



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

5th Session

1st Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 45

Wednesday February 20, 2002

2434 – 2470

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Akulliq)

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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(Amittuq)

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(Iqaluit East)

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Uriash Puqiqnak
(Nattilik)
Deputy Speaker

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(Iqaluit West)

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and Intergovernmental Affairs;
Minister of Justice*

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*Minister of Sustainable
Development*

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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Wednesday February 20, 2002****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. Glenn McLean, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Jobie Nutarak, Honourable Kevin O'Brien, Honourable Ed Picco, Honourable Manito Thompson, Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, Mr. Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Mr. O'Brien): I would like to ask Mr. Alakannuark to do the prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Good afternoon members. Welcome back. Before we proceed with the Orders of the Day, I have a few comments that I would like to read. I would also like to draw your attention to the five new tapestries that have been hung in the chamber to your left or right depending on where you are sitting. These tapestries are from Baker Lake and were created by Nancy Sevoga, Simona Scottie, Irene Avalakeek and Naomi Ityi. As you can see, they are beautiful pieces of work.

The tapestries that were here previously will now be used to decorate the walls in our boardroom on the second floor. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome back to the House our Sergeant-At-Arms from our last sitting, Mr. Kilabuk. Welcome back.

Finally, I would like to point out that any member that hasn't already signed the book of condolences in the foyer for the late Princess Margaret, sister of Queen Elizabeth the second, the book will be available for signing until Friday afternoon.

Members at this point before we proceed, I would like to read out to you the ruling on the Point of Order that was brought forward in our May session.

Speaker's Ruling

The sitting of this Assembly in Cambridge Bay was concluded with my Ruling on a Point of Order in relation to a document tabled by the Member for Cambridge Bay. Members will recall I reserved my Ruling on one of the issues that was raised by the Point of Order.

It may be worthwhile to review the circumstances which gave rise to this Point of Order. While giving a statement at the last sitting of the Assembly, the Member for Cambridge Bay quoted from e-mail correspondence. The correspondence was between unidentified individuals. The correspondence was not intended for the member, or indeed anyone else

in Government management. However, it had inadvertently come into the hands of management personnel. Following his statement the member sought to table the e-mail correspondence, with the name of the source and the recipients blacked out. A Point of Order was raised on the tabling of the document. The member then offered to table the document with the name of the source and the recipients disclosed.

On May 29, 2001, I delivered a ruling directing that the document be withdrawn from the working papers of the Assembly, on the basis that unsigned and undated correspondence cannot be tabled, as the source cannot be proven. I reserved my ruling on whether the document could be tabled with the names disclosed.

The issue to be ruled upon is whether correspondence, which is private communication between individuals and not intended for a member or for public distribution, may be tabled in the Assembly.

A review of the authorities suggests a general liberalization towards the tabling of documents. This is reflected in a broadening of both the people who may table documents and the nature of the documents that may be tabled.

Historically, only Ministers had the right to table documents. More recently, the privilege has been extended to private members (*House of Commons Procedures and Practice*, pg. 519). Further, Rule 44 of our Rules specifically provides for the tabling of documents by any member.

Historically as well, only certain types of documents could be tabled. These were referred to as "State Documents", being those that statute or order of the Assembly required to be tabled or those which related to the administrative responsibilities of the government. Private or confidential correspondence did not fall into this category. Traditionally, it was held that as the House dealt only with public documents, it could not compel the production of private papers. However, while the Assembly may not have been able to compel the production of private documents, this does not address the issue of whether such documents could be tabled at the request of the member.

More recent authority suggests greater flexibility in the tabling of documents. Indeed, there are some authorities for the proposition that a document cited must be tabled. This principle is based on the reasoning that where information is provided to the Assembly, the Assembly as a whole is entitled to the same information as the member who cited the document.

This principle should not be taken to mean that simply citing from the document will allow it to be tabled without question. All documents which a member seeks to table are subject to the usual parliamentary standards. In particular, it should be noted that documents whose subject matter is primarily of a private nature, will rarely, if ever, be deemed subject to tabling.

Our Rules provide for the tabling of documents as required by Act or Order of the Assembly, or documents which may be in the public interest. Clearly, there is no Act or Order of the Assembly which requires the tabling of the document in question. I must then determine whether the document may be in the public interest. In assessing this, the following factors, although not exhaustive, might be considered:

- Has the document become part of the record of a department.
- Does the document relate to a matter within the administrative responsibilities of the government?

In the matter before us, it would seem that the document has not become part of the record of a department, in that it was not generated by or directed to a government official in their capacity as a representative of the government. However, the document does relate to a matter within the administrative responsibility of the government, that being the negotiating of a collective agreement with employees.

In considering this issue, I have also been mindful of the fact that the rules of procedure should not be applied in a manner that unduly restricts legitimate political debate or otherwise limits the expression of political views.

It is not known how the document came to be in the possession of the minister. I have considered the implications of pursuing this issue and have concluded that there is no reason for doing so in this instance.

Given that the document relates to a matter within the administrative responsibility of the government and that the subject matter is one for legitimate political debate, I rule that the document may be tabled, with the names disclosed.

As directed, the Member for Cambridge Bay provided me with a copy of the document, with the names disclosed. I am directing the document be returned to the member, who may now decide if he wishes to table the document at the appropriate time.

That is my ruling. Returning to Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Ng.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 140 - 1(5): Premier's Absence from the House

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I like to advise the members that the Honourable Paul Okalik will be absent from the House for February 20th to the 22nd. He will be part of the Team Canada Trade Mission to Russia and Germany. They plan on returning to Canada this Friday. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Minister's Statement 141 - 1(5): 2000 - 2001 High School Graduation Statistics

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and welcome to my fellow Members of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the number of high school students receiving grade 12 diplomas continues to be strong.

A total of 128 students graduated from our schools as of June 2001. This is down slightly from the 136 individuals last year but continues to strengthen over the past three years. Given our small population in Nunavut, variations from year to year are normal. Further, Inuit continue to make up over 80% of graduates, which is excellent news for Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, in 1991 there were only 31 graduates across Nunavut. Ten years later we have over four times that many. The increase in graduates is a positive trend and indicates that Nunavut is heading in the right direction. Our young people are staying in school longer and achieving higher than in the past. Young people today recognize that Nunavut will provide opportunities that were not previously available.

Mr. Speaker, as Nunavut continues to grow we will need individuals who have increased levels of education. I am optimistic about the current trends and look forward to seeing the increasing number of graduates each year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Minister's Statement 142 - 1(5): Community Wellness Symposium

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon and welcome back to Iqaluit to the members. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to bring to this Legislative Assembly news of the success of Nunavut's first Wellness Symposium held in Iqaluit last week.

This unique four day conference brought together 44 delegates from all regions of Nunavut. It included elders, front line community staff, both government and non-government employees, wellness co-ordinators, executive directors of non-governmental organizations, staff of Inuit organizations, community justice co-ordinators, child care leaders and Mr. Speaker, most importantly of all, volunteers.

A committee made of mostly community NGO managers developed the agenda. Unfortunately, some of the delegates from the Kitikmeot and the Kivalliq could not attend because of last week's blizzard in the capital Iqaluit.

The Department of Health and Social Services organized the symposium with funding from Health Canada and Agriculture Canada's Rural Secretariat. Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to address the group and was greatly impressed with the amount of talented community resources gathered in that room.

I left feeling secure in the knowledge that out of these meetings we will see the establishment of a network of on-the-ground community developers from throughout Nunavut.

Participants left the symposium with plans to develop and, most importantly, implement a storefront non-governmental organization. Mr. Speaker, this organization will provide administrative as well as training support to NGO sectors in order to attract federal, corporate and foundation funding for concrete collaborative efforts by these non-government organizations.

Mr. Speaker, my department is committed to facilitating joint efforts among the NGOs, the municipalities and other partners. Working together Mr. Speaker, working together these groups will establish and maintain a presence, advocate wellness issues and approach key government departments with the knowledge and skills required to identify, develop and implement programs to respond to priorities in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 388 - 1(5): Use of Inuktitut Language

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome my colleagues to the session. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the importance of the Inuktitut language in our lives, in our communities. I come to Iqaluit for the sittings of the Legislative Assembly with the knowledge that we are able to function in this House in both Inuktitut and English.

All Members of the Legislative Assembly are able to speak in the language of their choice and the documentation is available in more than one language. Mr. Speaker, the situation is not as good in the smaller communities. Last week in Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak, we celebrated Language Week with a number of activities.

Elders spoke on the radio almost every night and community volunteers organized a variety of events. Mr. Speaker, I believe it is important that Inuktitut be supported every week of the year, not just once. In the smaller communities we often face great difficulties in dealing with different levels of government. Letters and forms come into our homes in a language that many cannot understand.

We are suffering from the shortage of trained interpreters in many communities. In my community it is that way as well. In many of the schools Inuktitut language instruction is weak or non-existent.

Mr. Speaker this does not give our young people the foundation they need to grow up in a society where they can communicate in both English and their mother tongue. Mr. Speaker the people of the Kitikmeot are proud of their language. We do not want to see it disappear and become just a rumour of something that once was. I call on the Members of the Legislative Assembly to help support initiatives to help strengthen Inuktitut throughout Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Just a reminder to members, try to keep within the time frame and keep an eye on your clocks. Mr. Havioyak.

Member's Statement 389 - 1(5): Recognition of Marion Nivingalok and Marion Bolt - Language Volunteers

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to see all my colleagues here in the Assembly and I've come a long way from my community to attend the session as well.

I want to stand today and recognize the people in my community of Kugluktuk who work hard to make sure we do not forget our language. These are people that are volunteers and help a great deal in terms of maintaining our Inuinnaqtun language and as well, trying to help our young people learn how the language should be spoken. As well our language extends to the way of life we lead.

I want to in particular recognize two individuals who did a lot during the Language Week, they are Marion Bolt and Marion Nivingalok. (interpretation ends) Uqaqti, we know that Inuktitut is at risk. Without the support of the communities and the government, we are in danger of losing our language and an important part of our identity. Uqaqti, my constituents in Kugluktuk are proud of the fact that the GN Language Bureau is located in their community. Although it is over-stretched and under-resourced, it provides a valuable service.

Uqaqti, I have spoken out many times in the Legislative Assembly about the need for measures taken to strengthen and preserve Inuktitut as a language that stands proud and is recognized. I will continue to do so for the second half of our mandate.

Koanaqtit, Uqaqti.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 390 - 1(5): Rent Scale Discrepancies

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and the visitors in the gallery, I would like to welcome each and every one of you.

We the Inuit people in the north are very grateful to CMHC for providing housing when the Inuit were being brought to live in the communities from the camps. One of the promises made by the government was that we would be provided with housing when we moved to a community. Mr. Speaker, the promise that was made at that time to Inuit brings hardship to them today.

What the government said at the time to Inuit exists today. At the beginning, they were fooled and made to agree to live in communities. They were told they would not have to pay for the housing. But today having a house is a hardship for those who work because they have to pay higher rent.

There are those who pay high rent and those who don't pay at all and we are told that providing housing is very expensive even though some of the houses are very old. There are people who work in the community and live in a house built in the 1970's that can pay up to 400 dollars per month while the unemployed living in housing built in the 1990's pay only 32 dollars per month.

The person who is employed is subsidizing the person who's not employed and if those houses have to be renovated it doesn't even pay for a half-day's wage for the person doing the renovations. Elders sixty years and over are not paying for their housing and this falls back on to the person who is employed and who lives with their elder because the rent goes up each time a person becomes employed. Often the burden falls back on the elder with housing.

Mr. Speaker, the person who is employed is always paying depending on how much money he is making. They pay based on the amount they're making before deductions and this is not right because that's not their take home pay. This is harder especially when you are a younger person.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to get consent to complete my statement.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues for allowing me to continue.

The person who is employed always pays according to how much money he is making. They make them pay based on the amount they are making before deductions and that is not right because that's not their take home pay. There is even a saying that housing is stealing from him. This is not acceptable.

Housing even wants to know how much savings or investments they have so they can include the amount of investments towards their rent scale.

These are their concerns;

1. For those people employed, Housing charges them rent based on their gross income and this is too expensive;
2. Discrimination. People who are employed pay more, the unemployed do not pay at all, and some pay the minimum rent.
3. When a person moves into a house with relatives who are paying minimum rent, the head of household is given a hard time because the other person is working and the rent is increased. It should fall upon the relative who's working to pay for the difference and not give the person with the house a hard time.
4. People who own their own home and get assistance for fuel and other services have to pay more after Housing finds out the person has just worked part-time or seasonally and they have to pay according to their gross income.
5. If a person is employed, their gross salary is used to determine their rent. When it is set that way, it is difficult because the employees have to pay for their rent using their net income because we have to pay government income tax. We should be using the net income rather than the gross income. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 391 - 1(5): Group Home - Chesterfield - Gratitude to Minister and Staff

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad that we have resumed the fifth session.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation on the progress being made towards the building of a new group home in Chesterfield Inlet. The plan is satisfactory to the community. (interpretation ends) I would like to thank the Minister of Health and Social Services for agreeing to come to the community of Chesterfield Inlet to meet with the community residents and listen to their concerns about losing the group home when the building was considered unfit for continued occupation.

I would also like to thank the staff of the Department of Health and Social Services who again travelled to Chesterfield Inlet this winter and the officials who met with the Bishop

when plans for a new group home were finalized. That was less than a couple of months ago.

The community of Chesterfield Inlet is looking forward to the new facility and further we greatly appreciate the minister's promise to make every effort to make the first barge to land in Chesterfield for the construction this summer.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I speak for my entire constituency when I say that we are looking forward to welcoming the minister to the community later this year to take part in what I expect to be an emotional ground breaking ceremony. I look forward to asking him later today about when he will be able to make the trip. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 392 - 1(5): Minister of Education's Visit to Amittuq

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad that we are able to come back to the House and as usual, the reception has been very welcoming by Iqaluit residents.

I will have a few issues to raise during this session but at this time, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Minister for the Department of Education for visiting the communities of Igloolik and Hall Beach.

He told the residents of Hall Beach that the new school would be started this fall during this next fiscal year. Mr. Speaker I am very glad that the Minister of the Department of Education was able to visit the community of Hall Beach and Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 393 - 1(5): GN Plans for Closure of Nanisivik Mines & Grise Fiord Co-op Request

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I am pleased to rise this afternoon of our new sitting day in our new year.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking all my constituents of Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay for their support and encouragement over the past year. I plan on continuing to vigorously represent their interests and concerns during this session.

I would like to speak today about two issues facing my constituency. As members know the pending closure of the Nanisivik mine has been a tremendous concern over the past two months. I am pleased to see a flurry of activity on the part of the government to address this issue.

I would like to publicly express my appreciation to Minister Akesuk for taking the time to visit Arctic Bay recently. I encourage him to stay in regular contact with the community. Mr. Speaker, my constituents are placing a great deal of faith in their government on this issue.

We cannot betray their trust and I intend to pay careful attention to progress on this issue. Mr. Speaker, the issue of economic development and community infrastructure is also a high priority in the communities.

In Grise Fiord, the local co-op is making an effort towards development through their proposal to the government to build a combined commercial and residential building. The present building housing government offices in Grise is decaying and unsuitable.

Mr. Speaker I am seeking unanimous consent to complete my statement.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The present building housing government offices in Grise Fiord is decaying and unsuitable. It is unsuitable and I would encourage the government to take a serious look at this proposal from the co-op. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 394 - 1(5): NTI Elections - Paul Kaludjak and Cathy Towntongie

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate the people of Rankin Inlet for having excellent celebrations. I apologize that I wasn't able to be here during Language Week, which was held last week. I just saw a long time Iqaluit resident, Val Haas, I would like to welcome her to the chamber.

Just recently, there was an election for the President and Vice-President of Finance for NTI. Paul Kaludjak was elected as Vice President of Finance. He used to be the President of the Kivalliq Inuit Association for quite a number of years. He is now the Vice President to NTI. I would like to extend my congratulations to Mr. Paul Kaludjak as he is a resident of Rankin Inlet and my constituent.

Also, for the very first time Cathy Towtongie was finally elected to be the President of NTI. She tried on a number of occasions for this position and has just recently been elected. Her parents are elders who make huge contributions to Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and traditions.

In the 70's she was a board member for ITC, she has had her own business in Rankin Inlet and she used to work for the GNWT with the Legal Division. She used to work for the Keewatin Regional Council.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Ms. Towtongie as she is the first woman President to be elected to such an organization. I would like to extend my congratulations to these two people from Rankin Inlet. Tomorrow we will be meeting with these two individuals and invitations were extended to all the Members. I am not exactly sure where this event is going to be held. I would like to extend my congratulations to these two. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 395 - 1(5): Iqaluit East Constituency Issues and Concerns

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Uqaqti. Uqaqti, last night I hosted a meeting for the constituents of Iqaluit East which, as you know Mr. Speaker, includes the residents of Happy Valley, Tundra Valley, and Apex. Mr. Speaker since April 1st, 1999 I have tried to keep the residents of Iqaluit East up to date with my activities through annual newsletters, one on one communications and public meetings like last night. This was my fourth public meeting I've had since April 1st.

Mr. Speaker, several issues were raised during the meeting by the constituents. A very dramatic presentation by a very young Pauloosie Davidee on the announced possible closure of the Arnaitok Centre captured the attention of all who were at the meeting.

Other questions concerned the upcoming new Education Act, the Human Rights Act, the continuing debate on open pit burning and concerns with the incinerator at the Baffin Regional Hospital. Mr. Speaker, there were also concerns raised about the infrastructure here in Iqaluit and the possible increase to mill rates and municipal taxes.

A strong message by those who attended the meeting on the possible closure of the Arnaitok Centre needs to be carefully studied and reviewed by our City Council. The ongoing open burning at the dump also needs to be addressed. Mr. Speaker, I will be formally writing the mayor and council on these issues and would like to thank the constituents for attending and I also look forward with meeting with the constituents again at our next meeting in the coming months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 396 - 1(5): Mandate of First Nunavut Legislative Members;
Need for Infrastructure**

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I am very pleased to rise today for the first time in the year 2002 and welcome everyone back to the heart of our capital city.

Mr. Speaker, the Members of this House have now been in office I believe for over one thousand days since we swore our oath on what seems to be a very distant spring morning in the final year of the 20th century.

As we look forward Mr. Speaker to the final two years of our mandate, we must ask ourselves a question. Have we remained true to the trust the people placed in us, by our constituents when they elected us to the first Legislative Assembly in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker I imagine every Member in this House would wish to be able to respond with a resounding yes.

I believe we were elected to achieve a number of specific goals for our constituents and communities. Many of these goals are articulated in the Bathurst Mandate and they are goals that we will fight for daily in this place.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we should lead by example and make hard choices. Our capital, Iqaluit, is facing unprecedented pressures on its aging infrastructure. Pressures are made more acute by our explosive population in recent years. While our communities are crying out for help to provide and strengthen basic municipal services, programs and infrastructure, we must simultaneously try to do our best to balance the legitimate needs for such issues as the on-going crisis in classroom size in schools throughout Nunavut.

I could also mention the needs and areas such as substance abuse treatment or homelessness. Mr. Speaker our resources as we all know, are scarce and every dollar counts when our government approaches Ottawa to make its case for enhanced funding. We know that the federal government is not blind. We know that they will scrutinize and ask us whether we are putting our current resources to good use.

Mr. Speaker, our voters trusted me and us in putting their interests first. During the remainder of my term, I will be working as I am sure all of us will be, to continue to ensure that we do just that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 397 - 1(5): Healing Circles Needed Rather Than Shelters

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to outline a concern that I believe is going to be more prominent in the coming years for the whole of Nunavut. It is in regards to the women who are sent to shelters by the Department of Health & Social Services.

Usually what happens is when a woman is sent out, is the children are left behind and they have to be taken care of by their grandparents and her relatives. Sometimes when the women are sent out to the shelters, whether to Iqaluit or to another community, and if they are here in Iqaluit many end up drinking and some end up having extra-marital affairs.

I think we will have to look at that and think about the children that have been left behind. We need to face and deal with the pain that these children are enduring. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Member's Statements. Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 398 - 1(5): Rachel Arngnammaktig Elementary School Breakfast Program

Mr. McLean: Ma'na, Uqaqti. Uqaqti, it gives me great satisfaction today to share a genuine good news story with the members of this House. Uqaqti, it is no secret that Nunavut suffers from levels of child poverty. It is tragic that children in the 21st century sometimes go to school hungry each morning.

But in my community of Baker Lake, a number of truly dedicated individuals have been working to make sure that the students of Rachel Arngnammaktig Elementary have a good breakfast each morning before the school day starts.

Uqaqti, the school breakfast program was started in August of 2001. After funding for the program dried up, the group of volunteers who run the breakfast club came up with an innovative solution. It turns out that the gym teacher, Aaron Coutts' uncle, worked at the world famous Robin Hood flour company in Ontario. Thanks to the generosity of Calm Air, over 1200 kilograms of flour was airlifted to Baker Lake last month. This flour is being put to good use as over 300 children are now able to enjoy nutritious muffins every morning.

Uqaqti, the school administration has established a firm policy that no child in need will be turned away. This Breakfast for Learning initiative is helping our students be able to focus on their important studies rather than the rumblings of an empty stomach.

Uqaqti, recognition is in order for a number of people in Qamanittuaq. The two Winnies, Winnie Seeteenak and Winnie Putumiraqtuq, the two Elizabeths, Elizabeth Paungrat and Elizabeth Mikkungwak. Another Mikkungwak that deserves praise is Katherine Mikkungwak who volunteers tirelessly in that school. The co-Principal Becky Iyago has also worked extremely hard to make this happen, as have all the volunteers and members of the Anglican Church Ladies' Auxiliary. I would also like to single out Lloyd Descharmes from Calm Air's office in Thompson for logistical support.

Uqaqti, this Baker Lake program shows what we can accomplish when a community pulls together and fills in the gaps when all of our governments can't. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 399 - 1(5): Minister of Education Visit to Akulliq Constituency

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say thank you to everybody for being here and getting back to work. At times it is going to be hard, but of course we will keep trying on a daily basis. There will be times when we will have to make hard decisions.

To the Minister of Education, I would like to thank him for coming to my communities of Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk. It was hard to get things going in Kugaaruk but I am grateful to the minister for holding meetings for the populations in both communities. I don't have much else, but I would like to thank the people of Iqaluit for welcoming us back. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Sorry we will go back, we do have one more Member's Statement. Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 400 - 1(5): Bravery Award for Lucassie Meeko

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome the other members coming back to Iqaluit. You may have heard through the media about a person from Sanikiluaq, Lucassie Meeko, the leader of the Cadets in Sanikiluaq.

I think it was in 1990 that I was one of the people that travelled from one of the camps and our sister-in-law, who has since passed away, was one of the people that came with us. Our children were loaded on four wheelers to be taken back to the community, but that area is very rough and the four wheelers were holding elders and children. A four wheeler fell in the water with one of the children.

Because the water was too deep we couldn't get her out, but Lucassie Meeko was able to save her life and his act of bravery will be getting recognized. I would like to congratulate him on behalf of all the members here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Akasuk.

Member's Statement 401 - 1(5): Kimmirut Arena Opening

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hello to the people in my riding of Kimmirut and Cape Dorset. In the beginning of the New Year, an issue that I and previous members worked hard on has finally materialised. It was a long time wish that the community had. The new arena was just opened in Kimmirut and I am sure it will be very beneficial to the young people and all others as well.

On behalf of the people of Kimmirut, I would like to say thank you to the government. We should go play hockey there again in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Are there any other Members' Statements? Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 402 - 1(5): Shelters Need to Incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome my colleagues back to Iqaluit. To add to Mr. Nutarak's remarks we are in support of preventing violence and the abuse of children, women or men. No one should ever be subjected to violence or abuse. I agree with his statement and wish for the issue to be understood.

One time a person, a man came over and talked to me about his wife leaving him to go to a shelter. He wanted assistance and I called the shelter on his behalf to see if there could be counselling arranged for the both of them. I was told by the shelter employee that they dealt only with women and did not involve themselves with the men at all.

In the past, according to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, when couples were having problems elders were made available and they were able to talk to the couples. This is what Mr. Nutarak was getting at and it is a heavy subject.

This is not about taking the side of one gender or anything like that. It is about getting to the root of the problem and treating all equally. We don't want any child, woman or man subject to any abuse. Please start using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in these situations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Any further Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Picco.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my very great pleasure today to introduce several people in the gallery. First of all, a lady that needs no introduction, she's involved right now in the very ambitious project called "The People", an IMAX film that she has been working on for a long time. She's well known throughout Nunavut, Mrs. Ann Hanson in the gallery.

Next to Ann Hanson, Mr. Speaker, a long time former resident of Nunavut, right now she is working as a mortician in B.C. and I can't fail to say Mr. Speaker that the work of an undertaker in B.C. right now is quite dead which is good for Val. So I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ms. Val Haas back to Iqaluit and back to Nunavut and good luck with your meetings over the next couple of days on the IMAX film project.

I would also like to welcome to the gallery several people who were at my meeting last night, one being Mr. Marcel Mason who is in the gallery and who articulated very well concerns with open pit and open garbage burning in the community of Iqaluit.

Also another gentleman who was in the meeting last Mr. Alfred. Alfred attends most meetings in Iqaluit and I would like to welcome Alfred to the gallery. I would also like to take this opportunity to give a special welcome to a very important person in our community, respected elder, Mr. Celistine Erkidjuk. Thank you Mr. Erkidjuk.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to also recognize an individual who was in charge of the department that I was working in previously. We both dealt with the issues of abused persons for many years, Val Haas.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an Iqaluit resident who was raised in my constituency. I often see this individual in my travels so I would like to recognize Matthew Akavak who is in the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to recognize a couple of people here in the gallery. One is a young lady here that works with QIA and is very involved in the development of youth and pushing the goals of youth to get programs and services. Not only here in Iqaluit but all through the Baffin Region. Christa Henderson.

Also Mr. Speaker, someone in the gallery that does a lot to go out of her way to try and assist people in need when she can through her work and that is Eva Onalik from Canadian North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Members at this point I would like to pass along our condolences to the family of Mr. John Quirke, Clerk of the Assembly. John's wife Annie's mom passed away earlier today. Naki Ekho was a well-known and respected elder who passed away early this morning. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Item 6. Oral Questions. Are there any oral questions? Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 401 – 1(5): Language Plans for Six Months

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask a question. During my Member's Statement earlier, I spoke about the promotion of language in Nunavut. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

We often talk about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in the House and within the government. There is a lot more to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit than it sounds. It also involves respect and culture and our language, our social issues. I would like to ask the minister what specific things his department plans to do in the next six months to strengthen Inuktitut in the Kitikmeot communities, especially in the Kitikmeot communities.

What is his department doing to strengthen Inuktitut in Nunavut and especially the Kitikmeot communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak. To the new Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question raised by Mr. Puqiqnak. For the next six months, I can't really identify what we are going

to be doing to promote or strengthen Inuktitut, but we know the funding from the federal government for languages is not enough compared to funds for French language services.

I met with Sheila Copps the Heritage Minister and discussed with her how we could increase the funds for the Inuktitut language.

That meeting was an interesting meeting and I expect that there will be work done to increase the funding. I am aware that it is important that parents speak their mother tongue at home and teach their children in the home. I will be working with Eva Aariak, the Languages Commissioner, on ways to promote our language in the schools.

I will also be working with the Minister of Education on ways to speed up the work that is being done on the Language Act. We expect that there will be more promotion of the language in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Supplementary questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response. I know that he respects my question. He grew up in a small community so he is aware of my concerns. In the next few years, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtut unilingual speakers will be declining. We will be seeing a lot more bilingual people in Nunavut speaking Inuktitut and English or Inuinnaqtut and English simultaneously.

It is important that we strengthen our language. A lot of the material that I receive in my office is only in English and we have the Language Bureau in the Kitikmeot. I will summarize my preamble. With the Language Bureau in the Kitikmeot, what is being done to train people that would like to become translators? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are responsible for the Language Bureau in Kugluktuk and we encourage Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtut being spoken more in the workplace. With Language Week being held just recently we understand that we have to encourage Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtut to be spoken throughout the year.

We have to think of ways to encourage our people to speak their mother tongue. Because our language is the strongest aboriginal language in Canada and we want to continue to keep it strong. So Culture, Language, Elders & Youth will work to speed up the promotion of language. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Supplementary question. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (Interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my supplementary to the same minister. What can be done within the Government of Nunavut to train more professional translators? What can his department do to train more interpreter/translators in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): I am Inuit as this member is so I'll be speaking Inuktitut. We are looking at how we can make the programs for interpreting and translating better within Nunavut. We encourage departments and other organizations to produce documents in Inuktitut that will have to be translated into English. So that is one way of encouraging training within Nunavut.

We had a discussion recently how the people from the North need to be heard, how we need to encourage the promotion of our language and how we could better train more interpreter/translators. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 402 - 1(5): Shelter's Mandate and Follow-up Care

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made a statement about this issue earlier and I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services about safe shelters. For instance if my wife and I are having problems and my wife goes to the shelter, is the goal just to provide a safe place. Or if my wife is scared of me and leaves me to go to the shelter, is it just to keep her there until she is no longer scared.

My question is whether there is more to it than that. Are there services to get to the root of these problems? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, before a person can be referred by social services or community health staff at a community level, they do an investigation to see what the situation is. The most important thing is the safety of the person that has been victimized to make sure that there isn't a repeat case of the physical abuse. And based on that usually a referral is done. For example, here in the Baffin region it would be to Qimaavik in Iqaluit or within Cape Dorset where there is a home and so on.

It is based on the review done by the medical professional or social worker, the person on the ground in the community. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): The minister states that an investigation is conducted first in the community. Is there a group in the communities to assist with these investigations coming from your department? Or is it done only through the health department. I would appreciate that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, each case is different. It depends on the severity of the case. For example Mr. Speaker, if a woman feels, in most cases it is a woman, feels that their life is in jeopardy, they have been abused. When they go to a social worker or it could be the community nurse, it could be a community court worker through justice.

They make a program available and they make a reference to that person saying that they have an opportunity to go to for example in this case Qimaavik here in Iqaluit. Those types of choices Mr. Speaker are not taken lightly. And we want to make sure Mr. Speaker that we are clear that in many cases when people are referred to the woman's shelter they have been in some cases severely traumatized, in a lot of cases.

Mr. Speaker, I met with the Baffin Regional Agviik Board, which runs the women's shelter in Iqaluit just recently, and indeed almost 60% of those staying there are children. In a lot of the cases, the mother takes the children to the home. Before Mr. Speaker a referral is made, the caseworker working on the case does an investigation and decides with the client's agreement to be moved to a shelter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Supplementary question. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): The minister stated that there is an investigation done or a referral is done in a community before the individual is sent out to the shelter. I wondered if there could be an elders' council or an elders' group that could assist in the investigation or the counselling of those individuals before they are referred to the shelter.

There are 26 communities in Nunavut and those elders' groups could be struck to form a committee to help in the assessment of the individual before they are referred to a shelter. My reasoning behind this is, perhaps I could just clarify to the minister, if these elder groups could counsel the man and the wife sometimes they can resolve their problem even after they had a fight. Perhaps these elder groups can help counsel them before anybody is sent out to a shelter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in most cases and again each case is different. It depends on what has happened within the relationship. For example if the social worker, the community nurse, or the court worker believes that the woman might be in jeopardy, if there is an issue of the safety of that person. Or that the person has been traumatized, it may be for the best interest of that person to be taken away.

So they are given the opportunity to leave the community and go to the women's shelter. At the same time Mr. Speaker, if there is an opportunity for counselling with an elders'

group and so on, that is done, that is facilitated at the community level but each case is different.

Again, Mr. Speaker, it depends on the severity of the case and usually it's a last resort that someone would leave a community to go to a shelter. I understand what the member is saying, I respect the opportunity for counselling with the people at the community level with elders and so on.

At the same time we have be cognisant of the situation with family violence especially spousal assault and spousal abuse. Once the case worker makes a decision to take that person out of the community or send them to the Qimaavik in this case or to a women's shelter wherever in Nunavut or outside of Nunavut. In some cases we've sent people to Alison McAteer House for example in Yellowknife. That is not done lightly and it is usually done on the precondition of the evaluation that is done between the person involved and the counsellor or the Social Worker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 403 - 1(5): Housing Review - Rent Scale

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of the Housing Corporation in regards to my statement earlier today. I understand that some people get a subsidy on the payment of their rent and some of them get don't get any subsidy whatsoever.

Some people pay rent from the money that they get from their employment and some get a full subsidy. Even though there is the same rental scale there are some people treated differently than others. Looking at that fact, will there be a study done by the Housing Corporation to see what kinds of things could be done to help out the ones that are in hardship in paying their rent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as members know in the Task Force on Housing that was appointed by the former minister, they undertook a considerable amount of work. There were some specific issues dealing with the current rent scale that we have and under that same minister and her capable leadership the department along with the Housing Authorities initiated quite a bit of work and consultation to date on a new rental scale.

There have been two extensive meetings, one that happened in March of 2001 and one as recently as this past fall, October of 2001. The plan is right now, as we move towards finalizing a new rent scale policy, obviously to do some additional consultations and try to have something in place. The target date is quite frankly April 1, 2002 and we will be providing some additional information to members that are interested in that as we move forward on that matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that's a very good answer but I would also like to ask the minister, there are some people in the communities that have seasonal employment and others have full employment. Those people that only work seasonally and part-time pay the same amount as the people that have full-time employment.

Would those differences between part time or seasonal, would they be studying those to see if they are being treated fairly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again that was one of the significant issues that were brought forward in a set of recommendations from the Task Force again on that matter. It is a significant portion of the whole Rental Scale Review. We are trying to encourage individuals to enter employment versus penalizing them.

So that will certainly be a factor. But having said that, the target dates on trying to implement any changes for that would obviously be before the major fall construction schedule and the sealift schedule. So we have a bit more time in trying to deal with that issue about seasonal income for public housing tenants. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a good answer from the minister. I would like to ask this supplementary question. We would like to be able to encourage young people, especially in Nunavut communities, to gain employment. But some young people when they get full time employment, they are discouraged because they have to pay the maximum rent.

When they have to start paying the full rent, it discourages them. It seems like today, we pay so much money for housing, and I just wondered if that would be part of the Rental Scale Review that is going to be done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes as I indicated, everything right now about how we take into consideration income for households, whether it is the head of the household or total family income, is under consideration.

Even the core needs income threshold that they use to evaluate income levels, the percentages, right now everything is on the table for discussion as I indicated, as we move forward to a new Rent Scale. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 404 – 1(5): Public Housing Projects; Supply & Erect

Mr. McLean: Ma'na, Uqaqti. Uqaqti, today my question is directed to the Minister of Housing. Over the last number of years, Mr. Speaker, I have noticed that housing units in Nunavut, especially in the Kivalliq Region, increasing numbers of them are being built on piles. Whereas ten or fifteen years back they were built on pads and wedges. A lot of the local small contractors like the idea of the pads and wedges over piles because it is no secret that there are one or two major piling companies in Nunavut.

I don't know today what the cost is, or if the government knows what the cost is, but public housing is what I am talking about, the cost difference between pads and wedges and piles.

My question today to the minister is, on the public housing units that are being tendered out in this upcoming year, and I have had requests from contractors in the Kivalliq, would the Minister of Housing commit to putting plan A or plan B or both options into the budget and the written contracts. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we could take a look at it. I guess the issue really is that we are trying to deliver affordable housing at economical prices in order to ensure that there is some efficiency in the delivery so that we can maximize the dollars, the limited dollars that are available to us.

In respect to whether or not it is on a gravel pad or piling, obviously a lot of it would be determined by what land is available in communities and those technical decisions would be made in the planning of the location of the units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I like that response from the minister. But getting back to the initial question and I am not a technical wiz by any chance on the construction trade in Nunavut. But I know by talking to contractors in the Kivalliq Region that you can save upwards from 10 to 20 thousand dollars per unit by not going on steel piles on public housing units.

If you use pads and wedges you may save that over 30-40 units. You are looking at maybe 3-4 hundred thousand dollars that you could deliver in a community.

My question is, when they are putting those contracts together would he consider putting in an option, okay this is the prices on piles, this is a price on pads and wedges, this is a price on frames and there is a significant difference there. It is also for the contractor because I know small contractors cannot deal with the large piling companies in Nunavut

because new contractors getting into the business may have difficulty setting up lines of credit, with the current piling contractors in Nunavut.

Where they are doing a supply contract then they can supply it. Could the minister commit to looking into that to make construction contracts to smaller business more feasible?

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker as usual the member brings up valid issues and yes, we will take a look at whether or not that is feasible and proceed based on that evaluation. Thank you.

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

Question 405 - 1(5): Two Writing Systems in Kitikmeot

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. (interpretation) Earlier I mentioned that I am very grateful that we are working hard on our language's survival, even in my community.

I would like to ask the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth what writing system are we going to be using. Because in our communities there are two writing system in the Kitikmeot. There is the old writing system and the new writing system. Which system are we going to be using in the Kitikmeot.

For instance, in schools there is a new writing system that they are using and on the other hand, in the communities for instance the old writing system is used that the elders understand the most. I would like to ask the minister what you think of the two writing systems that we are using in the Kitikmeot. How are we going to go about this and how are we going to implement such a thing as using one writing system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, in Nunavut we are using two Inuktitut writing systems. Syllabics were invented by a priest but also in the same territory, in Kugluktuk, they use the roman orthography form. We have been using this writing system for a long time.

If we are going to be making one writing system, I don't think I would do that without consulting the residents of Nunavut. Although we may have two writing systems, with the Innuinaqtut writing system if the residents would like to change that that is the only time I would approve it.

In Eastern Nunavut they use syllabics and I would not just force them to use roman orthography. I don't think I would make that change without first consulting with the residents of Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk. I think we could improve the writing system through the interpreter/translators rather than making it into one writing system. Thank you.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry if I didn't make myself clear, what I am trying to say, let's use Kugluktuk for instance.

There are two writing systems that we are using right now. They're using Q's and R's in schools now and elders don't use Q's and R's when they write. I should have mentioned that earlier.

I'm just talking specifically about say in Kugluktuk, there are two writing systems that they are using, the new writing system that they are using in schools and the old writing system that they learned from the missionaries a long time ago and these elders don't recognize Q's and R's. The Q's and R's that they are using right now are very good for the young people.

How can we implement this so our young people can start using this, you know changing from the old writing system to the new writing system.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): I apologize I misunderstood you. I was just thinking of the two writing systems that we use in Inuktitut, in Nunavut. I too was not too satisfied when our Inuktitut writing system was changed without our consultation.

We had our syllabics which had I, E, O, A, and all the other first parts Ai, Pai, Tai, Kai, all that part was taken off and they deleted those parts without consulting us and I was not too pleased about it at that time.

Perhaps with the Minister responsible for Education and the residents of Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk we can work together closely and find out what their preference would be and then perhaps we can proceed that way. But it's evident that it would not be too good to have two kinds of writing systems in one community. What I can tell you and if the Minister responsible for Education agrees, is by working closely with them and the residents in those communities that have two writing systems and ask them what their preference would be, then we can change it. Thank you.

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

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your answer. As you mentioned earlier that you would not change the writing system without consulting the communities first, when are you going to start consulting with the communities in my region?

Say for instance, when are you going to start consulting with Kugluktuk or Cambridge Bay so that we can maybe start working with this writing system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Perhaps after the session, if I could set up a date between the sittings, we could perhaps visit the communities to deal with the issue at hand. Once the session has adjourned perhaps we could try and visit your community. Thank you.

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

Question 406 - 1(5): Update on Fuel - Repulse Bay

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I didn't expect you to call my name, I was caught off guard but thank you anyway, Mr. Speaker.

I asked this question previously in regards to the bad gasoline in Repulse Bay. Has the department responsible for POL done any studies and have the results of such studies arrived. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and also Mr. Alakannuark for asking that question.

To date the fuel has been of some concern to the other communities. I know for the community of Repulse Bay we have sent samples to the labs especially when the communities said they were experiencing bad gasoline, but the results given to us state that the gasoline is quite all right and when they state that, we can't really do anything else.

In regards to the Repulse Bay concern, we have received the results from that and they state the gasoline is quite all right. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank him for his response. I know that in Repulse Bay this has been of some concern to the individuals who own their snowmobiles.

This winter many snowmobiles were broken because of the bad gasoline and one individual even went to Kugaaruk to buy their gasoline even though the government states that the gasoline is very good. But according to the Inuit knowledge they see that it's doing something wrong to their engines so that's why I have been asking that question about whether your department has considered the bad gasoline that's being delivered to the communities.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've sent samples, not just to Canadian labs, but also to some of the laboratories that are situated overseas. The laboratory that can do comprehensive testing to the gasoline is overseas and we still haven't received the results as of yet.

Once we receive the results from the testing we expect to get more findings from that laboratory across the ocean but in Canadian laboratories they are unable to find certain things but perhaps after we receive the results we'll be able to report more findings.

According to the Canadian Standards and also looking at the gas distributors, they stated that the fuel that was sent to Nunavut is adequate for use in the north. That's the answer that I've received so far. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be my last question to the minister. Could he tell the people of Repulse Bay what the results will be when they come in? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will keep your concern in mind and for those communities who have any concerns about their gasoline, our department will be able to respond if you have any questions or concerns. If any results come in, we will have to do something about it. But to date all we can say is the results came out as good gas. In regards to your question, we will keep that in mind. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 407 - 1(5): Handicapped Facility Schedule

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since we were talking about the Inuktitut languages, I want to say that the language in the Nanulik riding is very strong and has been preserved well.

We have been told by the Minister of Health and Social Services of the types of plans they have for the Chesterfield Inlet facility for the handicapped. Could the Minister of Health and Social Services tell me if this facility is under way as planned?

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all let me say that last week I had an opportunity here in Iqaluit to meet with Bishop Roulleau and I want to thank the Bishop and the Archdiocese of the Keewatin for being very supportive with our proposal to use St. Theresa's home for another year.

At the same time Mr. Speaker we spent several thousand dollars for the St. Theresa home upgrading it and keeping up to date and up to code to be able to use it for another year. The plans are progressing as I talked to the member and to the people of Chesterfield. The RFP has been done. We have a good response from the Chesterfield Inlet Development Corporation and we are working with them right now with the proposal they submitted to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you very much for that answer. When can I tell my constituents of Chesterfield Inlet to expect the minister for the ground breaking ceremony for the new group home? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, given what happened in Rankin with the ground breaking ceremony, I think we have to be careful of the date and so on. Mr. Speaker I don't know what the date of the ground breaking ceremony will be. I can say in all sincerity and seriousness to the member and to this House and to the people of Chesterfield Inlet that when that time comes to do the ceremony I would be more than happy to go to Chesterfield and be a part of it.

Right now the discussions are on the proposal that was offered by the Chesterfield Inlet Development Corporation. It falls outside the scope of what we originally intended and the budgeted dollars that were available. The discussions and negotiations are still on going with the department and the proponents to take a look at the opportunity for the facility to be put in place.

That's where the discussions are. The commitment is still on the table and as I said before and the Premier has stated, that Chesterfield is a smaller, have not community and it's very important that we maintain and keep those positions and those jobs in Chesterfield.

So, the government is solidly behind the proposal, we just had to work out some of the logistics. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Mr. Speaker, thank you, I am getting antsy here. The anxiety has developed over a couple of years. Can the minister tell me and the House from his previous work with the Chesterfield Inlet Hamlet Council, development corporations, the Bishop and other groups that the plan is going ahead?

We were talking about having the barge that goes to Rankin Inlet in one of the first barges in June, that it would make an effort to have the ship to go, the barge to go to Chesterfield Inlet at that time rather than usual late in October.

He assured us that he would be talking to NTCL and that. I asked the minister when can I tell my constituency albeit some minor details still have to be worked out and things like that and I don't think Chesterfield is very much aware about that. But the major effort has been made and the progression in getting things done has been very successful according to the minister.

Mr. Speaker, when can I tell my constituency, since the barge will be coming in this summer, when it will be able to come sometime after June before October that will he be able to celebrate with Chesterfieldmiut.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I tried to say in the House, the proposal sent in by the Chesterfield Development Corporation, the people in Chesterfield is a good proposal. But it fell outside the scope of the budgeted dollars that we had available.

Right now we spend over a million dollars in Chesterfield on the St. Theresa's Home. The proposal that was presented is considerably more than the million dollars. So the negotiations had to continue with those groups to get the amount of the expenditure down so that we can afford it as a department, so I can have the allocated dollars available.

I have instructed our department officials to expedite those negotiations and we fully intend, with the proponent, to get the project underway this construction season. If that's the first, second or third barge, I'm not sure.

But that is the plan right now. Again, I have to bring it in based on the budget dollars that are available and that's why the negotiations are continuing. So we want to move forward, I just don't have the date right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 408 – 1(5): High Turnover Rate of Staff

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today and I would like to congratulate the new Minister of Human Resources, my question is for him. I see the old minister smiling now.

>> *Laughter*

I see he is laughing. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the minister if he would agree that having a very high turnover rate within the public service isn't good for the government insofar as it adds additional costs as far as advertising, interviews and the cost of removals and things like that. Also there's also other costs things like staff burn-out for the people that are there continuing new training of new people also the possible interruption of service delivery in the government.

I'd like to ask the minister if he'd agree that a high turnover rate within the public service is not good. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's very true about what the member has stated, of course there's a time period required for the advertisements, for the removal costs and for everything else.

Mr. Speaker, I apologize but I don't have the statistics in front of me in regards to the casual labour that has to replace the people that have been moved. And yes, it is expensive.

Speaker: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for acknowledging the high costs but I guess I'd like to ask if he would also, by that response I would assume that he does agree that a high turn over rate isn't good for the government. I'd like to ask, as the minister indicated that they don't have any information, he didn't have any information with him.

Does the department in lieu of a document that was tabled on the last day of our last session, the Public Service Report, that I understand in the past has contained turn over rates of the department, when does the minister anticipate being able to have this kind of information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The new Minister responsible for Human Resources. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize I do have the numbers but I don't have the statistics here with me. Are you looking at numbers on how

much turnover there was in 99, 2000-2001? What I could do is compile them for those years.

We do have the numbers but they are, it's all in lump sum figures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker it's good to hear that those numbers are there, it's something I've been after for over a year now to try and find out, I'd love to see what the numbers are broken down by department.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also ask the minister if that information was available why it wasn't included as part of the information in the Public Service Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the question, I will get back to you on that and I will also give you the information by department and by year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 409 - 1(5): University Students Increase

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Education. That was a very good statement made by the minister, that there was an increase in the graduates.

As we are we seeing more students going into the higher grades, are there also more going into the post secondary school system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have had quite a lot of concerns about that from communities regarding the students graduating from grade 12 and moving on to Universities or Colleges. I could respond that there are a number of students who do go to higher education in the south. There have also been a number that have missed out if we are looking at Alberta for example.

So there are some slight differences. There are some students that have to take on additional studies in order to get into the courses that they would like to take and what trades they like to get in. Thank you.

Speaker: Supplementary question. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a supplementary question. How many students continue their education down south after graduating from grade 12 in Nunavut? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the grade 12 graduates we are not responsible for their continuing education. We can identify the numbers that we have funded, it is possible to do that, but we might not have all the numbers though. There are students who go down and their tuition is funded by other sources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Supplementary question. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell us that we have a lower... Recognizing the clock and that some members have not been able to ask questions. I move that we extend the Question Period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to extend Question Period. Are there any nays? Are there any nays? Please proceed Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, thank you very much colleagues.

I was asking, does the minister agree that the education standards in Nunavut are lower than other Canadian standards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps we have to recognize that education system in Nunavut includes several languages, which are Inuktitut, English and French.

In the Bathurst Mandate, we were asked to produce a curriculum within ten years and I don't like to say that the education level is lower in Nunavut but the Inuktitut language, the language curriculum is the highest priority in Nunavut.

The English curriculum within Nunavut is of equal priority because we are encouraged to strengthen the education level through language and to go back to my response earlier there's a lot more Inuktitut teachers available in Nunavut to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate his response and I'm sure this is clearer to the people of Nunavut. We encourage our children to go to school and with that encouragement we have to strengthen our education levels in Nunavut so

our grade 12 graduates would be able to go on to further their education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): I would like the member to clarify her question. The Inuktitut programs that are available in our schools are made available in the schools, there are survival skills, hunting skills, made available to our students, and these are the areas that need to be promoted. We are expecting that in the year 2020 our children will be able to speak both languages fluently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Are there any further questions? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I'd just like to note that I could hear both Inuktitut and English on the earphone during the last response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Iqittuq.

Question 410 - 1(5): Responses to After Hours Calls

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Minister of Justice is not here but I have a question regarding RCMP being available for emergencies, that when there is an emergency in a community that call is directed to Iqaluit. My question is whether this is the case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Premier I am officially acting as the Minister of Justice, I have been for a little bit now and enjoyed this role. On the specific question the member raises concerning the RCMP and after hours call outs, I don't have that information with me.

Mr. Speaker, I was told I don't smile enough on TV. I don't have that information with me. That is an important and serious issue and I will endeavour to have that information available at the latest 9 o'clock tomorrow morning from the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister are you taking the question as notice?

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, I don't like taking questions as notice and I think on the record you can check your Hansard. This is the first since 1999. Yes, I will take the question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The question has been taken as notice. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 411 – 1(5): Public Service Report Workplace Profile Data

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker again my question is for the Minister responsible for Human Resources. I hope he is enjoying it as much as the acting Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, the report that I referred to earlier, that was again tabled on the last day of our last sitting, the Public Service report for the combined years of 1999/2000 and 2000/2001. It talks about the fact that data collection on workplace profiles hasn't been a priority of this government and tracking information like the information that I have been asking about on turn over rates.

These things and not looking at things like this, I'll use an example that the Auditor General pointed out in her report of not scrutinizing things could end up costing us a lot of money. I would like to ask the minister what plans does he and his department have at looking at analysing this information and ensuring that we are not spending money needlessly and if we are how much it is and look at ways to try and solve those problems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The almost new Minister of Human Resources. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. We are in the process of developing a proposal to look at exactly collecting data and also to be able to provide more resource, human resource information and also in with that we are looking at ways to effectively, most effectively better manage the Human Resource public service files for all our departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister's predecessor has indicated in the past that the department was developing a new Human Resource management system. He indicated I believe it was supposed to be ready last March or April.

I believe the implementation of such a system would provide the information that the minister is looking for. I'd like to ask the minister if they have the system up and running and if they don't, when do they plan on having that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is still a lot of information that needs to be collected. Information is being collected and the new database is being put together so that information is made available. It hasn't been completed and once it's completed I will inform the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Boy, it must take an awful long time to develop a human resource system. I would like to ask the minister if he has any idea when, this system has been in the works for almost two and a half years now, when it will be ready. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The former government was working on putting this together but it was very costly and a lot of work had to be put into it. The work is very slow right now and there is the payroll information that would have to be put together but once that is available, I'll inform the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will reread my question again. Does the minister have any idea of when this system will be ready? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot say when it will be completed but the work is being done and I'll look into seeing when it might be completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Are there any further Oral Questions? If not we'll conclude Question Period. Question Period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions.

Item 10: Petitions

Speaker: I would like to recognize the Clerk's table.

Return to Petition 005 – 1 (5): Repulse Bay Medical Travel and Choice of Airline

Ms. Tupik (interpretation): Return to Petition. Petition 005 – 1 (5) Repulse Bay Medical Travel and Choice of Airline. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Picco.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 075 – 1(5): The People – A Glimpse, A Taste, A Virtual Reality, the Trip of a Lifetime

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to be able to table an overview document on the IMAX film "The People" that has been talked about over the past several weeks. It is a glimpse, a taste, a virtual reality, the trip of a lifetime. The IMAX film, "The People". Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Just a reminder that when we table documents for anybody else, make sure that you hold the document up for the page to pick it up. Otherwise we get behind. Thank you, Mr. Picco. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. 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.

Before I proceed further, I note that we have one item in Committee of the Whole. I would like to ask the member Mr. Tootoo, if he is ready to speak to this item today. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not ready to deal with that motion in Committee of the Whole today. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Notwithstanding Rule 27(2), do members agree that we proceed to Item 20? Are there any nays? There are no nays. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Ms. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Deputy Clerk (Ms. Aglukkaq): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Government Operations meeting tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock in Tuktu.

Orders of the Day for Thursday February 21, 2002

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions

11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until February 21, 2002 at 1.30. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 4.55 p.m.*

