



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**5th Session**

**1st Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 44**

**Tuesday December 4, 2001**

**2382 – 2433**

**Iqaluit**

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

# Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

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(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Rankin Inlet North)

**Enoki Irqittuq**  
(Amittuq)

**Hon. Ed Picco**  
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(Kugluktuk)

**Jobie Nutarak**  
(Tunnunuiq)

**James Arvaluk**  
(Nanulik)

**David Iqaqrialu**  
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## Table of Contents

Opening Prayer .....	2382
Ministers' Statements .....	2382
Members' Statements .....	2385
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery .....	2391
Oral Questions .....	2394
Revert to Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery .....	2412
Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills .....	2412
Tabling of Documents.....	2413
Notices of Motions.....	2414
Motions .....	2414
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters .....	2415
Report of the Committee of the Whole.....	2431
Third Reading of Bills .....	2431
Orders of the Day.....	2431
Assent to Bills .....	2432

**A.**

**Daily References**

Tuesday December 4, 2001..... 2382

**B.**

**Ministers' Statements**

137 - 1(5): Training Initiatives - Sivuniksaliurniq (Kilabuk) ..... 2382

138 - 1(5): Public Service Act Annual Report (Ng) ..... 2383

139 - 1(5): Selection of Team Nunavut & Unveiling of Clothing for 2002 Arctic Winter  
Games (Anawak) ..... 2384

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

377 - 1(5): Dissatisfaction with Review of the Education Act (Tootoo)..... 2385

378 - 1(5): Polar Bear Management Zones (Iqaqrialu)..... 2386

379 - 1(5): First Anniversary as MLA (Williams)..... 2387

380 - 1(5): Nunavut Leaders - Past Presidents of ITK (Arvaluk)..... 2387

381 - 1(5): Sanikiluaq Trip (Nutarak)..... 2388

382 - 1(5): Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Prevention (Anawak)..... 2388

383 - 1(5): Iqaluit Hot Meal Program (Picco) ..... 2389

384 - 1(5): Remembrance of Siusarnaq Family (Thompson) ..... 2389

385 - 1(5): Recognition of Interpreters and Pangnirtung (Kilabuk) ..... 2390

386 - 1(5): Establishment of Nunavut (Kattuk) ..... 2390

387 - 1(5): Session at Igloolik (Irqittuq) ..... 2390

**D.**

**Oral Questions**

391 - 1(5): Income Support Recommendations by Standing Committee (Nutarak) ..	2394
392 - 1(5): Policy to Split Prescriptions - Iqaluit (Tootoo) .....	2395
393 - 1(5): Implementation of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit for Traditional Treatment (Iqaqrialu) .....	2397
394 - 1(5): Igloolik Fuel Delivery Contract and Purchase of Truck ((Irqittuq) .....	2399
395 - 1(5): Polar Bear Management (Iqaqrialu) .....	2402
396 - 1(5): Prescriptions and Insurance Coverage for Indigents (Nutarak) .....	2403
397 - 1(5): Policy on Splitting Business - Pharmacies in Iqaluit (Tootoo) .....	2405
398 - 1(5): Number of Children in the Care of Social Services (Williams) .....	2406
399 - 1(5): Status of Saint Theresa's Hospital Replacement Design (Arvaluk) .....	2408
400 - 1(5): Emergency Expenditures Approval/Authority (Irqittuq) .....	2410

**E.**

**Tabled Documents**

067 - 1(5): Correspondence to Iqaluit DEA on Roles & Responsibilities (Tootoo).....	2413
068 - 1(5): Clyde River Protocol Joint Review (Akesuk).....	2413
069 - 1(5): Intergovernmental Agreements Made on Behalf of Nunavut by the Office of the Interim Commissioner (Ng) .....	2413
070 - 1(5): Joint Response to the Report of the Standing Committees on the 2001/2002 Budgets & Departmental Business Plans (Ng) .....	2413
071 - 1(5): GN Response to Standing Committee of Government Operations & Services Review of the 1999/2000 Annual Report of the Information & Privacy Commissioner (Ng).....	2413

072 - 1(5): Combined 1999-2000 & 2000-2001 Public Service Annual Report (Ng).. 2413

073 - 1(5): Towards a Representative Public Service - Statistics as of June 30, 2001

(Ng)..... 2414

074 - 1(5): Towards a Representative Public Service - Statistics as of September 30, 2001

(Ng)..... 2414

## **F.**

### **Motions**

018 - 1(5): Tabled Document 67 - 1(5) Referred to Committee of the Whole

(Tootoo) ..... 2414

Committee Motion 002 – 1(5): TD 041 – 1(5) Report by the Nunavut Liquor Licensing

Board Referred to Standing Committee..... 2422

## **G.**

### **Bills**

Bill 14 - An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act - Consideration in Committee ..... 2423

Bill 14 - An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act - Third Reading ..... 2431

Bill 13 - Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 2, 2001/2002 - Assent ..... 2432

Bill 14 - An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act - Assent..... 2432

**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Tuesday December 4, 2001**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Jack Anawak, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Irgittuq, Honourable Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Glenn McLean, Mr. Jobie Nutarak, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Honourable Kevin O'Brien, Honourable Ed Picco, Honourable Maniok Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Mr. O'Brien): Minister Thompson.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker:** Good afternoon members. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Kilabuk.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 137 - 1(5): Training Initiatives - Sivuniksaliurniq**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Qujannamiik, Uqaqti. I am very happy to be able to inform my colleagues about new approaches in training being initiated by my department. The department has initiated the development of several training projects referred to as "Sivuniksaliurniq."

The purpose of these initiatives Mr. Speaker, is to build community capacity, to serve the training, employment and development needs of the unemployed. The objective of Sivuniksaliurniq is to promote labour market participation, work experience, skills development and employment through partnerships with delivery agencies and employers who have the capacity to supply these opportunities.

I would like to give you a few examples of one of the many projects that are being delivered currently. In Sanikiluaq there are sixteen participants taking pre-trades math and science, which includes a carpentry component. The participants go to school half the day for the academic part of the program and the rest of their hours are devoted to the carpentry component by building an extension for the daycare.

Partners in this project include the Nuiyak School, Kakivak Association, the Government of Canada and the Department of Education. There is also picture framing/shadow box course being carried out in Sanikiluaq with fourteen participants. All products of this course are to be sold in two locations in Toronto.

Ten participants have already completed a three-week small engine repair course. In Iqaluit there are two courses being delivered at Inukshuk High School. Eighteen participants from several Nunavut communities are enrolled in the pre-trades math

sciences course with a carpentry component. There are also Mr. Speaker, thirteen students from several Nunavut communities enrolled in a pre-employment cooking course.

At the end of the courses, students return home to complete a one month work placement sponsored by the Department of Education. Mr. Speaker, partners in getting these courses operational are Inukshuk High School, the Iqaluit District Education Authority, Qikiqtani School Services, Nunavut Arctic College, the Government of Canada, First Air and the Department of Education.

The Department of Education is initiating skills based training courses such as these across Nunavut. Lastly Mr. Speaker, by combining a number of funding sources, the number of residents accessing training programs across Nunavut is increasing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

#### **Minister's Statement 138 - 1(5): Public Service Act Annual Report**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to advise members that the first Public Service Annual Report will be tabled at the appropriate time. This report will cover two fiscal years, 1999/2000 and 2000/2001.

We have made a great deal of progress in the first two years of operations and in May of this year the Government of Nunavut was very honoured to receive the 2001 Institute of Public Administration of Canada's Gold Award for Innovative Management, one of the most prestigious recognition programs in Canadian public administration.

The department has initiated new key policies and initiatives across government since April 1, 1999, that include a priority hiring policy, an Inuit Employment Implementation Plan, a workplace wellness program, a sexual harassment policy, and a competency based management system.

Mr. Speaker, in March of this past year we saw staffing capacity increase to 80% and Inuit employment was at 43%. Recruitment and retention of all our employees remains a challenge that we are continuing to address. The department was also involved in negotiating two collective agreements. One with the Federation of Nunavut Teachers, and the other with the Nunavut Employees' Union.

Mr. Speaker, we continued to enhance our training and development programs in order to improve the skill and ability levels and knowledge base of Government of Nunavut employees. The Nunavut Senior Assignment Program and the Public Service Career Training Program were successful in developing and supporting Inuit employees' progression into management and paraprofessional positions.



Mr. Speaker, the department is now developing and implementing a human resource information system to enable us to collect, maintain, and track human resources related data and information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Ministers' Statements. Minister Anawak.

**Minister's Statement 139 - 1(5): Selection of Team Nunavut & Unveiling of Clothing for 2002 Arctic Winter Games**

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on March 17, 2002, Nunavummiut will proudly welcome athletes to Nunavut as, together with Nuuk Greenland, we host the 2002 Arctic Winter Games. This will mark a historic event for Nunavut as we host our first ever multi-sport games.

Mr. Speaker, Sport Nunavut, a division of the Department of Community Government & Transportation, is responsible for selecting Team Nunavut for competitions such as the Arctic Winter Games. Staff have been working very hard over the last few months to ensure that the territorial trials and the selection of Team Nunavut go smoothly.

Sport Nunavut staff have also been helping athletes, coaches, officials and mission staff travelling to Greenland with the passport application process. Team Nunavut will be represented by close to 350 athletes, coaches, officials and mission staff participating in 13 sports.

In addition, sixteen youth will participate in the cultural celebrations, showcasing the spirit and culture of Nunavut. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's involvement in the games has provided an opportunity for close to 1,000 youth to participate in the territorial games' selection process. It has also provided an avenue for the development of coaches, officials and the sport delivery system in Nunavut.

In addition, the 2002 Arctic Winter Games will provide an opportunity for Nunavummiut to become involved. Almost 1,000 volunteers will show Nunavut's commitment and give their time to assist with the games. I would like to extend my appreciation and extend my thanks to all the volunteers from across Nunavut who are making this happen.

(interpretation ends) Finally Mr. Speaker, I would like to unveil the official uniform that Team Nunavut will proudly wear at the Arctic Winter Games. Modelling our uniforms today are athletes Andrew Morrison - and Elaine Lloyd. Both will be travelling to Greenland with the soccer teams and I would like to acknowledge T. Fox Graphics of Iqaluit who made the walkout uniform, which includes a hooded jacket, fleece jacket, pants and mock turtleneck, as well as D.J. Sensations, also of Iqaluit who designed and supplied the Team Nunavut pins. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 377 - 1(5): Dissatisfaction with Review of the Education Act**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express extreme dissatisfaction with the direction in which the review of our Education Act is heading. When the Divisional Boards of Education were dissolved, I believed and many others also believed, because that is what we were told Mr. Speaker, that this would pave the way for further empowerment at the community level.

After all the Bathurst Mandate states that building the capacity of communities will be one of the guiding principles to strengthen Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, it is quite obvious that the review of our new Education Act is being steered in the opposite direction to the way we all believed that it would go.

Instead of our community level District Education Authorities getting the power and autonomy that they were promised, it would appear their roles and responsibilities will be diminished to the extent that they will be tasked with enforcing policies and regulations set by the minister at his discretion and to ensuring traditional knowledge or Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit is delivered in the school program.

What is the purpose of the DEA. Mr. Speaker, last week the Minister of Education tabled a document updating us on the department's direction on the Education Act review, following the Education Act working group consultations. I was extremely upset and very disappointed Mr. Speaker to see nearly every recommendation that seeks to support the autonomy of the community level District Education Authorities were rejected out of hand by the Department of Education.

This is quite the opposite of empowerment, this is a diminishment of power. For example, Mr. Speaker, under the regulations supported by the Education Act, the Iqaluit District Education Authority shall provide direction on recruitment, hiring, discipline and dismissal of education and school staff.

It shall monitor and evaluate and direct the delivery of school programs. It shall establish and advise the minister of the school hours and the dates for opening and closing schools, vacation and holiday dates and so on. A draft proposal on the DEA roles and responsibilities changes all that.

The only control that the DEA will have in these areas and others will be within the limits set by the minister or they will have no say at all. Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a further step towards dis-empowerment, the department is considering appointing Mr. Speaker, three individuals to DEAs. Two elders and one youth, apparently to ensure Inuit participation.

Under the current Act this kind of representation is entirely possible anyways. Even in a community such as Iqaluit where the school population is well over 50% non-Inuit, we still have 4 out of 6 representatives who are Inuit. It was 5 out of 7, one of them had to resign because she took a job at the school Mr. Speaker.

These individuals were democratically elected by the community. When a community decides who will represent its interests, it is an example of empowerment. When a department appoints members this is no longer democratic and it is definitely not empowering.

Mr. Speaker, if we want a decent product in our new Education Act, we need to take the time for a through review. There are many concerns at many levels and they must be heard and taken into consideration. What we have seen so far makes a mockery of the consultation process.

It makes a mockery of the concept of empowerment and it will not serve I believe Mr. Speaker, the people of Nunavut well. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I'll be tabling correspondence to the Iqaluit District Education Authority that provides a very clear example of the direction in which the department is heading. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 378 - 1(5): Polar Bear Management Zones**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to show you a book on polar bears that was put together using the polar bears around Clyde River. I would like to show you a picture of a map where the polar bear management zone is.

It seems like we are farming the animals. We don't even farm animals in Nunavut. Looking at the polar bear management zoning I have told the individuals who are working on the polar bear issues that the polar bears never stop wandering and they did a study on where they migrate.

Although I made a statement about this previously, to date Inuit knowledge has been used by the biologists and the biologists believe in Inuit knowledge now. So therefore the Act requires amendment and we have to come up with a new one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 379 - 1(5): First Anniversary as MLA**

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today and I am sure you recall that today is the anniversary of the time that I was elected last year on December 4 and I would like to thank the people who called to congratulate me. Jack, Mr. McLean, and Manitok, all gave me a call to congratulate me. It was a nervous experience for me at that time and I would like to thank the people and my colleagues who have supported me throughout the year. And thank you, Mr. Speaker, for not reprimanding me at times.

The communities that I represent are not large and are the furthest distance apart of the Nunavut ridings. I have gone up there seven times this year. For the year 2002, I will be working hard again on the closure of the mines in my riding and also transportation to the High Arctic area. I will keep working very hard to make sure that my communities are well represented in the House, and to make sure that the government provides adequate services to my communities.

I would like to thank the people in my riding who have elected me and have supported me throughout this year. I hope we again have a good working relationship this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 380 - 1(5): Nunavut Leaders - Past Presidents of ITK**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just came in and my ears are still plugged from the plane ride. I would like to remember the leaders, especially at the 30th Anniversary of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada. They had a 30 year anniversary just this last Sunday. Some of the past Presidents and leaders were there, regrettably some of them have now passed away, but we did get to have a reunion.

To clarify what the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada does, is they represent people from Inuvik to Labrador and Quebec. We were also very proud that the Prime Minister Jean Chretien, even when he was in New York called us over the phone and also two representatives from our government. We talked together.

Originally we had absolutely no money for our operations and maintenance. We didn't even have an office. Mr. Tagak Curley was the first President of ITC and at that time I used to work for him. We worked approximately six months with no pay at all and some of us were staying at the YMCA.

We were there representing all the Inuit. On behalf of the government I would like to congratulate all the leaders of ITC. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Member's Statement 381 - 1(5): Sanikiluaq Trip**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I was extremely busy and wasn't able to make a member's statement. On Saturday, Mr. Iqaqrialu and I went to Sanikiluaq for the very first time. Lucassie Inuktaluk, if you are watching TV, I send you my greetings.

It was a very enjoyable trip when we went down to Sanikiluaq and I think today might be the last day of the session before we resume again in February. I hope to see the people in Pond Inlet soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Member's Statement 382 - 1(5): Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Prevention**

**Hon. Jack Anawak:** Qujannamiik. Today I would like to focus my member's statement on an issue that I think a lot of us don't realize is an issue and I think that a lot of from Nunavut should be aware of it and try to do something about it.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, what I would like to speak about today is an issue facing the students especially. Since the Europeans started coming up north, I am sure it did not start right away, but recently babies are sometimes born with disabilities. Some babies are born with FAS, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

If a woman is pregnant and drinks during the pregnancy, the alcohol that she consumes effects the baby. I think we, as a government should do something about FAS and not depend on one particular department to deal with it. There are some very young mothers out there and I think we should get the information out there because Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is a preventable illness.

I think we, as a government should work harder because the when children start going to school, sometimes go through extremely hard times. Their minds are under-developed and they have an extremely hard time during their school years if they affected by FAS.

We as a government should be getting this information out there and especially educate the young girls because they have to be aware that whatever they eat and drink goes to the baby in the womb. I appreciate that the Department of Health & Social Services is doing what it can to deal with this. I am making this statement because I think we all have to work together to prevent Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 383 - 1(5): Iqaluit Hot Meal Program**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, a volunteer group of Iqaluit residents recently came together to help facilitate a hot meal program for Iqaluit's homeless and families in need.

Mr. Speaker to date, with moral and verbal support from many individuals, groups, businesses, and organizations, the volunteers hope to begin the hot meal program on December 9th. Mr. Speaker, with Christmas approaching and the cold weather already here, this initiative will be well welcomed by the many residents who need help this coming winter.

I would like to ask you Mr. Speaker, and this House to join with me in thanking the many volunteers, organizations and businesses for undertaking the hot meal program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 384 - 1(5): Remembrance of Siusaruaq Family**

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I am wearing a jacket that I just received from Repulse Bay. The person who made this jacket is Susan Siusaruaq. Susan was a little girl when her dad Siusaruaq and his brother died in a plane crash near Coral Harbour some years ago, going to Coral Harbour for a bible study.

Mr. Siusaruaq was my assistant pastor when I was pastoring in Repulse Bay. So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to remember Mr. Siusaruaq and his family I will wear this beautiful jacket when I am in session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 385 - 1(5): Recognition of Interpreters and Pangnirtung**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As one of my colleagues stated today might be the last day of the session. I would like to thank the people of Pangnirtung first of all for giving me support and advice. And if today is our last day, I would like to also thank our interpreters who work tirelessly throughout the whole session. It is not an easy job and also I will see the people of Pangnirtung when we take a break for Christmas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Members' Statement. Mr. Kattuk.

**Member's Statement 386 - 1(5): Establishment of Nunavut**

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Jobie said he was in Sanikiluaq and he was also told by a woman to say hi to her and I didn't hear that. As well, David was asked what do you call women when you refer to them. He said that I call them Mom. That points out that our dialects are quite different between Baffin and our dialect.

In 1999, we were working to establish the Nunavut Government. We were unsure as to how exactly the Government of Nunavut would be.

At that time we were just starting to be aired on television and the people of Nunavut of course would be watching all of us and they could hear all the words that we are saying. What I am trying to say is that today everything is open to the Inuit of Nunavut and the public in general is now involved through the media, radio and other services.

I think some people from the general public might start thinking that if this MLA does this or says that it might be more appropriate. I think there are some members of the general public out there, just people of Nunavut that want to have their say. As well I am thankful to the media for keeping our proceedings open to the public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 387 - 1(5): Session at Igloolik**

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think today is our last day even though we would like to go on and on and keep on meeting.

>>*Laughter*

I understand that we will be meeting again in February. I was starting to worry about what I thought my colleague was going to say. However, the people of Igloolik are well

informed as to where we travel and I think our Clerk has received a letter from Igloolik. They would like the Legislative Assembly to meet in Igloolik this spring, they even have started some preparations.

They have two hotels and it is going to be nice weather in Igloolik, just think about that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Item 3. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ng.

### **Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the new Nunavut Liquor Board who are meeting for the first time this week in Iqaluit. Behind me I have Raymond Kamookak, the chair from Gjoa Haven. Darrell Ohokannoak from Cambridge Bay. Frank Ekpakohak from Kugluktuk. And across on the other side we have Louis Taparti from Rankin Inlet. Mary Inuktaluk from Sanikiluaq and Rosie Ellsworth from here in Iqaluit. Welcome.

>> *Applause*

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

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Ng recognized a person from Sanikiluaq, but I would like to welcome Mary Inuktaluk and next to her is a lady named after my mother, Alice. I would like to welcome them to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize people from the Sivuniksaliurniq group. These students are going to be involved with the carpentry course and some taking cooking courses that provide snacks for us in the mornings. These students also make available the lunches and at 5 pm meals for the homeless on a volunteer basis. I will be naming them individually. I would like them to stand up as I say their names.

In the carpentry program; Eliyah Siakuluk from Hall Beach, Michael Kakee from Grise Fiord, Robert Arnatsiaq from Pond Inlet, James Maktak also from Pond Inlet, Nancy Sanguya from Pond Inlet and Larry Poisey from Qiqitarjuaq, Josie Kanguk from Qiqitarjuaq, Jacoposie Idlout from Clyde River, Jason Aulayut from Coral Harbour, Gee Audlakiak from Kimmirut, Flora Ipeelie from Iqaluit, Teta Malakie from Hall Beach,



Dennis Amaaq from Igloolik and Jolly Maktak from Pond Inlet. These are the students for the carpentry program. Their teacher is Pierre Brenon.

From the cooking program; Nuqingak Etuangat from Pangnirtung, Malakie Aqiaruq from Hall Beach, Philip Angurarasiak from Hall Beach, Rose Pukiuq from Arctic Bay, Paul Inualuaq from Pond Inlet, Rose Judea from Kimmirut, Peter Mark of Iqaluit, Jolly Kelly also from Iqaluit, and Charlene Samutuq from Chesterfield Inlet, Eva Inukuluk of Pond Inlet, Leese Alookie who is not present as well. Also Akutuk Ipiaq from Chesterfield Inlet.

Also taking academics; Billy Atagoyuk of Iqaluit, Peter Ululiuq Iqaluit, and their teacher is Shaun Gee. Please feel welcome to the Assembly. These are the students that are taking their respective course. And if I didn't anyone else please feel welcome to the House.

>>Applause

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

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would like to recognize before Manitok does, Louie Taparti from my riding. I would like to thank him for being here. As well, Frank Ekpakohak is here from Kugluktuk and a relative of mine, Jason Alajut.

>>Applause

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize some of the people that the Minister of Education has recognized from Pond Inlet. I would like to welcome Inuk Maktak of Pond Inlet, Qumangajuk Maktak. I would like to let you know that they are twins from Pond Inlet. Also Robert Arnatsiaq, Eva Inukuluk over there and Paul Inualik and Patrick Sanguya. And I would like to say that I am very proud of them as well, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize all the students as well Erin Naqitaqvik from my riding.

>>Applause

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, looking at all the students here I feel very proud of them all. I would also like to recognize some people

from my riding. Samantha Audlakiak attending a course in Cambridge and Andy Aipelee who is also attending a course in Cambridge Bay. Lorna Iqalujuak was just in Cambridge Bay as well for sports. Also First Air employee JC Tigularak. Also over there from Qikiqtarjuaq please stand up both of you. Next to the person from Qikiqtarjuaq a person from Clyde River, I recognize him as well.

I would like to recognize another person who was involved in a tragedy last year and froze part of his body, Simon Nattaq. Perhaps if the Inuit way of survival was used this might not have happened where he might not have lost part of his body. I would like to recognize Simon Nattaq.

Also even if we are not meeting at the session, I am going to continue to push for what I support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These people were already recognized but I am also very proud of them, the students that are taking different courses from Hall Beach, there is no one from Igloolik. Elijah Seakuluk is the first one I would like to recognize. Paula Malliki, I will be using their Inuktitut names. Phillip Angunatsiark Saumik. Malakie Aqiaruk. I would like to welcome them to the chamber. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education has already introduced many of the Iqaluit residents so I will try to mention some that he hasn't already mentioned.

First of all Mr. Speaker, a very well respected elder from all over Nunavut, and also the mother of one of our interpreters, Mary Nashook, I would like to introduce Paniloo Nashook to the gallery.

Also Mr. Speaker, a lady who makes fantastic Uuyuk, and she is a constituent of mine and a friend and I should also point out that she was just appointed to the Liquor Board, Ms. Rosie Ellsworth. Welcome Rosie to the Gallery.

Also, Mr. Speaker, as Mr. Iqaqrialu just mentioned Mr. Simon Nattaq. I have known Simon for a long time. Simon has been a very strong voice for Iqaluit on our City Council for a long time so I would like to welcome our good friend, a former Sergeant-At-Arms, Simon Nattaq to the Gallery. Also Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome one more person and that is Cecilia Erkidjuk.

Cecilia's company T. Fox Graphics played a major role in the development, as well as the work that was put into the Arctic Winter Games gear, that was just demonstrated. I'd like to welcome Cecilia to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a full gallery here today, it wasn't like this every day that we were in session. It is good to see Nunavummiut come here to see what happens here in the House. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognise an old friend of mine that is visiting here from Rankin Inlet, Mr. Louie Taparti. Louie and I shared many adventures together when we were younger in high school in Yellowknife. So welcome, it is always good to see him. Please help me in welcoming him into the gallery.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognise a person that has already been recognised a couple of times and that is Mr. Simon Nattaq. I think that we are all aware of the ordeal that Mr. Nattaq went through in the last year, and I think that the courage and strength that he has shown in getting through that is an inspiration to all of us. I would also like to welcome him here to the Gallery, Mr. Speaker.

Also Mr. Speaker a new constituent of mine and I know that he has been very busy cooking things up since he has gotten here, and I also would like to warn his students that I hear that he has a very good raven recipe, so be aware of that, Mr. Tangee over there, I would like to welcome him to the gallery.

Also Mr. Speaker as Mr. Picco recognised an elder sitting in the gallery Ms. Nashook. Ms. Nashook provided my Anaanachiak when she was here withujuk hide and she is still very happy and every time that I talk to her she says to say hello to her, so I am very happy to see her here in the gallery.

Another person I would like to recognise Mr. Speaker, is sitting in the back over there and that is Carla St. Louis. She works in my riding with the Department of Education and is responsible for trades, so I imagine a lot of these students are here as result of her hard work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

#### **Question 391 - 1(5): Income Support Recommendations by Standing Committee**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Education. On November 29th I asked him a question about the Health and Education Committee's recommendations about income support.

The income support policies that are in place were brought to us in Cambridge Bay when we met in May. Also we made recommendations on November 27th and I wondered if he had a chance to look at them. He stated that on November the 30th he was able to look at the recommendations that we made as a committee. There are seven recommendations that we made.

I would like to ask the minister whether he brought up the recommendations on the 22nd of November. I would like to ask the minister what his next move is in regards to our recommendations from the committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The response that I made before about the member's committee, I would like to tell the member that we have their recommendations under consideration at this time. We will look at them carefully and consider them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want the minister to clarify whether they are going to be reviewing them and exactly what that means. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have said here in the House what our plans are for the future. So we will be discussing them and we will also discuss them here in the House. We will review them within the Department of Education as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 392 - 1(5): Policy to Split Prescriptions - Iqaluit**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my first question today is for the Minister Responsible for Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was asking the minister how they distribute prescription drugs throughout the Baffin region and Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated that they go for the best value that they can get.

Mr. Speaker, I understand, or I wonder if the minister can clarify whether it is a policy of his department to split business for those in the region where there is more than one, we have now two pharmacies here in town. Is it the policy of the department to split the business up between the two qualified businesses in town. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Responsible for Health and Social Services. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member is referring to some correspondence as well as some concerns that have been raised by the owner of the first business in town for the last few years and before that there was another business selling drugs, prescribing drugs in Iqaluit for the Baffin region.

What we have here Mr. Speaker, is that another company has come in and Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that the department has reviewed the correspondence from Valupharm and we are looking into his concerns right now. Mr. Speaker, there is no set policy as such for the distribution of drugs. There seems to have been some verbal notification to the complainant about the sale of drugs and so on. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So if the minister is stating that there is no such policy for splitting up the business then there is no way that he or any of his staff would have indicated such to anyone. Can he indicate that is in fact the case. That there is no policy like that and that he or any of his staff that he is aware of haven't provided information to anyone stating the opposite of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I said is this. Is that a few months ago a new business opened up in Iqaluit. In the past there was only one business here. There is no policy written down saying that supplier A gets preference over supplier B. Mr. Speaker, as I said the concerns that have been raised by the owner of Valupharm are being addressed and are being looked into. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister keeps referring to correspondence. I am just asking a general policy question and I don't believe that the minister answered it. So I'd like to ask the minister that if they don't have any set policies there should be no mention by him or any of his department staff that there is a such a policy in place to anyone that may inquire. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I believe the minister did indicate that there was no policy. Minister if you wish to expand on that.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Thank you for the clarification. You are correct Mr. Speaker. What I am trying to say here is that there are policies of government. For example, under the Department of Health and Social Services we have a client travel policy. The client travel policy explains when a person travels and so on and so forth.

We don't have a policy per se for the dispensation of drugs government wide. What has happened here Mr. Speaker, is that when the Department of Health and Social Services

integrated the Baffin Regional Health and Social Services Board they may have had an agreement. A verbal contract with the supplier Mr. Speaker. We are looking into that right now Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know the minister has stated right from my first question that there was no policy. Since then I asked if his department or if he is aware if he or any of his department would have indicated anything different than that should someone have enquired. I still haven't got an answer and certainly would like one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services follows the policies of the Government of Nunavut. Whether they are the purchasing policy, appropriation policies and so on and so forth.

In this case in particular, a second business has come to town and they set up shop. All I've been trying to say Mr. Speaker is that the some of the concerns that have been raised by the owner of one particular business are being looked at and being referred to in the context of what has happened in the past when the health board was set up and what has happened now since it has been taken over.

At the end of the day Mr. Speaker, what we want to be able to do is put in place the best program or policy for purchasing supplies. In this case, medication that is efficient and essential and beneficial to the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 393 - 1(5): Implementation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit for Traditional Treatment**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question directed to the Department of Health and Social Services Minister. I made a reply to the Commissioner's Opening Address saying the Inuit traditional way of doing things such as First Aid, resuscitation and other things that we do as Inuit people should be taught more in the Nunavut area. Not just in Nunavut but the whole of Canada.

I just wondered whether the Minister of the Department of Health and Social Services is going to be providing the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit way of doing First Aid. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the member is demonstrating very well and articulating very well, something that most of us in Nunavut know and that is Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and Inuit traditional knowledge is being used right now across the world.

For example, we see kayaks, which are an Inuit invention and are used in places in Europe, Asia, South America, all over the world. It is used in the Northern Games. Mr. Speaker we see the use of the harpoon all over the world. That is traditional knowledge invented by Inuit.

On the first hand evidence for First Aid for emergency procedures and so on, there is an excellent book that just came out on Inuit traditional health healing and measures. Mr. Speaker, if there are traditional health healing measures that can be introduced or used for example in the Department of Health and Social Services that is something that we would be willing to look at. Mr. Speaker, that is one of the reasons why we involved elders this past business planning cycle and session in reviewing the business plan for the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there were to be requests for funding from individuals or groups for Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, would there be some funding available from your department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I haven't seen a proposal or anything like that to date. We have used for example Mr. Speaker, traditional healing practices and counselling practices in some of our programs that we've run.

For example, the program in Clyde River incorporated some of those practices. Mr. Speaker, if there was a proposal brought forward we would entertain it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very glad to hear his response but I do want to ask him another question. I know that Inuit knowledge has not been incorporated and now we have to start making it viable and in view of my reply to the Commissioner's Address, I was wondering if the minister would be willing to come up with funding for traditional treatment methods. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are already like I said incorporating some traditional health in our mental health programs. Some traditional Inuit practices of counselling, peer guides and so on.

At the same time like I said, if there was a proposal brought forward we would entertain it in the Department of Health and Social Services. Again we would have a look at what has been proposed. It is hard to commit to something when I haven't seen a proposal or haven't had an opportunity to discuss it or see it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel like he is trying to stop me from pursuing it. I don't want him to be a stumbling block to pursuing it because we need to pursue it as many Inuit people who are alive today are very knowledgeable about it but they just haven't started practicing it.

I was wondering if you could commit to me if we can get this going. At least start the initial stages. I am sure you can find elders who are quite knowledgeable to make this more visible. I was wondering if the minister is willing to do more work on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am willing and the department is willing to move forward on some opportunities that may be there for traditional healing as well as human practices. Like I said there is an excellent book that has been just put out by several elders with a compilation of traditional healing practices, health practices and so on. So, Mr. Speaker, I think there is a beginning there and again if something comes forward then we would be willing to take a look at it.

If the member has a specific issue or item he has maybe some ideas from his community then we would be able to look at it with his health committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 394 - 1(5): Igloolik Fuel Delivery Contract and Purchase of Truck**

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Public Works & Services. We are concerned that there may be a problem with what we were experiencing this spring.

The department awarded fuel distribution contracts in the Baffin region. This is not because I am opposing the department's choice of contractor, but because my constituents would like me to ask this question.



Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Public Works & Services if she could tell the House if the department knows what was purchased in Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the member could elaborate a bit on what incident he is speaking about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I will ask this question so that I won't run out of supplementaries. The fuel delivery contractors changed and the department had to deliver fuel trucks to that community.

The fuel trucks had to be purchased from the Baffin contractors. My question is, since the contractors did not have fuel delivery trucks and they had to buy these trucks from another community and transport them from one community to another by Hercules, how much did this cost the department.

Because the awarded it to a contractor who didn't have proper delivery trucks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for clarifying his question. Many times, more than once this has been a problem with the contractors that lost the contracts in Igloolik and other communities. On October 31 the RFP closed and there was no criteria that said you had to have the delivery trucks to get the contract.

We didn't base the award on the availability of fuel delivery trucks. I understand his question, because it was raised earlier. At that time I didn't know how much that would cost, but I did understand that the company awarded the contract did not have trucks.

As a result the new contractors were not going to have delivery trucks and if that continued they wouldn't be able to do the work. I think it was 150 thousand dollars for the purchase of the delivery trucks and that's how much it cost. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister saying that the Petroleum Products Division paid for the delivery trucks and the cost of transportation for two trips by the Hercules. Is that why this cost 150 thousand dollars, for the purchase of the trucks and for the chartering of the Hercules for two trips.

They delivered two fuel trucks. Is that all it cost, 150 thousand dollars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Igloolik they had no fuel delivery trucks from the previous contractor. The previous contractor was told that they wanted to purchase his fuel delivery trucks. He wrote a letter saying that he wouldn't sell his fuel delivery trucks. He kept saying that he wouldn't sell the trucks, so therefore we had no other choice than to purchase the fuel delivery trucks.

The two vehicles cost 150 thousand dollars and the funds came from the revolving fund. It was paid from the revolving fund directly for the two delivery trucks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was trying to ask about the full costs, because the Hercules had to travel two times to Igloolik and they also had to pay for the two trucks. In total how much did that cost the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There were no fuel trucks available in the community of Igloolik because the person that had these trucks didn't want to sell them. We paid 150 thousand dollars for the two fuel trucks, and we are currently negotiating with Savik Construction and we were told later that they were willing to sell their trucks.

We will then be able to send those trucks to any of the communities that need them the most. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is not that. I now understand that the two fuel trucks were 150 thousand dollars. My question is, the Hercules went to Igloolik two times and brought in two fuel trucks. From what I know, the Savik Construction Company truck was bought.

My question Mr. Speaker, is how much did POL pay for the transportation and for the purchase of the fuel trucks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand your question. I have the cost for the purchase of the fuel trucks. I don't have the cost of the charter of the two Hercules trips. But we did have to bring in those two trucks because there were none available. They were not available to deliver any of the fuel if they didn't have any trucks. A separate contractor did not want to sell his trucks and he told us that in writing.

In the RFP it doesn't state that you have to have a fuel truck. The money will be coming back to us. The money will be going back to the revolving fund. For the chartering of the Hercules I don't have anything in front of me. I could give that to the member later on once I have that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Minister. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

### **Question 395 - 1(5): Polar Bear Management**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was unexpected. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Sustainable Development, in regards to the polar bears. Will your department be working on the polar bear issue that has been an on going issue for a very long time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. In regards to polar bears it is very important in the people of Nunavut, for Nunavut and quite a lot of polar bears come into the communities. We have Wildlife Officers to deal with polar bears and they do get very good support from the residents.

The HTOs and our staff will be working together to deal with the polar bears. Polar bears come into the communities every year. We try to do what is within our capacity and I know that they are doing all they can in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's quite dangerous. During the summer there were two little children that were being stalked by a polar bear, it's getting extremely dangerous when the polar bears come right into the communities, also into the camps.

Is your department going to be doing studies around the Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River area. There has to be a resolution to these nuisance bears. In more and more instances the communities are trying to find some solution and before we do that I would first of all like to ask your department to urge your Wildlife Officers to work closely with the people of our communities. Can the minister state that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

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

**Question 396 - 1(5): Prescriptions and Insurance Coverage for Indigents**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the ministers are all wondering who this question is going to be directed to. It is to be directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I am sure the other ministers feel a lot better already.

My question is about income support. I am sure that they need this extra support from the government. We are covered by Non-Insured Health Benefits to pay for our prescription pills. Is there a limit to the amount that you can use for free prescriptions. For example, if I used prescription pills valued up to 100 dollars, and I reach a maximum, does that mean I would start having to pay for my prescription. How does the whole system work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that's an excellent question. We are in negotiations right now with NIHB and one of the problems that we have with NIHB, the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program, is that we believe the uptake on the program for the size of Nunavut is not acceptable, it is 10 million dollars.

We have just recently written from me as the minister as to what happens when we go over budget on the amount. What I can say to the member is that if you are a beneficiary as an Inuk under the land claim, an Inuk in Nunavut who needs prescription drugs that is under the formula that is in place and provided by NIHB then that is provided at no cost.

There is no set limits like for 100 dollars worth of drugs or 200 dollars worth of drugs under that program for the drugs that are under the formulary under NIHB. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My other question was, are there some prescriptions that have to be paid for by beneficiaries. If I need prescription pills out of Ottawa, do I have to pay for it out of my pocket. If I get them in Iqaluit they are free, but if I go down to Ottawa for my prescription I will have to pay for it.

Could you tell me the difference and how it works. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are two or three different ways that can work. If you are a patient at the hospital in Ottawa for example Mr. Speaker, and you need medication and you are on your way back to in this case, Iqaluit, or if you were in Winnipeg or even Yellowknife or Edmonton. They usually supply on the ground, the hospital will supply enough pills to get you back to your home community, where the prescription would then be filled from the health centre in your community, or if you are in Iqaluit, then from the local pharmacy.

In the case Mr. Speaker, if you were on your holidays and you had to purchase prescription drugs as your order had run out, it depends on which jurisdiction you are in. I know for example in one case with my wife we had to supply them but we were able to get the money reimbursed.

It all depends Mr. Speaker, on if you are a government employee for example, you have Green Shield coverage, which may cover some of the other items that may not be in the formulary of the Federal Government. Now the formulary, and when I say formulary that means the list of drugs that the Non-Insured Health Benefits pays for and I believe there are over 1,500 right now on that formulary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you for your response. Not everybody knows exactly how they could get reimbursed for the prescription pills that they pay for. Where are these forms available if you should want to get reimbursement. Are they available at the hospitals or if I am from a smaller community, do I have to make a request to the hospital to get the form. How do you get reimbursed for the pills that you do pay for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for drugs that are prescribed as I said earlier there is a form in place for those. It depends again for example on different jurisdictions. There is a concern on what is available under the NIHB and that is why we put out a pamphlet over 6 months ago the Non-Insured Health Benefits when you got your health card. Everyone should have their card in that package and an Inuktitut and English pamphlet that explains the Non-Insured Health Benefits, what is available and so on.

Mr. Speaker, if a person has purchased a drug that has been prescribed and had to pay for it themselves we have the forms available at the health centres. Here in Iqaluit for example at the hospital. If there was a concern with that Mr. Speaker, bring it forward to the health centre and we would get the reimbursement in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

**Question 397 - 1(5): Policy on Splitting Business - Pharmacies in Iqaluit**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister Responsible for Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, I must commend him on not answering my question earlier.

I asked the minister earlier if he knew, or if anyone would have from his department informed someone if they inquired, whether it was a policy of the Department of Health and Social Services of dividing of the business of the department among competent local businesses and the minister never did answer that question.

Maybe if I rephrase it he may choose to answer it or not. But I sure wouldn't mind finding out. Would it be accurate to say Mr. Speaker, that if some individual was informed that it was the policy of the department to split and divide the business of the department among local competent local businesses. Would that be accurate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if we were in a court of law the member would be considered to be leading the witness. Mr. Speaker, I am not trying to dodge, jump, run away from the member's questions. What I said I made it very clear that if you go for example, I know what he is talking about and everyone now knows we are talking about a business in town. You have to be very careful. I don't want to infringe on their businesses and so on.

That is why I am trying to choose my words carefully. When you go to a doctor in town here and the doctor says Mr. Picco you need x number of pills, and the doctors says where do you want to get those pills. A or B. It is up to me as an individual to go to A or B for an individual prescription. There aren't written policies on drug purchasing or suppliers.

Now I've read over the letter from one of the business people and as I said before we are looking into the concerns that are being raised and we take them seriously. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, maybe I will just put it straight as a yes or no question and maybe then the minister can answer it. Would it be accurate if an official from the Department of Health and Social Services told someone that it was their policy to divide business of the department among competent local businesses. Yes or no. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Mr. Speaker, under the rules of the House, as you know and I know, I can't comment on private conversations that may or may not have taken place. I can't talk about hypothetical conversations that have taken place.

I can't comment on what someone else has said. What I can say is that there is not a written policy in the matter that Mr. Tootoo has raised. We are looking at the allegations and the concerns that have been raised and we take them very seriously. But I can't comment on a conversation that took place in private, or what is said by one person or another person. They don't speak for the Department of Health and Social Services, the minister does. And the minister says that we are investigating and looking into the allegations and the concerns that have been raised. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Minister I just wanted to caution you that we are very well aware of the rules and whether that was a hypothetical question or not, I allowed you the discretion to decide whether you wanted to answer that or not. I am speaking to you Mr. Minister.

Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess I will take that as a very long no.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated that they are looking into and investigating the concerns that were raised and I know that was just one concern that was raised in the letter. When does the minister anticipate being able to conclude their investigation and deal with the matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I received a fax and an email on the 15th of November. I responded with a hard copy letter to the proprietor on November 22, which was one week after I received the initial complaint.

The review is underway and I would hope to have an answer to the questions raised and concerns raised in a very short period of time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 398 - 1(5): Number of Children in the Care of Social Services**

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Do you know how many children are being fostered in Nunavut and how many are in the care of Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are 170 children who are receiving services through the Department of Health and Social Services. Specifically 122 children are in foster care, I believe there are 29 children in out of territory placements at this time and I believe there are 19 in Nunavut group homes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Williams (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 122 foster children in Nunavut, what about the children who are living in communities that don't have social workers. What kinds of services are provided for these children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in communities where we have children in foster care and so on, and that don't have a resident social worker, there are processes and steps that take place to ensure that the children are being monitored. Also, that of course, as the member knows, also when you place a child in foster care there is an extensive check on the family to make sure that we are putting this child in a good home. So those steps are taken Mr. Speaker, and monitored and evaluated on an ongoing base. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Williams (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In his response he didn't say what kind of support is given to those foster children. Their homes are monitored and they are given support in the schools but what is provided by social services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, under the Child and Family Services Act there are legislative requirements for health and social services including children in foster care. Those legislative requirements are followed. That is what I am saying Mr. Speaker, when we place a child in foster care in a community where there isn't a social worker then there is a process where we follow up with the family as well as with the foster child to make sure that things are going well in that extended family group.

At the same time, as the member points out, there are also councillors in schools and all those support mechanisms in place for the children. They are not put into a community and left there, they are followed up as per the legal and all the legislative requirements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have another question. We all realize that the communities are different, some communities do not have social workers. A lot of communities do not have social workers. Would the minister be in support of foster parents forming a committee. Would he be in agreement with this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker at the present time there isn't a Foster Parent Association in Nunavut and Mr. Speaker I would and I am sure that the parents would be in complete favour of an association of foster parents being set up.

I think it would be a good advocacy program for foster children. At the same time Mr. Speaker, we are still in the process of looking at the opportunities for a child advocate, if we could bring this forward based on an operational ability to do so. So I would endorse the member's recommendation, that if there was a group who wanted a foster parent association for Nunavut we would be very conducive to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 399 - 1(5): Status of Saint Theresa's Hospital Replacement Design**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister Responsible for the Department of Public Works. The hospital in Chesterfield Inlet is planned for replacement, but the Chesterfield Inlet people want to find out the status of the plans at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister. Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was started by the Minister of Health & Social Services. Another department was involved when they were first planning this hospital for Chesterfield Inlet.

My Deputy Minister Ross Mrazek talked to the SAO in Chesterfield Inlet and tried to find out from Chesterfield Inlet how they wanted this facility built and what the needs were. The study is now with the Department of Health and Social Services at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't quite understand the answer. Are they done with the plan and it is now with the Department of Health and Social Services, is that my understanding. Is the architectural drawing already done. At

what stage are the plans. Can you tell us whether the architectural plans are done at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I the member may have misunderstood. What I was saying is that the Health department has been leading the RFP and they needed assistance from Public Works to do the assessment of the design and functionality and for mutual discussions on the facility. As far as I know we were there to assist the Health Department as a service department.

Today my staff inform me that the assessment part of the design has been given back to Health with our comments from Public Works and it is now in the hands of the Department of Health and Social Services because they were leading the process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I may have to ask a different minister on my supplementary. Perhaps the Minister of Health can tell me the status of that work now. Because I thought Public Works would be responsible for the design of the hospital at least of the building and to review them.

But maybe the Minister of Health can tell me the status of it to date. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Members just another caution. Mr. Arvaluk, normal procedure would be to direct your question to a minister and stay with that minister. It makes it difficult when you are jumping around to different ministers.

I believe it is up to the discretion of the Minister of Health if he wishes to address the question. Minister.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as Minister Thompson said or I have said in this House to the member's earlier question on this area, the building plans were sent to Public Works and Services after the RFP for assessment of the design as well as the functionality of the functional program for the facility that was proposed in the RFP.

That has been completed now Mr. Speaker and it has gone back to the Department of Health and Social Services. Discussions are continuing with the two proponents with the Chesterfield Development Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 400 - 1(5): Emergency Expenditures Approval/Authority**

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Do we have to authorize funding to departments for expenditures that weren't previously authorized. For example half a million dollars or a quarter of a million dollars. Does the cabinet have to approve this type of funding if it was used for emergency purposes.

I was asking about the fuel delivery trucks expenditures in Igloolik. Would this amount of money have to be approved by the cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it depends on the nature of the expenditure. As members know the Supplementary Appropriation was before the House. Those are things that ministers recommend to the Financial Management Board, which if they approve it, it comes back to the House for approval, review and scrutiny.

In the case of something that would be in the revolving fund for example, then the minister responsible for that particular area would have the discretion to advise their officials to deal with that matter from within those statutory limitations that they have under the existing legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So the Petroleum Products Division had to use some funding that was not originally planned for. I didn't receive an answer to my question when I was asking about this spending.

I didn't understand the response, so I would like to find out if the cabinet can spend this money outside of the minister's discretion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that under the particular statute, the legislation that governs certain areas, such as the revolving fund for petroleum products that there is authority in there for expenditures from that fund. It is my understanding that those expenditures are recovered over the course of revenues that are generated that go back into that fund. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was trying to find out whether this could be done at the minister's discretion. Perhaps I was not clear. I am just using petroleum products as an example. If they are going to charter a Hercules twice, should

the cabinet be informed about how much they would be spending to hire this aircraft at such high costs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, Mr. Speaker, it depends on the circumstances. For example, to use the situation of the Pond Inlet sewage lagoon that was a special warrant situation in yesterday's Supplementary Appropriation.

If there is an immediate requirement for something to take place outside of the normal course of business, then we have the authority to sign off on a special warrant to come back after that for approval in this House to expend the money because of the emergency nature of the situation.

Now there may be a situation that would still, and the member uses the example of the possible transportation of a vehicle that is required for Petroleum Products for the delivery of fuel products. If there was deemed to be a need in that situation, it may not be a requirement to report back on that if it is authorized under the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund.

Because that fund is set up to establish and provide services for the deliver of fuel, and if it was substantiated then that requirement to report back might not be there. That's what I was trying to get at Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question that I am trying to ask Mr. Speaker, I will try to make it clear. My question is, we approved the budget for operations and maintenance so aren't we supposed to be informed if you are going to spend money outside of the government's budget. It seems like there is no information whatsoever about this where they had to hire a Hercules to go to Igloolik two times.

Aren't we supposed to receive information as to how much money the government spends. My question is, doesn't it have to be approved or relayed to the cabinet before an amount that large is expended by any department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have been trying to answer the question from the honourable member. I think I will try again Mr. Speaker from the perspective of, the revolving fund doesn't require an immediate reporting for unusually large expenditures because the revolving fund operates where they always have to recapture their costs at some point over a certain time period.

There is a maximum limit that's allowed and if they have to go over that, then it has to be legislatively approved or under special circumstances go back to the Financial Management Board for a temporary increase.

However, having said that, if there were any extraordinary expenditures in that revolving fund it would be picked up in the annual audit that is provided for all of our revolving funds and reported in the consolidated financial statements of this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Ng. Members will note that question period is now up. Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to return to Orders of the Day, item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Do we have agreement members to return to item 5. Proceed Mr. Nutarak.

#### **Item 5: Revert to Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As today is our last day in this session before we meet again in February, there are two people here from my community and I would like to recognize them because they won't be here all the time. Jamesie Attagutak and his wife from Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker for allowing me to recognize them. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Welcome to the gallery. Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize Nicole Sikma from Rankin Inlet. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Welcome. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Report of Standing and Special Committees. Report of Standing and Special Committee. Item 12. Report of Committee on the Review of Bills. Mr. Tootoo.

#### **Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills**

##### **Report 001 - 1(5): Review of Bill 14 - An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report that Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on

Government Operations and Services and that the Bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole as amended and re-printed.

And Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(5) and have Bill 14 moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking to waive 68(5) so the report can be moved to Committee of the Whole today. Do we have any nays. Agreed. The Bill is received and will be referred to the Committee of the Whole.

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

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 067 - 1(5): Correspondence to Iqaluit DEA on Roles & Responsibilities**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table correspondence received by the District Education Authority regarding a statement of their roles responsibilities according to the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Akesuk.

#### **Tabled Document 068 - 1(5): Clyde River Protocol Joint Review**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Qujannamiik, Uqaqti. I wish to table the following document, Clyde River protocol joint review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Tabled Document 069 - 1(5): Intergovernmental Agreements Made on Behalf of Nunavut by the Office of the Interim Commissioner**

#### **Tabled Document 070 - 1(5): Joint Response to the Report of the Standing Committees on the 2001/2002 Budgets & Departmental Business Plans**

#### **Tabled Document 071 - 1(5): GN Response to Standing Committee of Government Operations & Services Review of the 1999/2000 Annual Report of the Information & Privacy Commissioner**

#### **Tabled Document 072 - 1(5): Combined 1999-2000 & 2000-2001 Public Service Annual Report**

**Tabled Document 073 - 1(5): Towards a Representative Public Service - Statistics as of June 30, 2001****Tabled Document 074 - 1(5): Towards a Representative Public Service - Statistics as of September 30, 2001**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have numerous documents here to table. First is the Intergovernmental Agreement undertaken by the Office of the Interim Commissioner on behalf of Nunavut. There is the joint response to the Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly on the Budget and Departmental business plans of the government.

There is the Government of Nunavut response to the Standing Committee of Government Operations and Services review of the Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. There is the Public Service Annual Reports for 99-2000, 2000-2001 and finally there is Towards a Representative Public Service staffing statistics as of June 30th, 2001 and as of September 30th, 2001. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

**Item 14: Notices of Motions**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on February 20, I will move the following motion. That Tabled Document 67-1(5) be referred to Committee of the Whole. And Mr. Speaker, I'll be at the appropriate time asking to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

**Item 16: Motions**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member...actually Mr. Speaker, I guess I need unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays. There are no nays. You may proceed Mr. Tootoo.

**Motion 018 - 1(5): Tabled Document 67 - 1(5) Referred to Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Mamianaaq, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Quttiktuq, that Tabled Document 67 - 1(5) be moved into committee of the whole for discussion. 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. The 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. Tabled Document 41 - 1(5), Nunavut Liquor Act and also Bill 14 with Mr. Iqaqrialu in the Chair. We also have tabled document 67 - 1(5) in committee of the whole.

In accordance with the authority vested in me by Motion 002 - 1(5), the committee of the whole will stay in session until it reports itself out. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Members we begin, we will break for twenty minutes. The clock above the door is not functioning properly so we will be using the clocks in front of you and we will break until four o'clock. Sergeant-At-Arms.

*>>House recessed at 3.38 p.m. and resumed at 4.12 p.m.*

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

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you my colleagues. We now have a quorum. During the committee of the whole we have tabled document 41 – 1(5). What is the wish of the committee. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): We would like to commence with the review of tabled document 41 – 1(5), Nunavut Liquor Act Review, and once that is completed then Bill 14 and report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Do we agree that we will deal with tabled document 41 – 1(5). Do we agree. Does the committee agree that the minister can go to the witness table with his officials. Thank you for going to the witness table Minister Ng. Could you introduce your officials please. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to introduce Mr. Geoff Hughes the Director of Revenue Management with the Department of Finance.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. At this time are there any general comments from the committee members. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are you talking about general comments or can we ask our questions along with our general comments.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Williams. At least so the technician knows when to push the button if you want to do your general comments you may do so and you will have the opportunity afterwards to ask questions. You have 10 minutes for general comments. Ms. Williams.



**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have gone through this report quite carefully and everybody knows that it is very important for all of the people in Nunavut and that we need to look at this issue very carefully. It effects a lot of people, especially the Departments of Health & Social Services and Justice, as far as the liquor issue. But we do understand that when this board was travelling they were looking at the Act more so than the social issues.

We cannot separate them but we will try to be respect that this consultation was for the Act. There is a lot of misunderstanding and a lot of people in Nunavut are concerned that our government is trying to make communities' access to alcohol easier. So I think we need to make sure that we look at this very carefully, and I am going to have a whole lot of questions Mr. Chairman. I will stop with my comments right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Any other general comments on the Nunavut Liquor Act. We are on general comments. If there are no further general comments. Ms. Williams

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): If there are no more general comments I would like to start off with a question. I would like to ask to the minister how he views the ten recommendations. Would you like to see them go ahead and be implemented and if you want to see them implemented, what is the time frame that you are looking at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all I would like to clarify that this report that I asked the liquor board to undertake by doing consultations throughout Nunavut. If I could make some specific recommendations to this. I have accepted the report in respect to having received it. I have given it to the MLA's and now it has been tabled publicly so that the public at large certainly has access to it.

We have no formal position as a government yet on this. Currently we are waiting, obviously I have some feelings in respect as to what can and cannot be done. We are waiting to hear additional feedback from this legislature. Depending on what you want to do with this report that has been provided and tabled in the House now and whether or not you want to undertake some additional consultations with Nunavummiut on whether they want to confirm that some of the recommendations are legitimate or not, and possibly make your own recommendations to me.

I can tell you that in the short term there is a big issue about access to alcohol right now. Particularly illegal access is certainly something that we are all aware of. We will be looking at some short term measures in the next, I can say, 30 to 90 days, in trying to deal with possibly closing some of the avenues of where there is some illegal access right

now. I can't speak to any specifics right now because it hasn't been fielded through formally yet, through the cabinet.

I can say that we plan on doing some legislative changes at some point at time. The sooner the better obviously, but a lot will depend on members of this House and what they see as a priority on recommendations that I could bring forward, or not bring forward to my colleagues and cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng. Any other general comments. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a general question on this report. My first question would be how much did this report cost. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the work for the consultation and providing support, a lot of it was internally through the Department of Finance staff. The overall cost was give or take in the neighbourhood of 60 to 70 thousand dollars overall from the Liquor Revolving Fund. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We noted that there were eight communities that were visited. All of the communities were decentralized communities and there isn't one community that was small or non decentralized that was visited and I just want to make that clear that it seemed to be planned. Why just decentralized communities. So I just wanted to make that comment. To make sure that we are respectful to other smaller communities in Nunavut.

I have a whole lot of questions. Maybe get somebody else to ask a question or comment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Any other general comments. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to make it clear that we gave everyone, without actually having the Liquor Board members go to every community, we gave options to communities, that we would have paid to send representatives to where ever the hearings were being held. We gave opportunities for them to provide verbal or written submissions to the Board itself as well, in hearing what the concerns were.

So we gave as much opportunity as possible and obviously as I indicated earlier there still is opportunity for feedback depending what the legislature or what members want to do with the report that has been tabled in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Any other questions. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My other question that I would like to pose is not included in the recommendations. I know that you did not deal with the social issues. You went to consult with the other communities and there is another side to it. So therefore, I would like to ask.

Because of alcohol we have problems. Does the minister know or is he aware of the problems that are encountered through alcohol abuse and that there is no facility to treat those people with alcohol problems...(interpretation ends)...just so that we are balanced. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this Board was not given a mandate to review the adequacy of the social support network for those that are having problems in dealing with abuse of alcohol. But they did make a note to recommendations that the government do undertake that in trying to balance off their report.

So they asked us to evaluate the effectiveness of the current system in dealing with individuals who have alcohol abuse problems and that certainly falls under the mandate of the Department of Health and Social Services. So from that perspective there is ongoing evaluation of any issues that are brought to the minister responsible. As the government and a member of the government, certainly that recommendation will be taken into consideration as part of the overall report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a lot of emphasis on bootlegging in this report. I know that government does get revenue from alcohol sales. So because of the problem of boot-legging there should be something about increasing the fines or penalties particularly for selling alcohol to minors or bootlegging. All of those kinds of things. There are a number of those things that we have to look at. Let me say we spent so far according to Minister of Health Mr. Picco, that he has spent 300 thousand dollars on anti-tobacco and the cessation campaign.

We need to see this the same way that we have cigarette packages that have labels that are warnings. Some of them are very graphic. A lot of cigarette packages, I know some people don't even want to buy cigarettes with a picture of lungs on the package.

I would think that we should do the same thing with alcohol. So those kinds of things should be looked at. We need to do prevention as we are doing with tobacco and I don't think there are many people in jail because they were smoking cigarettes and we have a

good program so that we don't smoke too much. And we have many people in jail, we have a lot of family violence. We have people in the hospital because of alcohol.

There are a lot of FAS and FAE issues in Nunavut. All of that needs to be looked at. There are many more of those kinds of things that we need to look at to make sure that let's say if we are going to be dealing with an Act like this so that we could access alcohol better in Nunavut, there must be also be the other side to it that we do prevention. Where we have treatment places where people could go.

I am not saying we should increase alcohol sales. I am not saying that it should be accessible. I am not saying that at all but we need to look at many issues. Mr. Chairman, Qujannamiik.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member raises some valid points and that is the whole emphasis as to why I distributed the report to members and tabled it so that we can get additional information and additional recommendations that may be able to assist us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a lot of good stuff in there. However, I don't think we can really deal with it today. Some of these things can be discussed, not too much from the political stand point but from the reality, like Ms. Williams was talking about. How do we balance between the problems and the Act to govern the Liquor licensing in Nunavut.

It talks about things that are not very Canadian. For example, if you live in Cambridge Bay you order your alcohol from Iqaluit. That would put extra freight costs rather than having a store in Cambridge Bay and employing people there and collecting taxes.

These are simple things to say. But on the other hand some recommendations that the Liquor Board made are very much worthwhile considering. But what I would like to see Mr. Chairman is that sometime during this winter that we have a more thorough discussion as to where we want to go with the Liquor Act.

How do we balance the thoughts and feelings from the social problems that arise out of alcohol or alcoholism. And the balancing of it with like I said, what is available to the other Canadians should also be available in Nunavut.

We can start banning some stuff that is as bad or even worse than alcohol, smoking is one of them that was talked about. Soda pops. How many children's teeth are affected, not just teeth but their health is affected by candies and soda pops. I think it would be ignorant of us to single out the potential problems with alcoholism or alcohol related illnesses.

That is a good point. We as Nunavummiut should start looking at ourselves and say okay what causes the health risks to children and adult lives. I think one of the members' statements today about alcohol syndrome cases and here in the introduction it stated that the general feeling in some communities to date seems to be that, "...while there are many problems associated with alcohol, the onus for making the situation better should shift solely from a reliance on the law to the individuals taking responsibility for his or herself." That is a good point.

But how do we as a government, as leaders deal with that. We can not just say it is up to you, to individuals. But being a member of a Canadian society with the rights and privileges under the Charter, this would be good to have these kinds of rights that are enjoyed by other Canadians. At the same time we must look at, as a society as Nunavummiut, what causes problems. Not just alcohol, but candies, and soda pop and smoking everything else that effects our health.

Our mental and physical health. So I would recommend that we discuss this over the winter and have a good roundtable discussion before any kind of amendments to the Liquor Act can be made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Any other general comments. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one last thing at this time. I am sure the Health and Social Services Minister is really concerned about these kinds of things because there are huge social and financial costs of preventable issues like Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects. This could be prevented and they cause social and financial problems, it costs a lot financially and creates huge social issues.

So at that, I think that will be my comments right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Any other comments. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, the minister responded to one of the questions in regards to the report that was tabled. If we want to deal with this right away, we could deal with it right away.

I know that all ministers have legal advisors. I would understand some Acts taking priority over the others if we simply had one legal advisor. Each minister retains legal advisors at any given time. If we look into the future I think that we should deal with this right away and make amendments as it becomes necessary. It will take approximately one year to deal with this matter and there will have to be first and second readings and then we would have to wait another 120 days before the final reading.

So it is going to take a while to go through the whole process. I would be very pleased if we start dealing with this. Also there are the ten recommendations that were put together by the people who did the tour and I am sure that they will have to be looked into again before they are implemented. I do know that the minister supports the recommendations that were made. If we could implement these ten recommendations, is it possible to get this going right away. Thank you Mr. Chairman

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Excuse me. Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I indicated earlier there are some things that we think are good in the recommendations. I think there will be some short term measures that could be put in place and regulatory changes that would require ministerial sign off. That is what we are looking at right now.

It might be some things on a short term for some, that in a reasonably short time frame that could be put together for legislative changes that we would bring back in the February session. If it is possible and get some immediate feedback that these are good ideas or thing that there is support with the Members of Legislature here that we would bring forward to the standing committee system. And in the longer term of course there is a whole revamping and the establishing of a new Nunavut Liquor Act which is a longer term matter that Mr. Nutarak alluded to, which would be a more lengthy process and would obviously involve a more lengthy consultation and public review, etc. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Since that is the case we will be making amendments as they go along the way, so since that is the case I would like to make a motion. Mr. Chairman, but I don't know if we have a quorum or not. I apologise Mr. Chairman. I can only make a motion after all the general comments are made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Iqaqrialu

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. In regards to the Nunavut Liquor Act report, it is a good beginning and we can start working from here. In regards to liquor related issues there are some communities that are prohibited and there are some communities that are allowed liquor. Liquor has had an effect in all the Nunavut communities and there are a lot of side effects that we see at the community level.

I think that all the people of Nunavut have to be included during this discussion. And I think that is the only way that we can have a Nunavut-made Act.

We are extremely pleased to be making legislation that is Nunavut made. We have never been able to do that before Nunavut was created. We now know that we can make a

Nunavut made Act not only for the Liquor Act but also for the other Acts. This is something that is very important to the people of Nunavut.

Liquor was introduced not very long ago and there were serious consequences from the introduction of Liquor. So we will have to make a Nunavut made Act. Also revenue is generated by all governments through the sale of liquor. So the question would be, how do we want to deal with this. The people don't have all the information out there and as we all know there are some communities that prohibit liquor but the liquor does go into the community one way or another. My 10 minutes is up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Anything else. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we will have to have further discussions so I would like to make a motion. I didn't realize we changed the Chair. I think we will have to make a lot of comments on this Nunavut Liquor Act. We want to plan this carefully so I would like to make a motion.

**Committee Motion 002 – 1(5): TD 041 – 1(5) Report by the Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board Referred to Standing Committee**

(interpretation ends) I move that tabled document 41-1(5) Report by the Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board to the Minister of Finance be referred to the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services for review and that the Standing Committee report back to the Assembly at the earliest opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Is your motion translated. Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Arvaluk is your motion translated in Inuktitut. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Are there any comments. Are you in favour of the motion. All those in favour.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. The standing committee will be dealing with the Nunavut Liquor Act Report. Minister Ng do you have any more comments.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I am prepared to move on to the amendments to the Income Tax Act, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Do you agree that we will now deal with Bill 14 and Tabled document 67 – 1(5). Do you have any opening comments for this Minister Ng.

**Bill 14 - An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act - Consideration in Committee**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to discuss the amendments to the Nunavut Income Tax Act. Mr. Chairman, the purpose of this legislation is to amend the Nunavut Income Tax Act so that the tax on income approach, to determining Nunavut's personal income taxes may be adopted.

Beginning with the taxation year 2001, all provinces and territories that have a tax collection agreement with the Federal Government have moved to this method of determining their personal income taxes.

As you may know the federal Finance Minister the Honourable Paul Martin, offered to waive the administrative start-up costs and to provide legislative tracking assistance for all three territorial governments if the TONI method for calculating Nunavut's personal income tax was adopted for this taxation year. Due to this offer and the potential for tax policy flexibility this method will offer our government and future governments we have introduced the legislation for consideration.

Both the NWT and the Yukon have also proceeded with adopting TONI for this year. I want to assure members that this legislation is simply a conversion from the current method to the new method. No taxpayer in Nunavut will experience an increase in his or her personal income tax in 2001 as a result of these amendments to the Nunavut Income Tax Act. As members can see it is very complex piece of legislation.

Before we begin the questions and answers on this bill Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Ms. Elizabeth Kalluk from the legislative division of the Department of Justice for the dedication and hard work that she put into ensuring that this Act was translated into Inuktitut. That concludes my opening comments Mr. Chairman. I look forward to questions on the bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Minister Ng. Does the Chairman for the Committee have opening comments. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services is pleased to have had the opportunity to review Bill 14, An Act to amend the Income Tax Act, with the Minister of Finance and his officials.

Members will recall that the Minister announced the Tax on Income, or "TONI", initiative during our May sitting in Cambridge Bay. At that time, the Minister assured the House that the change in the method of income tax calculation would not result in taxpayers in Nunavut paying more personal income tax.

Mr. Chairman, Members have noted that all three northern territories are moving to the TONI system this year.



The TONI system of income tax calculation has been described as having several benefits for the jurisdictions that adopt it. These include protecting the revenues of provincial and territorial governments in the event that federal tax rates are decreased, as well as providing provinces and territories with the flexibility to make changes in such areas as tax rates, the number of tax brackets and the structure of tax credits. In effect, the system is intended to give governments increased ability to use the tax system to further social policy goals.

Mr. Chairman, Members have noted that the move to the TONI system across Canada has taken place relatively recently. Several jurisdictions, including Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories, established independent bodies to undertake comprehensive reviews of their personal income tax systems. Given the wide differences in the political agendas of Canada's provinces and territories, these changes have resulted in quite different structures across the country. Mr. Chairman, Members support the core concept of providing our own government, which is accountable to us, the flexibility to make decisions in this area.

Although the intent of the Bill is clear, to provide flexibility to the Nunavut government in this area, it is not yet clear what direction the Minister will take.

We would suggest that the Minister establish a professional and independent mechanism to advise on options. For example:

How can the government best reduce the tax burden on lower income families and Elders, while protecting the revenues that we need to fund our programs and services?

How can we use the tax system to create incentives for job creation in the small business sector?

Can we support Nunavummiut who have children but want to upgrade their skills by returning to school with a tax credit that better offsets the burden of being a full-time student while trying to feed a family?

Can the system of tax credits be used as an element of our housing strategy and to make it easier for Nunavummiut to assume the costs of home ownership?

Can we have a tax credit system that better addresses the high cost of living in remote Northern communities?

Mr. Chairman, we would recommend that the Minister report back to the Legislative Assembly at our next sitting in 2002 with his plans for how he will proceed in this area.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee has noted that the move to the TONI system across all provinces and territories creates the potential for competition between jurisdictions to blindly cut taxes across the board -- a so-called "race to the bottom."

We would suggest that the Minister explore areas where the three northern territories can establish common ground, so that the North as a whole is competitive, yet not constantly undercut one another.

Mr. Chairman, we have all heard from our constituents about the frustrations of dealing with the tax system. Tax forms are difficult enough for English and French-speakers to deal with -- it is doubly so for unilingual Inuktitut-speakers.

Members were pleased to hear from the Minister that the GN continues to push the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency to make special efforts to assist Nunavummiut in this regard. We urge him to continue to do so, especially during a time of transition. Such initiatives as tax clinics or even a 1-800 number with Inuktitut-speaking assistance would be an improvement.

Mr. Chairman, it is worth repeating for the public record that Inuit in Nunavut are as liable for income taxes as any other Canadian. There is often a misconception in other parts of Canada that Inuit are exempt from paying personal income taxes. It is extremely important that we push the federal government to recognize the unique situation in Nunavut and, especially, in the smaller communities where access to professional tax assistance is not readily available.

Mr. Chairman, anecdotal evidence suggests that there may be a number of Nunavut residents who are eligible for such benefits as the GST credit and the child tax credit, but who do not receive them because of difficulties in filing. We may not, in fact, have good data on the number of Nunavummiut who are in this position. We would encourage the government to see what can be done to assist people, especially unilingual Inuktitut-speakers, in securing the benefits to which they may be entitled. We also need to continue to push the federal government to have northern residents deductions that are fair and truly recognize the realities of the high cost of living in the North.

Mr. Chairman, we would also suggest that efforts be made to ensure that small businesses in Nunavut be given assistance to make any necessary transitional arrangements as a result of the move to TONI.

Mr. Chairman, another concern that the Committee raised with the Minister deals with the capacity of the government to administer the system after the transition to TONI. Members have received assurances that the transition will not impose undue administrative pressures.

Mr. Chairman, in the event that the upcoming federal budget in December cuts federal income tax rates for 2002, we would seek clarity from the Minister as to whether the GN will amend GN tax rates so that Nunavut residents pay no more tax than they would under the current tax on tax system. At least until such time as a comprehensive review of the system has been undertaken and all options explored.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to close by expressing the Committee's thanks to the Legislative Assembly and Justice interpreters who have worked on this Bill, given the very technical and complex nature of the language.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Standing Committee recommend the passage of the Bill to all Members. Individual Members may have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Members' comments. Minister Ng, I would like to ask who your official is, would you introduce him at this time Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: Mr. Geoff Hughes remains with me at this time Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Comments. Each member has ten minutes for general comments. Are there any more comments from any member. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Members of the Legislative Assembly have different responsibilities in our committees and this Act was dealt with under another committee. Instead of asking us, because I am not too familiar with the income tax system so I just want to know if it is the same Act or has it changed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman the amendments that are before us today are to amend the current Nunavut Income Tax Act to allow for a Nunavut tax directly on the income versus what's in the current legislation, which is a tax on the federal tax. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Say for instance I would pay tax on the income that I earn. Say for instance I make over 30 thousand or 25 thousand what is the change. How much would I have to make. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman right now the Nunavut tax is calculated as a percentage of the federal tax. So in other words if the federal tax was 50 thousand dollars, as an example, and the Nunavut portion of the tax was 50 percent, in other words half of that would be 25 thousand dollars. So the change would be that it would still be 25 thousand dollars except that it would be a Nunavut tax, directly on that income. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we had the Government of the Northwest Territories they also put in a proposal whereby the people that make a lot of money pay more taxes. Is it going to be the same as the GNWT or is it going to be different. Are we going to follow the GNWT Act. What is the difference in the tax that we had to pay when we had the GNWT as opposed to having the Government of Nunavut now.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there is no difference in that. We adopted the same tax rate as the Government of the Northwest Territories. These changes in this Bill will still have the same amount of tax to be paid by an individual. It is just that the structure of how it is calculated will be changed somewhat. But the bottom line as I indicated in my opening statement is that there will be no additional taxes paid as a result of implementing the tax on income. The Nunavut tax on income. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): I wonder if the minister can state what the difference is. There was the NWT, is it just to change the Act to put it from the NWT to Nunavut. Is that the case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. That is not the case as I indicated. It is to set up the Nunavut Income Tax directly on an individual's income. Instead of on a portion of the Federal Income Tax. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): There was legislation in the NWT in regards to tax. The old Act from the NWT, we have to have legislation anywhere in any jurisdiction in regards to paying income tax.

The minister stated that some of the Act has changed. What I am trying to ask is whether he is saying that it is sort of the same thing but what exactly is the change in the TONI Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The change, Mr. Chairman is that the GNWT will charge a rate of income tax rate directly in the individual's income, instead of charging tax on the Federal Income Tax that is payable. So the current system has us taking a percentage of the Federal Tax that an individual ends up paying when they do their tax return. What we will do now is that we will have a percentage of their income as

a Nunavut tax. It doesn't change the amount the individual pays. It just changes the method in calculating that tax that is payable. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Are there any other changes other than what you have stated, Mr. Minister.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: No there aren't, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng. Is it more clear Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Qujannamiik, Itsivautaq. The minister stated that there will be no additional taxes paid. I guess what I am interested in is that payroll tax as opposed to making businesses operating out of Nunavut and the NWT at that time, to pay the payroll tax, the 1% payroll tax to Nunavut.

Has this been effective because it seems that there are a lot of bigger businesses that still have headquarters in the south to avoid paying taxes for the employees who would get paid through payroll in the south.

Are there any plans at least to fill the loopholes where the taxes that should go to Nunavut. Taxes that are collected in Nunavut for the monies that are being made in Nunavut. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the member brings up some valid points in respect to the payroll tax. That is not the Bill before us. It is the Income Tax Act. There are obviously concerns that the member spoke about for the payroll tax and we want to try to capture as much payroll tax as much as possible. Given that the whole intent was to try to recoup some taxation from individuals that were not residents of Nunavut but were doing work in Nunavut and leaving, but still receiving services from the government in the territory.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I indicated in my opening comments I would like to for the record, ask the minister if he would be willing to commit to reporting back to us at the next session on plans and proceedings as far as establishment of a professional or independent mechanism to advise on opinions and looking at a review on our tax system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would be willing to commit to respond to that particular recommendation. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, also in my opening remarks I talked about in the event that the federal government were to cut our federal tax rates for the 2002 taxation year. I would like to ask the minister if he could commit to amending the Government of Nunavut tax rates so that Nunavut residents pay no more tax than they would under the current tax rate on the tax system for that year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I could commit to that as well.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng. Who are you. Is it Ink or Ng. Thank you. Are there any further comments or questions from the committee.

If there are no more questions from the committee, we will look at Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act. Bill 14 reprinted and changed. Can we go clause by clause. Page 1. We will go clause by clause. Clause 1. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. That is page 3. Clause 4. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 5. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Page 28. You have that page 28. You all have it. Clause 6. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. I am sorry I made a mistake. Clause 8. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 10. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. The Bill as a Whole. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Does the Committee agree that Bill 14 is ready for Third Reading. We have completed Bill 14. I would like to thank the minister. If he has any last comments. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** I'd like to thank the committee and also Mr. Hughes for his assistance. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng and thank you Ms. Cooper. What is the wish of the Committee. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress and contact our Speaker and ask him to return to the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. It is not debatable. All in favour of the motion.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. The motion is carried. The Speaker can come back to the House. The Speaker can now come to the Chamber. We have finally completed our Session here and we will see you again in February. I look forward to working with you again.

**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 considering Bill 14 and would like to report that Bill 14 is ready for third reading. Tabled Document 41 – 1(5) is concluded with one motion number 19 – 1(5) being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder. Is there a seconder. Mr. Nutarak seconds the motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Item 21. Third reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

### **Item 21: Third Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 14 - An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act - Third Reading**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act be read for the third time. Thank you.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. The bill has passed third reading. 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.

Orders of the Day for Wednesday February 20th, 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:** Before we adjourn I would ask the Clerk to ascertain if the Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the chamber to give assent to bills. Mr. Clerk.

#### **Assent to Bills**

**Commissioner Irniq** (interpretation): Good evening. Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly. As Commissioner of Nunavut I would like to assent to the following bills.

**Bill 13 - Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 2, 2001/2002 - Assent**

**Bill 14 - An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act - Assent**

The Legislative Assembly will reconvene on February 20 in the New Year. At this time I would like to wish you all a good holiday and season's greetings to you and have a safe Christmas. Thank you very much.

*>>Applause*

**Speaker:** Members before we adjourn, I would like to acknowledge and recognize the hard work of our pages that we've had here through the week. Their names are: Dan Atwood, he is behind Mr. Picco. Please stand Dan.

*>>Applause*

Leah Sagiatak.

*>>Applause*

Chelsea White.

>> *Applause*

Daniel Young.

>> *Applause*

And Natsiq Quassa.

>> *Applause*

Thank you very much for your hard work. And also we should acknowledge the gentleman that has been here since day one, our trusty Sergeant-At-Arms Simanuk Kilabuk.

>> *Applause*

And we should also acknowledge the long hours that our interpreters and translators put in. Without them we just couldn't make it.

>> *Applause*

I am reminded by the Clerk that on Friday at 5 o'clock we will have the official lighting of the Assembly's outdoor lights. So I would like to ask all members if they are here to be present and also the general public. With that we wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, especially the people back home in my home community of Arviat. This House will adjourn until February 20th in the year 2002. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>> *Applause*

>> *House adjourned at 5.26 p.m.*

