PWS evaluated the facility and codes based on it being a hospital. Because we call it the St. Theresa's Hospital. In actuality Mr. Speaker, it is not a hospital. It is a long term placement home for mentally handicapped, mentally challenged children and youth.

And, there are different code responsibilities based on that. So, that may give us the opening that we have discussed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well it is going to be the same facility no matter how many different ways you choose terms. I don't know whether it is going to make a longer delay, but if they base it on a hospital or not, if we just call it a facility, a hospital, a handicapped home, whatever. It is still the same facility.

Would the minister be able to respond then, if the Department of Public Works went there to start working on it. Or maybe that is my first question. When is Public Works going to start working to find out whether they can use this facility. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this contract right now, the St. Theresa's facility is owned by the Catholic Church, the Archdiocese. What they have told us is that they will not do this contract any more to run the handicapped home out of the St. Theresa's hospital.

We have been in negotiations, we have been able to negotiate with them to give us another year's extension that they will continue to operate a handicapped home as St. Theresa's hospital.

Now there are different options that are available to us. Could I go to an RFP and advertise in the Keewatin region and say, is there an individual or a company who would like to use St. Theresa's facility and run the contract as a handicapped home. Because we don't own the facility, we could lease that from the Catholic Church.

Should the Government of Nunavut go in and assume responsibility for St. Theresa's and then I let the contract using St. Theresa's hospital as an asset of the Government of Nunavut. Or should we look at the option of building something new in Chesterfield.

After the public meeting in Chesterfield Inlet, after consultation with many of the staff in Chesterfield who work at St. Theresa's hospital, many people believe that the only viable alternative is a new facility. After saying that Mr. Speaker, I don't have any money as the member and the members in this House know for a budget to build a new facility. That's why we would go to the opportunity of an RFP to the private sector, to Sakku, to any organization or company and offer them this contract.

Right now, as you know Mr. Speaker, on the public record we are spending a little over a million dollars a year, at that facility in Chesterfield Inlet. I am hoping Mr. Speaker, to have the final report from PWS in the next three or four weeks and then have an opportunity again, in consultation with the member, and the mayor and the hamlet in Chesterfield, to see what the next move is.

That still gives us the opportunity for a renewal of the contract and, if we move towards construction, gives us the opportunity of the time for the barge and so on in a year and a half if we can get to that point.

So I am quite optimistic on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister already told Chesterfield Inlet exactly what he is telling me today. I don't know why he is telling me what he already told the Chesterfield people.

All I am asking is, since he said that Public Works will do the inspection to see if it is up to building code, he said he would explore the requests for proposals, maybe from Sakku maybe from other construction companies. All we want to know is when will he start initiating this.

I hear him, that maybe in three weeks the Public Works will have a report. But he will have to assure the Chesterfield people that some time they will have some kind of response. It has been a month and a half now just to look at the building to see if it is suitable or cost effective enough to renovate it or to build a new one.

I hope that the 2-3 week time period for Public Works to do the inspection will be satisfactory in Chesterfield Inlet. The basic question that I have been trying to ask is when will he start initiating these things that he told Chesterfield six weeks ago that he will do. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all I understand the frustration of the member. St. Theresa's facility has been operating in Chesterfield for a long time and there is a major economic impact. Several hundred thousand dollars is being spent by the facility in Chesterfield.

At the same time Mr. Speaker, the St. Theresa's hospital is not a government facility. We have to do an analysis and as I said before we believe some of the work that was done before was based on the hospital designation for the facility.

It is a handicapped home for mentally challenged adults and children and there are different criteria and codes for that. We have been in communication with Public Works and Services and I would hope that they would finish and complete their review in the next couple of weeks. It was four weeks ago when I was in Chesterfield at the end of April.

As soon as PWS is finished with their work we will be able to evaluate that and see what our next step is. But I need to know what those costs are before I move forward on the next steps. And that is what I intend to do. I will keep the member up to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 257 - 1(5): Innuinaqtun Dictionary

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to direct a question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. When we were in Iqaluit, you mentioned an Innuinaqtun dictionary, that is a useful resource. I just want to ask him when this Innuinaqtun dictionary that could be utilized in Kugluktuk or Cambridge Bay would be available. So this can be utilized in the work place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the member asked about the dictionary, I mentioned to him that if the Kitikmeot communities wanted to take on putting a dictionary together, that they can do so. But I have not heard from any of the Kitikmeot communities as what they want to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Who did you notify about the opportunity. Was it the Hamlet or the KIA or private people. Who have you corresponded with in terms of you wanting to see such a program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not talked to anyone in the Kitikmeot. But I have passed this on to my staff and I will get them to work on this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your answer. I have often been asked and been told that there needs to be information in Inuinaqtun and it has been a question that has been asked of me.

This needs to be completed for our people to utilize it within the schools so that our young people can begin to speak in their language. When will you have more information as to how your staff will operate on this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To date I cannot say for sure what the detailed plans are. The Inuinaqtun dialects should not be lost and I appreciate the importance of your concern, Mr. Havioyak.

I will be speaking to my staff about the importance of this project that has to be started. I am sure they would like this project started as soon as possible, but to now we are not

quite sure exactly how we are going to approach it, but I will work with my staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am disappointed that the project has not begun. This was a concern that I raised previously and he was going to respond to me in terms of when the project was going forward and we haven't heard of any movement to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not hear a question but the communities themselves will have to initiate this project and we can use the example of Pond Inlet, where somebody produced a dictionary and also one in Northern Quebec.

These are good examples that we can use for the people of the Kitikmeot. We would like to work with the communities in the Kitikmeot to produce this dictionary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 258 – 1(5): Hamlet Recognition by Federal Legislation

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You woke me up. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Community Government & Transportation. If I am mistaken, let me know.

The Hamlets were established by the GNWT and they don't have recognition through federal legislation. I just wondered whether there is going to be different legislation to recognize the operation of hamlets. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hamlets are the local government and they are under the Nunavut Government and the Nunavut Government is recognized in law by the Federal Government.

So that's the current situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, ever since the Nunavut Government was established it seems like we have been having problems with

the Department of Community Government. It just seems like there is nothing that has been done although we always get good sounding answers.

I would like to ask the minister again, the Nunavut Government's legislation for hamlets, is that going to be amended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am sorry I am not really sure exactly what the member is talking about, but the Hamlet Councils, if they want to go to Ottawa, we are not going to stop them as the Nunavut Government, and they can talk to the people in the Federal Government.

They are recognized in law and if they don't want to work with Community Government & Transportation, that's up to them, but the Federal Government will always go to the Nunavut Government in regards to Hamlets. However, I am not really sure what the member's question is so I can't really respond to him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am sorry if he didn't understand my question. The operations of the hamlets have not had any changes to their legislation, even though we now have the Nunavut Government.

I just wondered whether the Nunavut Government is going to make amendments to the Hamlets Act. Are the hamlets going to be able to take on more authority and changes made through the Nunavut legislature so that they could be recognized by federal legislation.

It seems like the federal legislation does not recognize the operations of the hamlets in law. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize I misunderstood his question. Last year, beginning last year, when I took over the responsibility of Community Government & Transportation, I initiated a Municipal Legislation Review.

The Nunavut Government initiated the review of the legislation and I worked with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities in regards to the Hamlets Act. Even after that they are still under the Nunavut Government although they belong to the Nunavut Association of Municipalities because they have to abide by their own by-laws in the communities and they are under the Hamlets Act which is enacted by the Legislative Assembly.

They are directly responsible to the Nunavut Government. What we have to do is clean up the Act to better reflect the new Nunavut Government rather than the Government of the NWT. That's what we are planning on doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 259 – 1(5): Increase in Student Financial Assistance

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was starting to worry that I may not have the chance to ask questions. Mr. Speaker, under member's statements I spoke about raising some questions with the Minister of Education about tuition costs for Nunavut students attending university in the south.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister is, are students only to have access to college for their post-secondary education. The amounts allotted by the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students program for tuition are only enough to cover tuition to colleges. For example, Nunavut Arctic College.

The amount given towards tuition by Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students is not enough if students want to attend university in the south. This severely limits the types of post-secondary education available to Nunavummiut.

Does the Minister of Education have any plans to upgrade the amount of financial assistance for Nunavut Students to cover tuition costs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak. Minister Picco. No, Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think you woke the minister up. However, Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of students that attend colleges and universities outside of Nunavut. There are 180 students in Nunavut.

For the students that travel outside of Nunavut, their tuition and travel is paid for and other expenses. We are presently reviewing the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students program and if there is currently a student that is not able to keep up with their payments they can request additional funds through the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Just before we continue, just to let the members know that we have about twelve minutes left in question period. On the list we still have to finish this final question, and we still have Mr. Nutarak, Ms. Williams, Mr. Alakannuark. So if we could try to pick up the pace a bit, everybody will get a question in.

Minister.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): I am not the minister, Mr. Speaker...

>>Laughter

But I can appreciate it, it does get confusing sometimes. I understand the minister's response. As Nunavummiut we realize we don't have a university here in Nunavut.

But these are the concerns from the parents that I have heard. These students attending university or colleges outside of Nunavut, a lot of the parents don't have a large income and when your child is attending university and the parents are making 2,000 dollars a month, the parents are concerned that this might make the child not want to continue with their education if they are not receiving enough funds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, each student receives assistance and if a family has three children going to university, each student would receive assistance for their tuition and other expenses.

There is 1,250 dollars available for each student. If they are having a hard time keeping up with their payments there are other funds that they could ask for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response. It'll encourage individuals to attend university. But my question is, with Nunavut being established are there any plans to build a university in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Education. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The smaller and larger communities have different sizes of adult education centres. I think his question was if we are planning to build a university in Nunavut and my response is we don't have a plan yet to build a university. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 260 - 1(5): Pension Concerns

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was starting to worry about whether I would get a chance. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services regarding individuals that receive pensions in Nunavut.

If an individual has concerns about their pension, is there a place in Nunavut where they could bring their concerns to get assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in regards to pensions there are several different places that a person could go. The income support worker in the community, the social worker in the community. In some regards the Municipal Liaison Officer has information.

It depends again, Mr. Speaker, on if it is a Territorial Government pension, a Federal Government pension or indeed if it is a land claims beneficiaries' pension. At certain times Mr. Speaker, these questions come up. It is my understanding that there have been some problems or delays with certain pension cheques not being received in the last few weeks, but I don't know how widespread that is in particular. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize that youth receive financial assistance for attending university and there is other assistance available. Widowers' pensions, individuals that have lost a spouse begin to receive a pension and quite often the widow will not receive the pension right away because of all the paperwork that needs to be done.

If an individual has concerns, my question is could the government set up an office where the widowers could go to raise their concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, survivor benefits that are paid out to widows or indeed widowers, again comes from different sources. What I can say Mr. Speaker, is that at the community level and at the local level if someone needs help with those forms, they can go to again, the social services worker at the community level for help with the forms.

In some cases, Mr. Speaker, I know that people have gone to their income support worker. If there is a particular problem Mr. Speaker, if someone is not being seen or if there is a concern with benefits that is not being addressed, then I would be able to take that on, on an individual basis with the member to hopefully rectify it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 261 – 1(5): Savings Due to Dissolution of Health Boards

Ms. Williams: Qujannamiik, Uqaqti. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services today. Mr. Speaker, it has been over a year since the dissolution of the three regional health boards. During the March budget session the

minister stated that administrative cost savings from this move were offset by increases in population and rates of illnesses.

However, in the ensuing deliberations on the department budget, the minister indicated that the standardization of the policies and programs across all regions such as the medical travel policy, one would hope that this would have a positive impact on the department's budget and its service delivery.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate whether standardizing the medical travel policy across all three regions is resulting in cost savings for the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Williams. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the largest expenditures in the Department of Health and Social Services, almost 20% at the present time, is medical travel. To be able to quantify the standardization of the travel policy and say that in itself is reducing the costs, would be very difficult to do and very hard to quantify.

Because at any given time you can't, it is very difficult to judge the amount of money spent last year on medical travel compared to the money spent this year because there are different incidents of disease, there might be more medivacs, and so on.

What I can say Mr. Speaker, is that in the past, escort travel for example, we don't receive any money from the federal government for escort travel. So with the new travel policies in place we have been able to scrutinize the escort of our patients to the south. In different regions in Nunavut when there were health boards there were different policies put in place.

In some regions two people might be able to travel with a patient, in some other region only one person was allowed. Those types of things are quantitative Mr. Speaker, and we are able to see what the cost savings are because we have cut down those numbers. But at the same time, has it saved us more money in overall travel that would be a difficult question to ascertain. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Picco. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate how program delivery has been affected by the integration of health board programs into the department and whether the department has been able to offer any new programs as a result of this move. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Williams. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have been able to put in place several different programs that we weren't able to do before April 1, 1999, and indeed with the integration.

Mr. Speaker, in the past the Department of Health and Social Services, when it was under Yellowknife for example, or previously in Iqaluit, looked after policies and procedures and the actual delivery and selection criteria and priorities was done by the region.

So the Baffin Health Board might say that our priority is smoking in public places. The Kitikmeot Board might say that our priority is teenage pregnancies. So there was a different mixture of priorities going underway through the three health boards.

What the department has done Mr. Speaker, is picked the priorities in consultation with the different regions, smoking for example, we are doing our anti-suicide, you can see the posters up on the wall, that's a continuation from the past year. Mental health, there are several different programs that we have run across Nunavut.

The other thing Mr. Speaker, we can say with the integration of the health boards and I think the member alluded to it earlier, was the standardization of practices and procedures. That's being developed more so now with the opening of the office in Kugluktuk with the Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Best, who is in charge of best practices and standardization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another result of the dissolution of the health boards has been the establishment of the committees of council to help address needs at the community level.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update on the establishment and operations of committees of council across Nunavut's communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Williams. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have committees of council now in every community in Nunavut except I believe for Nanisivik. Mr. Speaker, we have delivered the package of orientation training, focused goals, to all communities and to all committees.

Mr. Speaker, the concern from the mayors last month when I met with them in Rankin Inlet, with the committees of council was that the funding level was not appropriate. Indeed there was a motion moved by the full executive to increase the amounts. Some of the points made by the mayors I thought were quite good.

They pointed out for example, should a small community let's say, Resolute Bay, get 5,000 dollars and a larger community like Rankin Inlet still only gets 5,000 dollars and was there a way for me to correlate that.

So that's something that we are actually following up on. The committees are working very well. For example, here in this community Mr. Speaker, in Cambridge Bay, we have one of the largest health committees at the community level set up. They are very active, they have elders and youth and they are doing quite a good job. They are proactive in promotion of health related issues.

There are several examples of that throughout Nunavut. Some of the committees are just getting on their feet and Mr. Speaker, after only being set up a year, I think we are quite pleased with the progress that the committees and the communities themselves at the local level have made. I think the communities should be congratulated for the proactive work in conjunction with the Department of Health and Social Services, in setting up these committees. They have worked very well to date in most cases. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Final supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is there a group of people visiting these communities for workshops for the committees of council in the communities. Do the committees know what they are supposed to be doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would hope that they would know what they are supposed to be doing. Each community has had this orientation package and training that has been delivered in the Kitikmeot, the Baffin as well as the Keewatin region over the past twelve months.

If there is a concern that the committees of council aren't sure what they are supposed to be doing, I never heard that when I met with all the mayors of Nunavut in Rankin Inlet during the mayors' meeting. But if there is a concern out there from some of the hamlets, from committees, that they are not sure what the direction they should be going and they need some more follow up, logistic or administrative help Mr. Speaker, then the department is willing and able to offer that assistance to the committee.

Again Mr. Speaker, I think overall Mr. Speaker, that the committees of council have been a resounding success. We need to be able to provide some more support, like the member has said. One of those types of support is the funding arrangement, which we are still looking at Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 262 – 1(5): Repulse Bay Community Freezer

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Sustainable Development in regards to the freezer that burnt in Repulse Bay and they lost all the frozen foods that were stored in that freezer.

The people of Repulse Bay would like to know how they can get a new freezer in their community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are funds available that can be used for such facilities in the communities. I already had a discussion with the Mayor of Repulse Bay on this issue and I was going to get back to him to do a follow up work but I never had a chance yet.

However, there is money that you can access to build such facilities or for their operation. We worked together to build the freezer recently in Chesterfield Inlet. There has been similar types of work initiated already and I will look into it further and see where exactly they stand at the community level. There was a close working relationship between my staff and the Hamlet staff. Thank you.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do you have an idea of how much a freezer of that size would cost. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) I don't know how much this type of freezer would cost. But I could inform the member once I get the numbers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When do you expect to get the answer. Is it in the year 2001, 2002 or 2003.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your question. I could speak to my staff and see where they stand with the numbers and so on. I'll find out from my staff and I'll get back to the member. It will probably take between 2-4 weeks to get all the answers that are required by the people of Repulse Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Question Period is now over. Time is up. Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committee on the Review of Bills. Mr. Nutarak.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills.

Bill 8 - An Act to Amend Certain Acts Concerning Health Professions

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health has reviewed Bill 8 and I would like to inform the House that the bill is ready for committee of the whole as amended. I would like unanimous consent from the members to waive Rule 68 (5) so we can move this bill to committee of the whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. There is a request to waive Rule 68(5) so that the Standing Committee 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 Committee of the Whole.

Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. McLean.

Bill 10 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, Parental Leave

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development has reviewed Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, Parental Leave, and wishes to report that the bill is ready for consideration in committee of the whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(5) and have the bill moved into committee of the whole today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Therefore Bill 8 and Bill 10 are referred to committee of the whole. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Ms. Thompson.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 029 – 1(5): 2000 Public Utilities Board Annual Report

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document on behalf of Premier Okalik. It is the 2000 Annual Report of the Public Utilities Board of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Ng.

Tabled Document 030 – 1(5): Towards a Representative Public Service Tabled Document 031 – 1(5): E-mail to NEU Members (Ruled Out of Order)

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table. First is "Towards A Representative Public Service". The Government of Nunavut staffing statistics as of March 31, 2001.

I also have the copy of the e-mail with the names blacked out that was sent to the NEU members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Kattuk.

Tabled Document 032 – 1(5): CLEY - Grants and Contributions Expenditures 2000/01

Hon. Peter Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document. Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth Grants & Contributions Expenditures for 2000 – 2001, Community Summary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Picco.

Tabled Document 033 – 1(5): Media Release - Paper Boy / Thor Simonson

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to table before the House a media release, "Paper Boy: Thirteen Year Old Thor Simonson of Nunavut Releases Cartoon Booklet". Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. McLean.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 007 – 1(5): Extended Adjournment

Mr. McLean: Notice of motion, extended adjournment. I give notice that on May 30, 2001 I will move the following motion.

I move, seconded by the honourable member for Cambridge Bay, that notwithstanding Rule 4 that when the House concludes its sitting in Cambridge Bay this week, it shall be adjourned until November 14, 2001;

And, further, that at any time prior to November 14, 2001 if the Speaker is satisfied after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and therefore the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice, and shall transact such business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Motion 008 – 1(5): Income Support Consultations

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Notice of motion, income support consultation. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on May 30, 2001 I will move the following motion:

Whereas, the Minister of Education has tabled a report on the Nunavut Income Support Policy Review in the Assembly on May 24, 2001;

And, whereas, members wish to consult with Nunavummiut on the recommendations contained in the report;

Therefore I move, seconded by the honourable member for Quttiktuq, that the report be referred to the Standing Committee on Health and Education for consideration;

And, further, that the Standing Committee report back to the Assembly during the fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

Motion 009 – 1(5): Nunavut Tourism Consultations

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on May 30th, 2001 I will move the following motion:

Whereas there is public interest and concern for the future regarding Nunavut Tourism;

And whereas it is desirable to hear the concerns and ideas of Nunavummiut involved in the industry;

Therefore I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Uqqummiut, that the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development undertake community consultations during the spring and summer of 2001 on the future of Nunavut Tourism. Sorry, tourism in Nunavut;

And further the Standing Committee report its findings to the House during its fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. McLean.

Item 16: Motions

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Mr. McLean you have unanimous consent. Please proceed with your motion.

Motion 007 - 1(5): Extended Adjournment

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the honourable member for Cambridge Bay, that notwithstanding Rule 4 that when the House concludes its sitting in Cambridge Bay this week, it shall be adjourned until November 14, 2001;

And, further, that at any time prior to November 14, 2001 if the Speaker is satisfied after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and therefore the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice, and shall transact such business as it has been duly adjourned to that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays. You have unanimous consent. Mr. Arvaluk please proceed.

Motion 008 - 1(5): Income Support Consultations

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Whereas, the Minister of Education has tabled a report on the Nunavut Income Support Policy Review in the Assembly on May 24, 2001;

And, whereas, members wish to consult with Nunavummiut on the recommendations contained in the report;

Therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Quttiktuq, that the report be referred to the Standing Committee on Health and Education for consideration;

And, further, that the Standing Committee report back to the Assembly during the fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Item 16. Motions. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays. There are no nays. You have unanimous consent to proceed with your motion. Mr. Tootoo.

Motion 009 - 1(5): Nunavut Tourism Consultations

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Whereas there is public interest and concern regarding the future of tourism in Nunavut;

And, whereas it is desirable to hear the concerns and ideas of Nunavummiut involved with the industry;

Therefore I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Uqqummiut that the Standing Committee of Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development

undertake community consultation during the spring and summer of 2001 on the future of tourism in Nunavut;

And further that the Standing Committee report its findings to the House during the fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Item 16. Motions. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask unanimous consent to go back to Item 14. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Williams. The member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 14. Notice of Motions. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Please proceed.

Revert to Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 010 - 1(5): Review of Bill 9 be Extended

Ms. Williams: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on May 30th 2001, I shall move, seconded by the honourable Member for Iqaluit Centre, that Rule 68 (1) be waived and the period for the Standing Committee on Health and Education to report back to the House on Bill 9, Change of Name Act be extended to the fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Williams. Item 16. Motions. Item 16. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: I feel like I am dancing here. Mr. Speaker, I would like to go back to 16. Unanimous consent to go back to 16. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with her motion today. Are there any nays. Please proceed Ms. Williams.

Item 16: Motions

Motion 010 - 1(5): Review of Bill 9 be Extended

Ms. Williams: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit Centre that Rule 68 (1) be waived and the period for the Standing Committee on Health and Education to report back to the House on Bill 9, Change of Name Act, be extended to the fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Williams. The motion is in order. To the motion. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Item 16. Motions.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters with Bills 8 and 10. Chair. I think the members will agree that it would be an appropriate time to take a 15 minute health break. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>House recessed at 3.46 p.m. and resumed at 4.12 p.m.

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

Chairperson (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): We can begin. We have a quorum. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee wishes to deal with Bill 10 and then Bill 8.

Chairperson (interpretation): The committee will now come to order. We have in committee of the whole Bill 8 and Bill 10. The committee would like to deal with Bill 10. Do we agree that we deal with Bill 10 then Bill 8. I would like to get Ms. Cooper to come to the front to assist us. Thank you.

Thank you, Sue. I would now ask the minister responsible, Mr. Ng, to do his opening comments. Mr. Ng.

Bill 10 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, Parental Leave – Consideration

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is a pleasure to appear here before you today on behalf of the Minister of Justice concerning the amendments introduced to the Labour Standards Act and to respond to your questions.

Bill 10 will amend Part 5 of the Labour Standards Act providing for pregnancy and parental leave. The Federal Government made legislative changes that came into effect on December 31, 2000 extending parental leave benefits under the Employment Insurance Act.

Our Act is no longer consistent with the Employment Insurance Act and the benefits now available to eligible workers, therefore it must be updated. Mr. Chairman, the changes to the Nunavut Labour Standards Act will allow for an increase in parental leave from the current 12 weeks to 37 weeks for new parents whether its natural or adoptive parents. When this is considered in conjunction with the 15 weeks for maternity leave, these changes will allow for eligible parents of a new born or a adoptive child up to 52 weeks of combined maternity and parental leave insurance benefits.

The jobs that the parents who decide to take the maximum 52 weeks will be protected during the duration of their leave. Mr. Chairman, these changes have already been made in most of the provinces and territories in Canada. If we do not make the change, Nunavummiut will not be able take advantage of the longer parental leave benefits available under the Employment and Insurance Act because the law would not allow employers to hold their jobs open for them for the extended period of time.

Mr. Chairman, the amendments before you are very specific and deal with only with this one part of the Labour Standards Act. These amendments are consistent with this government's commitment under the Bathurst Mandate that people come first and families are respected as integral to maintaining Inuit culture.

I would be pleased to answer any questions that the members may have concerning this legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad to report that this is a good news Bill for a change. Doesn't take anything away or add. But it enhances the families of Nunavut. The Standing Committee of Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development has reviewed Bill 10 - An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, Parental leave.

Members of the standing committee met last week with the sponsoring minister and his officials to review the proposed legislation. Members are pleased that these amendments which bring Nunavut into line with other Canadian jurisdictions have now been introduced.

During the minister's appearance, members stressed a need for the government to ensure that ordinary Nunavummiut are made aware of these important changes and their new rights under the Labour Standards Act. With respect to parental leave, it is important that clear information be provided in the languages of Nunavut as to how these changes will impact these employers and employees.

Given that these changes will take effect on June 3rd, it is important that this information be disseminated promptly especially given that there is a limited period of time for people who will now be entitled for further parental leave to make their application.

That concludes my opening remarks Mr. Chairman. The committee recommends the passage of Bill 10 to all members. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Chairperson McLean. Now I would like to ask the minister if he would take his seat at the witness table. Will you have your officials join you. Minister Ng if you could introduce your officials.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: To my left Mr. Ralph Armstrong, legislative counsel with the Department of Justice. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Before we go on to questions. I would like to ask the members if they have general comments. Any general comments. No general comments. I would like to ask the members if there are any questions. If there are no questions, we can go clause by clause. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Bill 10 - An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, Parental leave. Do all the members have a copy. Okay I am going to begin with Clause 1. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 2. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 3. Do you agree. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is 35.1 then 35.2 included in clause 3 on page 2. It states, subsection 3, at the end of subsection 3, "unless the employee and the employer otherwise agree".

Is that Human Resources, or the employee's supervisor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman, this legislation is not specific to government as an employer. This is for all employers operating in Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the case of the government, is the employer Government of Nunavut, Human Resources or the supervisor. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the case of the Government of Nunavut it would be the applicable supervisor in that department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In that subsection 3, last paragraph, last sentence. "Unless the employee and the employer otherwise agree". Does the employee have recourse to talk to somebody else other than the direct supervisor. For example, labour relations in the Human Resources Department. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there are different avenues of appeal in the Government of Nunavut system in respect of any decisions made and applicable to an employee. So it depends on the category of the employee but it is laid out in either the guidelines, our policies or in the Public Service Act, depending again on the classification of employee. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the subsection 5, last sentence. For the purpose of adoption as the case may be. Does that option also include custom adoption. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes it does. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Do you wish to continue Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to ask the minister if this piece of legislation conflicts with what is in the recently passed collective agreement that was just passed last week. I was just wondering if this is the same as what is in there or does it enhance what is in there already. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This in effect adds to the original agreement that we had. There are out of the current collective agreement that was recently ratified, which we announced last week, there are some provisions for some enhanced maternity leave or extended leave benefits, but the implementation of that hasn't been discussed or negotiated out with the NEU leadership.

So that's a matter of post-ratification, the implementation matters that are still outstanding that will take place over the course of the next couple of weeks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess if we are passing a law that says this is the way that it is, I would assume that it wouldn't be something that you would go and negotiate that it would be an automatic enhancement to our collective agreements. I am just wondering if that is the case, if it will be something that is automatically enhanced within the collective agreement.

It shouldn't be used as some kind of a bargaining tool or a negotiating thing, if we are saying that this is the law that is how it should be in this piece of legislation. It should be a consequential change in the collective agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this is really an issue that is separate to anything that is agreed upon in the collective agreement. Any enhancement in the collective agreement would be in respect to paid leave. This is in respect really to allow for additional unpaid leave from an employer to an employee.

To give them the right to have additional unpaid maternity leave benefits. So it is really two different matters that we are speaking about here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Do you wish to continue Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to ensure I understand the minister's last comment. He said that this piece of legislation has nothing at all to do with the collective agreement. Is that what he said, I am just trying to clarify if that is what he just indicated.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, from the perspective of any collective agreement monetary item, this is not related to that. This is in respect to unpaid leave, employers allowing individuals an additional 35 weeks of unpaid leave so they would be able to receive additional unemployment insurance benefits for that period of leave.

That unemployment insurance benefit of course comes from the unemployment insurance commission, not from the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So then is he saying that this is a non-monetary benefit that deals with the collective agreement. Mr. Chairman, I just want to clarify because last March, the minister was indicating that he couldn't bring this forward or talk about it because it would affect the collective agreement.

Now I just thought I heard him say that it doesn't affect the collective agreement. I just wanted to get some clarification there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the way this legislation has been structured is to keep it separate from any collective agreement. At the time that question was raised there were different complicating factors in trying to amend different statutes along with the collective agreement, provided that we reached an agreement with our employees at that time to try and combine and consolidate.

Really, I guess to do it in a more efficient manner. So this is the method that we have chosen until we resolve the issue of the actual implementation of the Collective Agreement matters with the Nunavut Employees' Union. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. If there are no other questions. We are on Clause 3. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Carried. Clause 4. On page 3. Clause 4. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Bill 10 - An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, Parental leave. Bill as a whole. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Does the committee agree that Bill 10 is ready for third reading.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng, do you have final comments or remarks. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I would like to thank the committee and Mr. Armstrong, the witness. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng for appearing before the committee. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): I recommend that we deal with Bill 8.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Irqittuq suggests that we deal with Bill 8. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 8 - An Act to Amend Certain Acts Concerning Health Professions

Chairperson (interpretation): We will be dealing with Bill 8. Thank you. The minister responsible Mr. Picco, do you have any opening comments. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I would like to begin with my opening comments to the committee of the whole on Bill 8, an Act to Amend Certain Acts Concerning Health Professions

I am pleased to appear in front of you today as minister to speak about Bill 8 and the significance of it to Nunavut. Mr. Chairman, before I begin I would like to introduce the staff with me here today. That would be Mr. Armstrong, legal counsel who was also here earlier with Mr. Ng.

As you may know Mr. Chairman, since division we have continued to rely on the Northwest Territories to register and licence all the many types of health professionals working in Nunavut communities.

As your Department of Health has gained capacity and experience we have been taking steps to reduce our reliance upon the Northwest Territories, while ensuring that these important activities are being performed in the manner best suited to meet our needs.

Now Mr. Chairman, in accordance with our current legislation the Nursing Act, our nurses will continue to be registered by the NWT RNA. But as of April 1st of this year the department took over the responsibility of registering and licensing all other health professionals working here in Nunavut.

Many kinds of health professionals Mr. Chairman, such as dentists, dental therapists, nursing assistants, psychotherapists, psychologists, optometrist, pharmacists, physicians and veterinarians must have their qualifications reviewed by a Nunavut Registrar before they can be registered and licensed to practice in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, the amendments that are proposed in Bill 8 are needed for Nunavut to authorize its own Registrar to carry out the licensing and registration of these health professionals.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the licensing and registration of our own health professionals is an important responsibility and one that this government is ready to accept. I look forward to discussing Bill 8 with the committee today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. I have Mr. Nutarak who is the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Health and Education. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as the Chair of the Standing Committee on Health and Education I am pleased to inform the House that we have reviewed Bill 8, An Act to Amend Certain Acts Concerning Health Professions.

Members of the committee fully support the primary objective of the Bill which will allow Nunavut to register and licence its own health professionals, a service which has been provided by the Government of the Northwest Territories since division.

Members are pleased that a Nunavut Registry system and database is in place with trained staff ready to assume the tasks related to registering and licensing health professionals. This is a good example of Nunavut's progress towards self-reliance.

The process of registering and licensing professionals helps to ensure that the residents of Nunavut receive services from fully qualified individuals. Registration committees in particular bear the important responsibility of reviewing the applications of health professionals and determining whether they have the appropriate qualifications, training and experience to work in Nunavut.

The committee was pleased to meet with the minister and to discuss concerns regarding the appointment of registration committees for both medical and dental professionals as laid out in the Bill. Members felt that appointments should be arranged in order to avoid the potential of having all appointments expire at the same time.

With respect to the medical registration committee, members felt that membership from the medical profession should be required by the legislation. Members further felt that appointees should be recommended by a recognized body of medical professionals in the territory.

Mr. Chairman, the committee has worked together with the minister to improve this bill and is most pleased that the minister has concurred with the suggested amendments. The resulting bill is an improved product that we all support.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments and the committee recommends to all members the passage of Bill 8, as amended. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Minister Picco I would like to invite you to the witness table with your officials.

Thank you, Minister Picco. Please introduce your officials. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to say that we have with us the esteemed lawyer from the firm of Rabinowitz, Rabinowitz, Mackler and Armstrong, but I

can't say that. So I am going to say that we have Mr. Ralph Armstrong, legal counsel with the Department of Justice. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Before we go to the review I would like to ask the members if they have general comments. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have any opening remarks and I do support the Bill. But, I would like to pose a question outside of this Bill. My question is does the Department of Health and Social Services have any plans for the health issues in general. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. We are on general comments, it is not quite question time yet, but I will allow your question to proceed. Any other general comments. If there are no general comments, Mr. Arvaluk posed a question. Mr. Picco, if you can remember, would you respond please. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the answer is yes. In general we do have issues surrounding health and health issues. As the member knows there are a lot of complex issues around health and we are working on several of those.

It could be terminal diseases, debilitating diseases, sexually transmitted diseases, issues surrounding suicide. But also Mr. Chairman, around pre-natal, post-natal and so on. So in general the answer is yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we are dealing with the larger legislation, this Bill that we are proposing or reviewing, will we look at it further so that it doesn't conflict with other legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as the member knows there are several pieces of legislation that guide us in Health and Social Services, including the Family and Child Act.

At the federal level we have the Health Canada Act, the Canadian Health Act. But this Bill is complementary to the work that we are doing and the other legislation that is in place. So going to my legal counsel, we believe that is correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Please keep your questions to the contents of the Bill. Anything else. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This Bill was reviewed by the standing committee a couple of days ago and today. During our review we said that we

would prefer to have our own licensing body instead of relying on the Northwest Territories.

Also that the individuals and employees would be protected under this Act. I don't have anything else to add, but we do support it because it protects the health professionals. It is more of a comment than a question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the member is correct in his comments in that, that is what we are trying to rectify and indeed, accomplish with this piece of legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Anything else. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A question for you Mr. Chairman, during the committee of the whole our Hansard is being produced, my question was in regard to the term Upinaqtuq, that you are using before calling on a member to speak. Where did you get that term from.

Chairperson (interpretation): In English they use Mister before the name like Mr. Picco, Mr. Nutarak and or Ms. So what I am trying to do saying Upinaqtuq is to show my respect to you as a member, in Inuktitut. You are all respectable. Upinaqtuq Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well it is kind of nice to hear that. I don't have much of a comment to make. The ministers will be appointing the committee members to these places. The dentists, nurses and doctors have to be reviewed carefully to make sure that they have the appropriate qualifications and registration and so forth.

Also to make sure that they can do their work properly. I just wanted to make those comments to ensure the other members understand what we are talking about when we are discussing this Bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Sivuliuqtiit Katimajit Iqaqrialu. The member is correct in exactly what he said. That's what we are trying to accomplish with this bill. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Bill 8, An Act to Amend Certain Acts Concerning Health Professions. Bill 8. Clause 1. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 2. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. 3. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 4. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 5. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 6. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 7. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 8. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 9. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Bill 8, An Act to Amend Certain Acts Concerning Health Professionals. Bill as a whole. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Does the committee agree that Bill 8 is ready for third reading.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you very much Mr. Picco for appearing as a witness. And thanks to me for bringing up a new way of addressing members. I am sure its merits will be considered. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco (interpretation): Thank you, Chairperson Iqaqrialu and also the members. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. What is the wish of committee. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I would like to report progress.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Irqittuq would like to report progress. We can invite Mr. Speaker. And also thank you very much for being here. Sorry I almost forgot you. Thank you.

Speaker: Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been discussing Bill 8 and Bill 10 and would like to report that Bill 8 and Bill 10 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. Iqaqrialu. There is a motion in the floor. Is there a seconder to the motion. Mr. Puqiqnak. Motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Meeting of the chairs of the standing committees immediately following the conclusion of the sitting day.

Orders of the Day for Tuesday May 29, 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
 - Bill 8
 - Bill 10
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Clerk. In accordance with the authority vested in me by Motion 002-1(5) this House stands adjourned until May 29, 2001, 10:00 a.m.

Sergeant-At-Arms

>>*House adjourned at 4.58 p.m.*

