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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Rankin Inlet North)
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(Nattilik)
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Hon. Kelvin Ng
(Cambridge Bay)
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday March 7, 2003**

Members Present:

Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Donald Havioyak, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Ireqittuq, Honourable Peter Kattuk, Hon. Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Jobie Nutarak, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Glenn McLean, Honourable Paul Okalik, Honourable Ed Picco, Mr. Puqiqnak, Hon. Manitok Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Deputy Speaker (Mr. Puqiqnak): I would like to call on Mr. Iqaqrialu to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Good day Members, Mr. Premier, and guests.

Before we begin I would like to welcome our colleagues who just came in because he couldn't come because of bad weather. Mr. McLean, Mr. Allakannuark and Mr. Kilabuk.

Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Finance. Minister Ng.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 115 - 1(6): Tabling of Budget Address

Hon. Kelvin Ng (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to advise Members of the Legislative of Assembly that on Tuesday, March 11th, I'll bring down the Government of Nunavut's budget for the 2002/2003 year.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for High Arctic. Ms. Williams.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 365 – 1(6): Federal Government Report on Suicide Prevention

Ms. Williams (interpretation): First of all I would like to apologize as I have a bad cold. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of this House to yet another example of why we must continue to educate our Federal Government on the distinct issues that face Inuit as opposed to First Nations.

(interpretation ends) This Wednesday, almost every Member of the House had an opportunity to speak strongly and honestly about the crises of suicide in Nunavut. It was a truly important day for this assembly.

Mr. Speaker, in an interesting coincidence of timing, the Federal Government First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada just released this month, a large 183-page volume of statistics, information and recommendations on suicide prevention.

(interpretation) However Mr. Speaker, while I applaud the efforts and thought that went into this document I am also somewhat disheartened because it doesn't mention anything about Inuit.

This monumental piece of work titled "Acting on What We Know: Preventing Youth Suicide in First Nations", focuses, as you have probably determined, almost exclusively on the First Nations youth.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that the crises facing Inuit youth did not receive the same level of attention in this document. I am saddened that there seems to be a lack of will on the part of our National Government to help us address this issue.

However, I am determined that we cannot give up. With or without the help our National Government we will work towards finding solutions.

(interpretation) We will work towards bringing hope to where there is despair. We will work towards bringing lightness where there is darkness. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. The Member for Amittuq. Mr. Iqittuq.

Member's Statement 366 – (6): Human Rights and Laws of Nunavummiut

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, although it is Friday, I have a very important item to mention. In our lives, we have noticed something that has to be changed. Mr. Speaker, as Members of the Legislative Assembly we are working very hard to provide adequately for the needs of the Inuit, for example, in housing and social programs.

I think that my statement will go on longer than the allotted time. Mr. Speaker, I do not really know how to express this because there is anger amongst us. For myself personally, I can say that we have a new self-government that we can work to strive to make it our own.

We have a Government today that has so many laws and legislations that it is overwhelming. Even as individuals we are scared to express our feeling because of being afraid to break legislation or laws. If I have a Point of Order, when I am doing my statement, there is a Point of Order, automatically I have to stop speaking. That is the way it is today.

As individuals, I think that we have to individually make sure that we recognize ourselves first before any laws.

Mr. Speaker, I am seeking 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. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As individuals, as Inuit, we have our own Nunavut Government, and eighty-five percent of the population are Inuit. We have to recognize that the Human Rights of Canada does not help Inuit. It does not work for Inuit, because if we say that according to the Human Rights of Canada, if I did something wrong to an individual, automatically that person can take me to court if they felt that they were being abused.

As an individual, I do not have any rights at all because of the Human Rights of Canada, because if the person got offended, they would automatically take me to court. That is not Human Rights for Inuit. There is room for improvement. My colleague has been waiting for years. If we proceeded in a traditional manner, we would forgive each other automatically, if we talk about it.

As Inuit, we have to work really hard to strive to keep our traditional values and principles in helping each other. Even our elders do not have any rights anymore because of the laws and regulations, although it says that they have human rights in Canada that is not what it appears to be.

I think the bureaucrats of the Government have to understand that when we discuss Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit we have to make sure that it is implemented into the government workforce.

There is much despair in my heart. Please let the government look at Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit because we are an able people. My sister passed away because of the legislation imposed by the government.

Because according to Inuit tradition, if she had used her Inuit tradition she would still be here today. She passed away because of the legislation in the white culture. It would not have been this way if it was in the Inuit way. I'm so frustrated and angry with this because it's come to a point where I'm so frustrated with Human Rights in Canada. Do we recognize human rights because it will lead to better lives?

We're going to be discussing Human Rights in Canada, but it will not improve the quality of life for Inuit people. It's just another law of Canada that protects the government instead of the individual. It's not our traditional law.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me a chance to speak.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqumiut. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Member's Statement 367 – 1(6): Thank the Minister for a New Fire Truck

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member who just spoke, for his passionate comments.

It is Friday today and because it is Friday, I would like to express my appreciation in this House. The fire truck for our community caught on fire and I would like to thank the Minister of Community Government and Transportation for providing a fire truck in a short period of time. The residents of the community were really happy to receive the fire truck.

I think if you meet the needs of the communities as quickly as you just recently did, every community will be really happy with our government if it gives us what we need immediately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit Centre. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 368 – 1(6): Standardize Assessment Testing and Student Curriculum

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to restate, reiterate and reconfirm my strong support for the concept of standardized assessment testing in our schools.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that one of the long-term goals of this government is to do things in a made in Nunavut way. I support the work that is underway to develop a made in Nunavut curriculum.

Mr. Speaker, it must be recognized that the curriculum currently being used by our students and particularly by those students in the English language classes is based on the Alberta curriculum.

In our high schools it is the Alberta curriculum that is followed and used and our grade 12 students have to pass Alberta departmental exams in order to graduate. Our students deserve to reach the same academic standards as other students in Canada.

How do we know whether our system is doing a good job of implementing this curriculum? By conducting appropriate standardize assessment testing.

This testing does not judge the abilities of our teachers nor does it judge the abilities of our students.

It provides a measure of how well our system is doing in helping our students and our teachers reach their objectives. It is a valuable and necessary tool to help our Department of Education achieve its stated goals of excellence and education.

However, Mr. Speaker, how can we reach this worthy goal if we avoid using the means and tools available to us? How can we determine if we're getting closer or moving further away from our goals? The answer is simply, we can't.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that other Members have heard voices publicly criticizing the Iqaluit District Education Authority expressed desire to implement standardized testing in Iqaluit schools.

It would seem to be Mr. Speaker, that if individuals do have concerns, they should attend the Iqaluit District Education Authority meetings, which are held on a regular basis, publicly advertised and open to the public, and to all parents and anyone else who is interested.

Instead of publicly broadcasting uninformed assumptions they would do their children a better service by raising their concerns in the appropriate forum and making informed decisions.

Mr. Speaker, I remain gravely disappointed with the Department of Educations' staff on this issue. I urge any parents who would like to know more about this issue or have concerns to contact the Iqaluit District Education Authority or attend any of the regular meetings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin North. Mr. Anawak.

**Member's Statement 369 – 1(6): Challenging and Difficult Times as Public Figures –
Special Tribute to Wife**

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is sometimes rare for us to make a Member's statement. At times as Members of the Legislature we go through challenging times and difficult situations.

When we are going through difficult times we only think about ourselves. During last week we went through a difficult situation and I have been receiving phone calls by

people who are unhappy and hurt, and my relatives have been calling me, defending me as well.

I would tell them that I love them and not to worry about me. But when we were dealing with this issue we try to represent the people and at times there are disagreements.

There are other times where we are targeted by the media. But when we are dealing with this we should expect criticism. When we are going through difficult times we feel them, and our spouses feel what you are going through.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, what I'm trying to say here is that, as public figures, of course, we expect criticism and have to develop a fairly thick skin at times.

However, it's not necessary only us, or, I shouldn't necessarily say that, it's not us that may be hurting the most. So today I'd like to pay special tribute to a person who has been with me for 27 years. Who has gone through an awful lot as I've gone through public office.

Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you. I would like to pay a special tribute about a person who has been, as I said, with me for twenty-seven years. Who has gone through an awful lot, even more than I have, because I think that it is harder for the person you are with when you are going through very hard times. Not just the person you are with, but your family as well.

I have been with my wife who is sitting across, Caroline Anawak, for twenty-seven years. To quote the Duke of Windsor, "All the things that I have been able to do in that last twenty-seven years, would not have been possible without the help and the support of the woman that I love. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 3. Members' Statements. The Member for Rankin South and Whale Cove. Minister Thompson.

Member's Statement 370 - 1(6): Public Opinions and Concerns Through the Media

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity today to extend my appreciation, and also I would like to acknowledge Mr. and Mrs. Anawak, because I was there when they got married in Whale Cove.

I would like to say Mr. Speaker, is that in our previous Government, the system was more embedded operationally in English, because the majority of the Members spoke English for thirty years of its existence. Even though this new government is a new government, most people speak English and Inuktitut.

I myself, when I was a Member of the previous government, I used to think that Inuit people, when it is time for them to rise up and speak about an issue, just because they did not understand, they did not speak out.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the CBC, because through the radio, people can voice their concerns. The Government listens to the points that are being made by the public through the media. We can understand both the Inuktitut and English.

I believe that the Inuit people have more opportunity to voice their concerns now than before. People are starting to voice their concerns to the government today and I would like to acknowledge them. I believe that the public out there is voicing their concerns a lot more than with our previous government.

When I was with the previous government, even through the media, the media would announce public announcements and the reaction would be totally different in those days than today. I would listen to the Inuktitut and English comments, and the priorities were totally different from each other back then.

Today the priorities of the media seem to be coinciding with each other. I believe that they have a better understanding how the government system works.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the Inuit who voice their concerns through radio. They speak their thoughts. I would like to thank the media for providing us with Inuktitut programming. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I would like to advise all the Members that you have two and half minutes for Members' Statements. If you are going to go over your two and a half minutes, please ask for unanimous consent to conclude your statement. Members' Statements. The Member for Akulliq. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 371 – 1(6): Suicide Prevention and Tradition

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All winter long my voice hasn't cleared up and I haven't got my voice back.

I'm glad that I was able to make it here, although I was stuck in Cambridge Bay. But today, Mr. Speaker, I rise to make a statement is regards to suicide in the communities.

There are people out there who are caregivers and counselling and there are Inuit people who are very capable counselling other people. Mr. Speaker, Inuit culture, Inuit knowledge, if it was utilized more at the local level there would be less problems and less suicide.

We have to look at ways of how to eradicate suicide and by using traditional methods of relating to your relatives, I'm sure it can help to reduce the number of suicides. I know this is a very hard issue and it hurts us and touches us emotionally, not just us but also the young people and the old people as well. We have to help and support our youth and we have to voice our support to the youth on how we can reduce the number of suicides and provide them with advice on how to live a healthier life.

Elders are very capable people and they should provide more support and assistance to our youth at the local level.

That's how it all starts, from the grassroots. That's where we can reduce the number but when we run into legislation and rules, they become our barriers. But Inuit tradition and laws are not written down, but they should be utilized. We should be looking at how we can utilize them and improve the lives of people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung. Mr. Kilabuk

Member's Statement 372 – 1(6): Weathered in Pangnirtung

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You mentioned that there were a few of Members who were stranded due to bad weather. It snowed quite a bit in Pangnirtung; I think it was close to three feet of snow that fell.

After approximately 80 hours past the time that I was supposed to leave for Iqaluit, I finally arrived at 9:00 last night. When I was up there, I watched the proceedings during the sessions.

I'm very pleased to be back here in the House and I know that this won't be the last time you hear about this comment. I say hello to my Kevin in Qikiqtarjuaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize two people from my community; our Wildlife Officer, Elijah Amarook and our Mental Health Worker, Mosesie Ainalik. I'd like to welcome them to the gallery.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to concur with my colleague from Pangnirtung about weather, but I think I hold the market on weather and snow this year from trying to get in and out of my constituency.

It gives me great pleasure Mr. Speaker, to recognize one of my constituents, who is working in Cape Dorset. And he's a trained and qualified Renewable Resources Officer. This is another example of one of our young people leaving the community to seek employment in another community.

Like I said in the past, Baker Lakers travel where the work is. I'd like to recognize Elijah Amarook from Baker Lake, now living in Cape Dorset and he's performing the wildlife officer's function.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: I would like to recognize a company that is really showing excellent leadership in Nunavut. And this Government of Nunavut could learn a lot from them. I know Canadian North has been around a lot longer than the Government of Nunavut but, as of today, they're showing excellent leadership in hiring and training Inuit, and retaining them.

I don't know if our Human Resources people would like to talk to them, but I'm encouraging them to go talk to Canadian North about hiring, training and retaining employees.

I would like to recognize on my right, a long term Canadian North Employee, and always happy to see us, Eva Onalik, Chris Cote, Christi Brewster, Wanda Noreeja, Debbie Kenneally, Elaine Oparak, Carmen Parsons, Moshia Cote, Gordon Norbert, Keith Hanson, and I hope I'm not incorrect here, a pilot for Canadian North, Annie Stein, Tanis Thomas and I'm not sure about that young fellows name on the end but I think his name is Dan Kane.

As of today Mr. Speaker, this is a long recognition, but it gives me pride to see a company operating in Nunavut, that has sort of a head office in Nunavut in hiring employees.

As of today, 88 percent, I want people out there to listen to this, 88 percent of their employees in Iqaluit are Inuit. I want the government to recognize that also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you for recognizing visitors in the gallery twice. Welcome to the Nunavut Legislature. Good to see you here. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I won't go on as long as Mr. McLean did and I won't forget the people that I want to recognize and have to do it twice. I guess that's something that we all have to look forward to when we get more experience in the years.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize two members of the Iqaluit District Education Authority who are in the gallery today; they are Mr. Tim Neily and Ms. Caroline Anawak. I'd like to recognize them and welcome them here and thank them for the support and work that they're doing for our students in the schools here Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize a relative of mine. Probably without his hard work, we wouldn't be here today. And that's Mr. Paul Quassa, the former President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to recognize a constituent of mine. I don't usually get an opportunity to recognize this individual as a constituent because a lot of time she's in here working and that's Ms. Sue Cooper. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member from Baker Lake for his comments about Canadian North hiring Inuit. Today I would like to recognize, even though Glenn already recognized them, but I would like to further recognize these people.

He used to live in Kugluktuk when he was younger. They have a lot of relatives in Kugluktuk. He is working here. The NTCL Manager of Marketing and Traffic Coordinator West; Mr. Gordon Norbrook.

The other person I used to go to school with in Inuvik. I have not seen him for about thirty-five years. I know him well. We used to go to a residential school. He is a pilot. He

said that as soon as he finished high school, he started going to flying school. He is Captain Cecil Hanson.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was able to get the concerns that I had out of me. I would like to recognize someone, Mr. Speaker; I am proud of this person. He was one of the signatories on the creation of Nunavut. We have all learnt not to fear what to say when we believe in things. There should be more recognition of this person. He is in the media now. I think that he should be working somewhere else. I would like to recognize Paul Quassa.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): I welcome you to the House. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some constituents in this House I want to recognize as well that. First Tim Neily, thank you for being here. And our elder Celestine Erkidjuk, who is also from my riding. It is always nice to see you. And also, Paul Quassa, who is also in my riding. I have worked with him and I have known him for many years. I am also always happy to see him. He is always in support of what I do. We have worked hard together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Alakannuark

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize someone, although I rarely have a chance to do so, a past resident of the Kivalliq who now lives in Iqaluit. Who also supports me, the elder, Celestine Erkidjuk. I would like to recognize him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to recognize, I recognize a lot of people here from Canadian North whom I have worked with and know personally from Canadian North, and so I'd like to welcome the staff from Canadian North. And it's nice to see you here as a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Paul Quassa who was recognized earlier and he has helped make it possible for us to be here today. I think he can ask for a raise because of the recognition he's had in here. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): I didn't realize we can speak that dialect in here. Welcome to the House. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize two people who are visiting the community and I recognize a lot of people in here but particularly, there are two I'd like to welcome.

I went to Inuvik a few years back. It was in 1972, about 30 years ago. When I went there, Gordon who is always hospitable, he was much younger in those days and Cecil Hanson, it's good to see you.

Their mother used to teach me in Inuktitut over there, Kathleen Hanson. Welcome to the House. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the House. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to have an opportunity too, to welcome some people to the gallery. First of all the brothers Cote, Moshia and Chris. I missed Chris the other day when he visited the assembly so I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Chris and Moshia to the gallery.

And, just down from Chris is a constituent of mine, and their father is an old friend of mine, Debbie Kenneally and I'd like to welcome Debbie to the assembly. Also on the other side of the Assembly there is a person sitting next to Mr. Neilly, who was just introduced, Caroline Anawak.

Caroline, the wife of our Member, Jack. Caroline has done tremendous work Mr. Speaker, in suicide prevention and counselling over the years in Nunavut, and I think she deserves recognition for that outstanding work.

Also, Vinnie Karetak was here earlier I think now he's gone. I just want to welcome Vinnie to the Gallery. And Mr. Speaker, Paul Quassa. Everyone's welcoming Paul basically to the gallery.

But in 1988, there was a flight that used to go from Iqaluit to Igloolik to Hall Beach to Taloyoak to Kugaaruk, Gjoa Haven, Pelly Bay, Spence Bay, Cambridge Bay and then to Yellowknife.

It was a long flight. Paul and myself were on that flight. And every time Paul got off the plane, it didn't matter what community, we would get off, we'd have a smoke, and it was in the middle of January; it was really cold.

And every time Paul got off the plane, people would ask him, when is the land claim going to be signed, when are we going to get money. I remember getting on the plane and saying to Paul, how much pressure he was under.

I think that has to be remembered as some of the Members have talked about, some of the hard work that was put into the land claims. Also, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank Celestine Iqittuq. Celestine is well known throughout Nunavut for his reporting on Iqaluit events. He's our Iqaluit CBC radio reporter.

I also wanted to thank him for visiting my father-in-law in the hospital on the past weekend. I know that Celestine goes to the hospital quite bit to visit patients from out of town so I wanted to thank Celestine for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome, I would like to welcome you all. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize a lot of people in the gallery. But here is one particular individual that I would like to recognize today. I have a lot of appreciation for this individual who is from Canadian North, Ms. Eva Onalik. She had worked extremely hard, I think it would even be best if she got ownership of Canadian North or become the pilot of this airline.

During the Christmas holiday, she helped two individuals who were stuck because of weather, she sent them over there to see their relatives and I know she's very compassionate and understanding. Maybe she should be the Prime Minister of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Madam. Ms. Onalik, welcome to the gallery. You will soon be the Prime Minister of Canada. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak: I already recognized my wife Caroline. I would also like to take up some of the comments made by people here about Canadian North.

Praise is good. But the praise doesn't bring in the money. Fly Canadian. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Returning to Orders of the Day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq. Mr. Nutarak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 368 – 1(6): Heating Fuel Subsidies for Elders

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. I will direct my question to the Minister of Education. I was waiting very patiently for his arrival in order to ask him some questions.

In regards to the elders who receive home heating subsidies, I would like the Minister to give us a brief summary of how many times they can get subsidized for home heating, especially for the elders who are on pensions and homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister for the Department of Education. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a subsidy that is provided by our Department and has helped, especially a lot of the elders out there who need subsidies for their home heating.

They can get subsidized up to 2,275 litres and that's up to the end of the fiscal year 2003. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): In regards to the number of litres that the Minister has stated from March to September, during that time period do they give this subsidy only during the warm times of the season and not during the cold season when it's definitely required? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You put it the other way around. It's starts from September to March. That's when the elders get the subsidy and usually an elder is considered one when they are 60 years and older. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You mentioned a specific number of litres. You stated that the elders get a subsidy. Does he feel that it is two times

or three times? Because I don't believe that they are eligible to be filled four times.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To give you brief overview, 2275 is the number of litres and they are eligible to get their tank filled as long as it doesn't go over the 2,275 litres. They can be filled no matter how many times during that time period as long as it doesn't go over 2,275 litres. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 369 – 1(6): Issue of Different Levels of Grades in the Classroom

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education. Thank you, very much for coming back.

My question to the Minister is in regards to the Members' Statement that I made on the issue of education. The question that I would like to pose to the Minister is in regards to the different levels of grades.

Teachers or instructors have been talking about their students and their levels of competency or having students in the same class where there is varying degree of competency.

What is the Department of Education doing on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, there is another side to the story but in regards to the question posed by the Member, there are parents and teachers who like the idea of mixing a class group because if a level of competence is true, and is mixed in with a higher level, then they tend to learn from those peers and accelerate their learning.

Because of this situation, we have recognized it and looked at the issue and they're agreeable to it.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't like your response because I'm just making my statement as I hear it from the people that I represent.

There have been a lot of dropouts, a very high number of suicides, unemployment and everything else, which I believe is directly related to the level of education that is provided out there.

If there's a high variety of competence, there are some students that are at a very low level and because they can't seem to get on par with the rest of the class, they will drop out of school because they're ashamed of their level of competency and ashamed that they can't be on the same level as the rest of the classroom.

What can we do in order to improve the situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since there has been an increase in the number of Inuit teachers in the school environment, this is not the first time that we hear about the question that you are posing. We have been looking at options at what would be better for the students.

But I can't give you written documents today on what causes students to dropout. I don't have the statistics or the reasons but I would like to inform the Member that the Department of Education reviews this on an ongoing basis.

It has been voiced as a concern and we have also heard about individuals who support having a mixed variety in a classroom setting. So there are some people who support it and then there are some people who oppose it. With that, we review this on an ongoing basis on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't want your department to keep reviewing this on an ongoing basis. If we review it all the time and do not implement an action plan then we're not going to go anywhere. We're losing too many young people to dropping of school and committing suicide.

We have to do something about it because it has a detrimental effect on the students. There has to be an implementation plan and an action plan instituted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I probably should have included this issue; as I stated earlier, there is an ongoing review and as I stated again, we're not just going to keep reviewing it without putting something in place.

The education system had been in Nunavut for a long time and we have to look at the long-term process in order to implement something that will work in Nunavut.

I can't give you statistics on why and for what reasons the students drop out of school. It is something that I can't make a comment on at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Last Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response Minister. Is it possible for the Minister to provide us with statistics on why there are a high number of dropouts?

I would like the Minister to provide us with written responses to the questions that I'm posing at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not trying to be difficult here, but I would like the Member to provide specific questions so that I can provide a written response to his questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. That was your last supplementary, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Returning to Orders of the Day, Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq. Mr. Irqittuq.

Question 370 – 1(6): Doctor for Igloolik

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think that some of us Inuit have very long term memory, which can be a cause of concern for some of us.

When the Minister of Health went to my community of Igloolik about three years ago, he made a very good comment and told the people of Igloolik that their community was going to be getting a doctor. Where did that doctor go? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Member's comments and question and I believe that we've answered it in the House before. But just a chronological sequence of events that occurred in the spring of 1999, the Member is correct; we had a very good visit in the community of Igloolik.

At that time, the mayor of Igloolik was Amie Panimira. Amie was also the Public Works employee in the community and had been doing some renovations at the health centre in Igloolik for the doctor that was going to move there.

Shortly after that, the Baffin Regional Health and Social Services Board changed their mind, that there was better logistics in placing the doctor in question to Pond Inlet. The doctor in question is still in Pond Inlet doing a very good job for the people of the high arctic.

She's still working there so I think we're quite pleased with that. So the Regional Health Board changed the physician that was to be in Igloolik at that time and the position is now staffed, the Member is correct working in Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister for your response. In my riding, the community of Igloolik and Hall Beach are very close together and there's a large population if you combine both Hall Beach and Igloolik.

We estimate the population to be approximately 2,000. Especially in Igloolik, there are approximately 1,500 people. They have very major concerns in regards to the state of their health care.

Is it possible for your department to reconsider or consider moving the physician that's based in Pond Inlet at this point or getting another physician to be based in Igloolik? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would prefer to look at an option that was based on the Member's comments and that would be to look at, if there's an opportunity to put a physician in Igloolik.

I would not want to pull the physician who is currently residing in Pond and doing a very good job for the people out of Pond Inlet. What I would try to do is to see if there is an opportunity to put a physician in Igloolik.

This is something that we have talked about in the past and there may still be some opportunities available for us to look at, not just Igloolik, but also some of the other communities where we have tried to have staffing with physician services. So, I would not try to move the physician out of Pond. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not requesting to move the present physician who is based in Pond Inlet but there are other able and competent physicians out there who we can hire.

I think that if there's a large combined population, such as Igloolik and Hall Beach, there is a possibility of placing a physician there. If there's no housing available in Igloolik, then you can consider basing that physician in Hall Beach.

I didn't say anything about the communities; I was concerned about the two communities that I represent. My question was have you considered, or made any plans to base a

position in Igloolik or Hall Beach? My question is do you have any plans in place or not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to thank the Member for clarifying his question. Mr. Speaker, there are currently some plans underway to look at the allocation of physicians throughout Nunavut, the number of physicians that we have. There have been some concerns that we have not had the proper coverage.

Mr. Speaker, that is something that is ongoing. I am not in a position to say that I am putting a physician in one community, or another, or in one region, or another. At this point I need to be able to have those people available first, before that decision is made. I can say to the Member that he is correct that we are looking at what opportunities are available with the staffing of physician services outside of the three regional centres. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Last supplementary Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why I am asking you these questions is because you made an announcement at one point that Igloolik was going to be getting a doctor.

Based on your statements, I am assuming that all this has been reviewed and that there is a doctor required based on the total population of my riding. That is why I am asking you these questions because you had made an announcement that there would be one based in that particular riding.

Since you probably did a review, or a study, and everything else, is it going to be very soon that you will consider moving a physician there?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I said about three years ago, and I even went back to Igloolik and spoke to the Mayor and to the Regional Representative of the Baffin Regional Health Board at that time. I did not say that I was going to put a doctor at any time in Igloolik during my meeting there.

What I had said was that the Mayor of Igloolik, I am sure if you ask him, he would say, I know because I actually had a letter from him, is that there was some discussion by the Health Board to place a physician there. The Health Board decided because of logistics that they place the physician at that time in Pond Inlet.

However, I have been, and the Member is correct, with opportunities for increased recruitment we would look at staffing physician services outside of the three Regional

Centres, and that is Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay, to see which communities would benefit from that.

There has been some work done, as I said, with some of the larger communities, in Pangnirtung, in Igloolik, in Gjoa Haven, in Arviat, some of the larger communities to see whether there is an opportunity for physician services.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have those positions available right now. And that is why I am not able to commit to the Member. But, it is something that the department is looking for. As the Members knows once the Budget comes down next week, there may be additional opportunity for the Minister to look at what allocations can be made for the physician services and other issues.

Again, we will have to wait, as Mr. Ng just indicated for the Budget to come out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. That was your final supplementary. Orders of the Day. Oral Questions. MLA for the High Arctic. Ms. Williams.

Question 371 – 1(6): Arena for Resolute Bay

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Community Government and Transportation. As you are aware that although Resolute Bay is a small community, when there was Arctic Winter Games, at least one of our athletes from Resolute Bay won a gold medal. The design for 2007/2008 for our community arena, could we possibly move it forward?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister for Community Government and Transportation and Sport Nunavut. Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member for high arctic has been working really hard for the needs of her community. I will look into possibly moving it into an earlier date. I have asked my staff to work with their hamlet and they will be going to the community shortly to talk with the municipality concerning the arena that has been proposed to be built in the near future. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the residents of Resolute Bay are very grateful for that because they thought the community was too small to receive an arena but now that they will be receiving an arena we thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Just a comment. Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk. Mr. Havioyak.

Question 372 – 1(6): Construction of Docking Facilities Update

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Community Government and Transportation. Last year construction was to begin on the docking facilities, because of the Fisheries and Oceans study that's happening there.

I would just like to ask the Minister, what is the status of that today and has the study been done from Fisheries and Oceans? Where do you stand today on the construction of the docking facilities in Kugluktuk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Community Government and Transportation. Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The study has been done. Public Works will be going out for invitational tender for the construction of the breakwater. The construction contract will be awarded in March, this month.

It has been very positive, it was DFO that delayed it for a year but we've been progressing very well and so it's happening now. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response Minister. That's good to hear. It would be great if we could see a copy of the studies of the DFO. I don't know who has the test results on that and I think it would be great for me anyways to see the results of that study from the DFO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The report from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans study, it's up to them whether they want to publicize it or not. It's not up to me.

But, Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that the study that was done last year has been concluded and we had to postpone that project for a year. So we will be constructing the dock this year and I don't think we really need to have a report handed out to you because it's the responsibility of DFO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member of the Legislative Assembly for Akulliq. Mr. Alakannuark.

Question 373 – 1(6): Plans to Use Elders as Counsellors

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

We have social workers based in communities to work in the field of helping Inuit but our elders have a lot of experience in social issues as well and maybe our elders can be used in the area of social work to help eradicate suicide in Nunavut.

Do you have any plans to use our elders in helping the social workers in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question from the Member. Part of the Mental Health Strategy that was tabled in the House was able to use outside resources and to look at the opportunities to integrate work by elders into counselling sessions in those training sessions.

That's something that the department is doing, is using elders. This month, Mr. Speaker, we'll be using a unilingual couple from Pangnirtung. Meeka and Abraham Arnakak will be delivering programs and sessions on healing and so on through a productive plenary session in regards to counselling and so on.

The hope would be, Mr. Speaker, to get them to other communities, like some of the work that they've already done under healing with some of the inmates in Fenbrook, a fantastic program that they were running down there before Christmas.

That's just an example, Mr. Speaker, of using elders and using unilingual people to be able to do some of the counselling services as outlined in the Mental Health Strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your comments are very clear and as I mentioned earlier, mental health specialists and workers really do help people.

The way I see it, I think the mental health workers have a barrier in trying to counsel Inuit but on the other hand, the elders know how the person is feeling in their traditional way.

They have a feel about what the person is going through and since the elders are mostly volunteers most of the time, do you have any plans to at least pay them a little bit if they're going to be working with mental health officers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the department, through government policy, hires people Mr. Speaker, when they're hired officially, they are receiving remuneration for that work.

If the department contracts the elder, for example Mr. Speaker, to do specific work on behalf or for the department, then those people would also be paid. I think that's a very important point to be made.

Several new things have occurred, for example even with youth. We have advertised and we're in the process of staffing five new youth outreach positions or outreach workers across Nunavut again to work in cooperation and conjunction with some of the elders' work that is going on.

So if the department has hired an elder, Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct, they will be paid. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member of the Legislative Assembly for Iqaluit Centre. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 374 – 1(6): Formal Policy in Closing Down Government Offices

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Human Resources.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, our sitting was cancelled yesterday and I took the unexpected opportunity to go and do something I usually have to rush around and do on Saturday mornings and that's shopping.

While I was in the stores, Mr. Speaker, which were open, there were a number of people who asked me how come the government was shut down. I'd like to ask the Minister, so that I can clarify for those people when they do ask me, what is the governments' formal policy for shutting down offices in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Human Resources. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question you have raised has been asked to me for a number of times.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that when the government has to close their offices, I have given my Deputy Minister the authority to close the government offices if they need to.

We have to keep in mind, safety matters, for example, we have to make sure the roads are safe to close down the daycares or other places where there's a safety issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is that a formal written policy of the government that it has on those closures? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have said earlier, just in case I missed a thing or two, I will provide information, written information on what factors are considered when closing offices to all the Members so that all the Members will have that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to getting that information so that I can answer people when they ask me why.

But, Mr. Speaker, can the Minister in that written information, also include specific criteria that's used in determining whether a complete shut-down is warranted? Also, if he could include in there, as to who has the final authority in shutting down the offices for the day? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will provide detailed information including the reasons and criteria for closures of the office.

As I have stated earlier on, I have left this responsibility to the Deputy Minister and she has that responsibility of closing the Government Offices. I will provide them, in written form, to all of Members. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Do you have a Supplementary question? Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Qamanittuaq. Mr. McLean.

Question 375 – 1(6): Update on Shipping Dry Cargo to the Kivalliq

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By the way, Mr. Speaker, you look dapper up there and good, if you could look every time I ask a question. You are doing a good job and keep it up.

Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Public Works and Services. Mr. Speaker, over the last six or seven months, there has been a tremendous amount of controversy in the Kivalliq Region regarding shipping and transportation in regards to NTCL and dry cargo.

Mr. Speaker, the sealift season is coming along with spring. I have been answering a lot of phone calls from concerned constituents in my community and I am sure other MLA's in the Kivalliq have been getting the same phone calls.

We have been dealing with Manitoba and Winnipeg for over thirty years and a lot of the suppliers and shippers that we have been dealing with. Now, all of a sudden, NTCL pulls out of the Kivalliq.

So, all of these people in the Kivalliq that do not know how to deal with Montreal, can the Minister update me on how we are going to get our dry cargo into the Kivalliq now that the NTCL has pulled out? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Public Works and Services, Mr. Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was a very good question. Today, we are working on this issue of contracts and we will be releasing a press release, perhaps on Monday.

So, rather than talking about this before the press release, I will provide information to the Members on the issue of the contract.

And in regards to your question about NTCL, I apologize that the company had to pull out, because they also did it for the contract. I just want the Member to know about that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know, thank you, Minister. I know it was a good question because we have got hundreds of Kivalliq residents wondering how they are going to get their Sealift, if they should start ordering stuff out of Winnipeg, because I order supplies from Winnipeg.

And, I can say myself that I do a sealift every year and I do not know how I am going to order stuff out of Montreal because I do not know any suppliers.

Like, the business community over there, private people are going to be in a real predicament if they do not find out how they are going to get their goods from the South.

Like somebody casually said to me, well, we know how we are going to get our fuel this year, but what about our groceries and supplies then?

So, can the Minister commit to me that he will know by Monday, how we are going to get our stuff into the Kivalliq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated before that your request, in regards to your request, I will speak with you and inform you first before I publicly make a Minister Statement on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): He will provide a Minister Statement and then, he will provide Minister's Statement before he speaks to you. Oral Questions, Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 376 – 1(6): Study on the Academic Students and School Dropouts

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad that you called my name again because I do have another question for the Minister for Education. Although I had asked this question in regards to the high drop-outs of students in Nunavut, I was wondering if they can do a study within the school of the academic students and the lower competent students to verify for sure which students are dropping out.

I hope my second question is clearer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Education. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I do understand your question.

I don't want to receive that information or tomorrow because this process will take a quite a while because we have to look at various things. We have to look at the academic students and the students that are far behind and the younger ones.

If the younger students have problems, the older students who drop out are not going to have an effect on the lower, younger grade students. We all know that the younger students don't usually drop out. It's the older students that usually drop out of school.

Those are the ones that we will have to focus on if we will be doing a study on the number of dropouts. Mr. Speaker, we need goals and objectives. I know that the students who have dropped out have given their reasons to the teachers.

This process will be a slow process and that's what I'm trying to explain to the Member. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, very much for your good response.

Although the process will take a long time and will be slow, there's a requirement now. We need it now because of the status of the students with the high number of students who have dropped out.

I'm not trying to tell you that this be a priority, but I do want you to act on it because we need a plan to help and develop and keep the students in school. I'm very glad that the Minister understood my question.

So, therefore even the process will take a long time, I was wondering if the Minister is committed to doing this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand your question.

First it's evident that we'll have to resolve what we're going to be reviewing, along with the high number of dropouts. Also, that study will accumulate and correct the number of students who have dropped out and the reasons why they have dropped out of school.

I will speak with my officials and also the District Education Authorities in regards to this issue on how we can best proceed with this so that the Members of the Legislative Assembly can be involved and I'm sure that they want to participate during the process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Qamanittuaq. Mr. McLean.

Question 377 – 1(6): Automatic Investigation When a Child Dies

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

It's a difficult question for me to ask, but I have to. Mr. Speaker, over the course of being a politician in Nunavut and serious issues arising in your community, in the health field, and you don't know when to ask a question sometimes because sometimes it is a very delicate nature.

As we know, everything in Nunavut, our statistics, when it comes to bad statistics, we have the highest of everything. On the good side, we do not have any very good statistics. My question is for the Minister. When a child passes away in a community, is there an automatic investigation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Minister responsible for Health and Social Services in Nunavut. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I appreciate the question from the Member. He is correct, sometimes there are difficult issues to be discussed. I can tell you that under Health and Social Services, indeed that is the case on many occasions. I also note that the Member said this question today, and that he has already asked the question before. Maybe the phraseology at the beginning, we want to change that.

Mr. Speaker, depending on what the occurrence is with the sudden death of an infant or a child, Mr. Speaker, the circumstances surrounding it are different for each individual case. For example, if the situation was a case of SIDS, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, SIDS.

When a young child, a newborn for whatever reason seems to have expired without cause or incidence, for those cases those are investigated to find out what the cause is. The investigation could include, for example Mr. Speaker, an autopsy. Again it depends on the situation at hand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, not a lot of us are doctors in the communities, or healthcare professionals. The average person on the street does not understand the medical terminology. We do not understand why people die when they are very young. There could be different reasons for it.

He explained that there could be some obvious reasons, but a lot of us are not well aware of why young people die when it is very quick. We sometimes get an explanation that we do not understand. I, for one, am one of those people.

There is a hesitancy of saying, well it is life, and it happens, and this is the reason it happens. Sometimes some of them can be prevented. I am sure of it. What does it get down to when we ask, and I am getting to my second question, when do we have a right to ask, because of our limited knowledge, and I am saying myself and people in our communities, if it is acceptable or not, why this person passed away? Can I go to the Minister and ask him to have an investigation if one of our young people in our communities had died? And would he give me the answer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a very difficult question to answer because of the component parts that the Member has brought into it. For example, Mr. Speaker, if a person dies very suddenly, there is a clinical review that is done to ascertain, to make sure, for example, that there were no contusions to the body, that the child might not have been physically abused, for example.

So there would be a clinical review of the body. After that has taken place, after the clinical review, there may be suggestions that maybe there was foul play. Maybe further investigation would be warranted, which would include an autopsy.

The specific request by a Member to me to review a death would depend on the circumstances surrounding that death. For example, Mr. Speaker, is it not for me as Minister to know the health concerns, or the Member to know the health concerns of a second party.

It is very difficult to be able to communicate confidential information on what occurred in this case. For example, Mr. Speaker, when someone dies, when a child dies very suddenly, it may be the result of a medical condition called Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. A group of different issues are put together that causes the death.

However Mr. Speaker, in all cases, a clinical review is done and from that clinical review, there may be judicial proceedings. It may be a legal matter. Or indeed, Mr. Speaker, in some cases you may have to go to a full autopsy.

But the officials do that and as the Members know, I'm a politician; I'm not a medical professional, like the Members, and when a person dies, then professionals do that review.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day, if there is a question on that and if someone has not been assured of why someone has died, or there is an misunderstanding around the situation, then Mr. Speaker, bring in that information to the Member, or as a constituent or bring it to me as Minister of Health, then that's something we would be able to look at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Item 6. Oral Questions. Moving on to Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills.

At this point, we'll take a 45-minute break for lunch.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed for lunch at 11.43 a.m. resumed at 12.34 p.m.

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome back. Returning to Orders of the Day. Item 16 Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 16: Motions

Motion 017 – 1(6): Removal of Minister from the Executive Council

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, whereas the *Legislative Assembly and the Executive Council Act* provides that the Members of the Executive Council hold Office at the pleasure of the Legislative Assembly.

Now therefore I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kugluktuk, that the Honourable Jack Anawak be removed as Member of the Executive Council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Motion is in order. To the motion. To the Motion. Before you start on the Motion, I have an announcement on the proceedings we will follow.

- 1) All the Members can speak to the Motion once. For a total of 20 minutes each.
- 2) The mover and the seconder will speak to the Motion first.
- 3) The Mover will have a chance to have final comments to the Motion.

To the Motion. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is not a motion that I make or take lightly. This is not a direction I would have preferred to go. However, I believe we have not been left with any other choice.

I believe that there has been a consistent effort by this Minister to work in direct contradiction to the Mandate and responsibilities that I feel, we as Members of the Legislative Assembly, have given him as a Member of the Executive Council.

Fundamentally, Nunavummiut expect their Government to work in the best interest of all residents. Ordinary citizens must trust this is what happens when decisions are made and carried out by Cabinet.

Not horse trading or a barter system, but a serious examination of the issues and consensus decisions to move forward in a given direction based on a mandate and value system and supported by the government leadership.

Nunavummiut need to know that when they elected us as MLA's, we would make the best decisions in the interest of Nunavut to further elect those among us to lead us in Cabinet.

That responsibility to work in the best interest of all Nunavummiut is what we, all of the Members of this Assembly, through the people who elected us, have given to the Members of the Executive Council.

As regular Members, we must be confident that Cabinet Ministers will hold themselves to this higher standard of representing all Nunavummiut, not only their constituents, when they are asked to be chosen as the Members of the Executive Council.

I believe the Member for Rankin North has not met this standard. Nor has he fulfilled promises he made to us when he asked the Members of this Assembly on March 5th 1999, to elect him to Cabinet.

Mr. Speaker, on the day, he acknowledged, I quote, "It is going be hard and we have to work together as one and give our full support to the Premier. And that we might disagree now and then, but we always have to remind ourselves why we are sitting here."

And it goes on, I am sure at times during our disagreements, we will have a tendency to forget why we are sitting here. We have to give our ongoing support to our Premier, because the Premier not only representing us, but also the people of Nunavut.

Members of the Executive Council, as I said earlier, are held to the highest standard. The Member for Rankin Inlet North acknowledged this four years ago when he said that we each have our own constituents, but we all have to keep in mind that our first priority will be the people of Nunavut as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, Inuit have a long and successful history of cooperation. Our ancestors knew that for a community to survive, grow strong and prosper, that the leaders needed to make the best decisions in the interest of everyone.

In creating the Government of Nunavut, there were great expectations that the fundamental values and beliefs of Inuit would be incorporated into our system, our values such as teamwork, patients and adaptability.

I believe that is the direction cabinet, with the support of this Assembly had been working for the last four years. It is our trust that these fundamental values will guide the Members of the Executive Council and their decision-making.

This is the kind of government I believe Nunavummiut hoped for, expected and have. Mr. Speaker, it is imperative for cabinet to work together, maintain solidarity and confidentiality.

Perhaps all Ministers won't always agree all the time. But once a decision is made, all Ministers must publicly support it. There must be confidence in cabinet decisions. And this wavers when Ministers publicly criticize the decisions.

It also threatens the integrity of the government and of this Assembly. As people begin to lose trust in government, the results can be chaos. If confidential cabinet conversations become public conversations, that can also lead to chaos and confusion.

I believe in an open government but I also believe in cabinet confidentiality and the need to maintain respect and order. I agree that there is a lot at stake. Cabinet decisions have significant impact on people's lives.

They can influence serious personal and business decisions. They can impact the development, growth and success of Nunavut. And they are a direct measurement of how the interests of Nunavummiut as a whole are being addressed and served.

It is for these reasons, that I believe that we, as Members of the Legislative Assembly have no choice but to support this motion. I do believe that it is very unfortunate that we have been forced to deal with this issue.

As I stressed before, government must speak as one. It is the role of regular Members to question and hold the government accountable. Mr. Speaker, this issue needs to be dealt with so that in Inuit tradition, we can move forward.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to make my comments short. Regardless of how sad we are that we are getting into this situation, I know as a former Minister, I'm not personally against Jack, but we have to follow procedures in order for us to operate properly.

I will be discussing this again later on and I want to say this to the House, Ministers have to work together as Ministers. My colleague here mentioned that regardless, we can't all agree on everything but sometimes we have problems working together but at the end of the day, these people should be working together as one.

Also, I have mentioned this because we can't always be happy, and we can't always look at it in one situation but we have to because we have to work together so that the people behind us will follow these rules.

As the Minister, Honourable Jack Anawak has worked very hard for the people of Nunavut. Today, I said earlier, the Ministers have to work together. One individual can't, if he waives, but he will have to as part of Cabinet because he is trying to help his community of Rankin Inlet. But if he's only going for Rankin Inlet, I think that Nunavummiut are considering that they can't waiver because they have to work together. I don't agree with that.

The people of Nunavut and we as regular Members, we put him in as Minister. He's responsible for all of Nunavut, not only to his community. But, that was his goal, to help the people of Nunavut, so that our generations can work together.

But we all have to work together, so that we'll serve the people of Nunavut. That's why I have made my comments short, but I support this motion. Today, we are looking at our future. I'm not against Mr. Anawak. Whatever happens here, I will support the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I will give you all a chance to speak. I'd like to give Mr. Anawak an opportunity to speak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. If people are thinking that I'm going through a tough spot in wanting to keep this position when the Cabinet is trying to remove me, I've enjoyed what I do. When I was elected to be a Minister, it's just like icing on the cake from being a Member. That's how I see it because I do enjoy it. A lot of people have a misunderstanding as to why I am trying to be removed, whether it is sexual assault or fraudulent misuse, because they had nothing to do with it.

It's a government procedural issue that has brought this forth and I just want it to be understood that it is a procedural issue and not mistrust in my position. First of all, let me assure you, the Members of this House, I accept whatever judgement of this assembly passes.

However, if I don't speak to the people of Nunavut, it would not sit well on whether or not if I did what I was supposed to do. I'd also like to convey to my constituents in Rankin Inlet who placed their faith in me to represent them, I will do my best to represent them.

I believe that it is a duty of every MLA to work tirelessly to be a voice for the people they represent in the Legislature and to hold that trust placed in them.

I recall the high expectations when I stood as a Member of Parliament in the House of Commons in June 1993, participating in the passage of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, accompanied by the Nunavut Act that would give rise to the Government of Nunavut.

It was June 4, 1993, I recall the energy in each crowded community hall as I toured as the Interim Commissioner to every community as people voiced their needs and gave advice on how to construct a new Government.

I also recall the telephone phone-in shows I held every Wednesday evening for many weeks as people called in to urge us on to build the kind of Government of Nunavut they wanted. And they were very passionate about their support for the creation of Nunavut.

I was truly moved, deep in my heart, by their hope and trust as the Nunavut vision was developed and their genuine belief that they would see such a truly different kind of Government established.

A Government that was sensitive, creative, reflecting their values, that welcomed Inuit and Northerners at all levels that reflected their ways. I remember the optimism and the great feeling of relief on April 1, 1999, the pride of the people in achieving what they had worked for so long. Something that was theirs that finally recognized them for who they were.

Then we heard comments when the Government was created that they were wondering what happened to that ideal that we would work in Inuit ways. Inuit expected to see a government that was different. I have been saying this and this has also been told to me, that they still have that expectation.

In our business, however, I became increasingly concerned that the peoples' original intent and hopes that gave life to Nunavut were not being mirrored in what was actually being done.

The regular Members often stated that we were straying from our course. I became increasingly vocal about this within Cabinet in an effort to steer us back to what the people were expecting, how they felt, what they believed were both possible and necessary.

It was at times, very frustrating, trying to communicate this to some colleagues within Cabinet who did not share or comprehend the importance of those expectations.

When I dealt with our regular MLA's, they repeatedly confirmed that they too were concerned about the direction we were headed and how the Government lacked the emphasis, style, and priorities that were most important to Inuit. In one Legislative Assembly session, I found it necessary to rise and read aloud, the Nunavut vision statement which formed the basis of all that the people had said during the consultations prior to Nunavut.

I wanted to read this vision statement into the record as a testament of the wisdom of the people in hopes that some of colleagues would finally recognize its' importance and embrace it through policy, programs, language and style of operation.

I did not find that many of them were moved by or aware of this very important document that was developed through consultations with the people to set the direction for this government.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to be disappointed that internally, government business was run as usual like any other government to which we had ever been associated with. Mr. Speaker, our government was not supposed to be the same. It is supposed to be different, melding the best of contemporary system and Inuit ways.

I felt we should have known and done better, much better. The efforts of so many people over 30 years to create Nunavut, deserved better. The belief of the people, their ideas and their faith in the leadership was worth so much more than the level of respect and recognition they seem to be given.

The time, the work, the meetings, negotiations, the long history associated with this great struggle, were worth so much more than coming up with nothing better than the same old departments, directives, positions and processes and maintaining all the same systems that had always seemed to be foreign to Inuit.

I felt we had to do it better. I believed we had to be more creative and make it truly reflect whom we served. The people deserved it. They asked for it. They expected it and now I saw that they weren't about to get it.

I did my best within cabinet to stand up for those expectations, whether I was listened to or not. During the years I served in a variety of positions. I voiced my concerns on doing business differently; to brainstorm, seek out new ideas, honour Inuit values and beliefs and take whatever time it would to deliver to the people's level of service and style they had been asking for to the best of my ability.

I observed cabinet solidarity while I tried hard to get across these points. It saddened me greatly to see us, as a government go off on an entirely different direction, thinking we could not or should not do business differently, that the old kind of system, rules and policies were good enough.

It seemed to me at times, that no fresh air or new or innovative ways had come into this government. I watched a government immerge that merely reacted to things and was not always as proactive and as innovative as it could have been.

I watched us become almost mute on the pressing social issues to turn away from things that we didn't like dealing with where we should have taken stands that would have been helpful in leadership, we sometimes avoid it, the responsibilities that were given to us.

People pushed paper, went to meetings and put in a full day, but what, I ask you, have we done to deal with the pain and suffering of our people from poverty, unemployment, illness, violence, substance abuse, crime and suicide?

(Interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I watched our relationship with the Federal Government deteriorate through poor strategy and even more, poor attitude and delivery and many doors shut as a result and we are paying for it today.

Whether we like it or not, we are almost totally dependent on the goodwill of the taxpayers from the rest of Canada. Building good solid relationships with the Federal Government and with our fellow Canadians is what will be necessary to see the necessary funding coming north.

In the long run, it will resume, reenergizing our relationship with the Government of Canada, when not through confrontation and ultimatums. How much our elders are dismayed and losing heart what should happen, they said.

As a matter of fact, I just had a phone call just before I came down. I listen to frustrated Municipal Leaders, small businesses, and long-time Northerners who joined with Inuit in voting for Nunavut, who also thought nothing had changed for the better, that we were off track and running out of time to correct the situation.

I could not stay silent, I did everything I could to speak of these things within Cabinet, but somewhere, just through my comments or anger by them rather than considering my concerns.

I watched as we failed to work closely with key organizations representing the people too. As Government, we always ended up being taken to court. Our Land Claims Organizations, whose own claims negotiations ensured that there would be a Government of Nunavut in the first place.

I watched the Clyde River Protocol sometimes be completely set aside despite our Government finding it. Is this how we want to do business? Is this how we want our Government to be remembered?

I watched the key position in the Department of Executive and Inter-Governmental Affairs titled Manager, Claims Implementation stay vacant for almost a year. Yet, there continues to be a pressing need for the GN to be aware of and uphold responsibilities with regards to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

85% of the people we serve are Nunavut Land Claims Beneficiaries. I watched only with true, keen interest when it came to the subject to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and the issues of the term that resulted in the Department thinking, an IQ event was a barter to you, snowmobiling, picnic?

I saw no real political will demonstrated to move IQ to the agenda, top of the agenda, with top level support and fast tracking initiatives to insure it would happen. To this day, Mr. Speaker, there is no specific agency within the GN assigned to make Inuktitut as a language of Government a reality.

No agency within Government has decided to make Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit reality either, because we have been too small in setting up the bodies to do this. I watched this fail to develop Inuktitut Language Training and emphasis as a first priority.

I watched many Land Claims beneficiaries give up and leave the Government, feeling there was no place for them as Inuit, in the Government's style of operations, structure, and priorities.

I watched an emphasis on Southern technical expertise and almost no corresponding emphasis on long-term Northerners and Inuit expertise. The number of Inuit in the GN workplace is at an all-time low.

At below 42% and continuing to drop, people leave when they cannot find a place for themselves.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I watched the people be told it would take between five and ten years before they had any hope of seeing an Inuktitut curriculum being set in place for all our grades despite it being the majority language within Nunavut.

I was not willing to sacrifice one full generation of children in our school systems who would go through school in that same ten year period without seeing their own culture and language being reflected in a standardized curriculum from kindergarten to grade 12.

That is what they want and that is what we heard in our tours. Nobody ever said that they don't want to be taught in Inuktitut. As Interim Commissioner, I have voiced my concerns about the plan as laid out by the Nunavut Implementation Commission.

I did not have the mandate to make the changes. Myself, I felt it would of course be up to the first elected officials to look closely at it and make the necessary changes. Yet, these essential changes had not been made to fine tune things for the better, to allow for creativity, pursuit of excellence, emphasis on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and actively seeking innovative forms of governance and accountability.

It is to wake up the leaders and the Members of the Legislative Assembly to better represent the people out there. Are we doing the right thing at this point or are we creating barriers in realizing our dream and our visions?

This is Nunavut's wake-up call. This is about what we can speak about, how we can speak about it as Members of the Legislative Assembly in representing the concerns of our constituencies.

Does the current system fit our needs or does it keep us from actually meeting our needs? Are Members of the Legislative Assembly, on cabinet, supposed to tape up our mouths and not represent their constituents?

Are they supposed to observe rules that do not fit just for the sake of observing them without even wondering about their suitability? Are Cabinet Members supposed to observe this rather foreign concept of solidarity even when they think they're off the rails that the people's interests are not being well represented?

This is not the Inuit way. What are the rules as Inuit know and understand? I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statements.

Speaker (interpretation): Our colleague would like unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): What Inuit values and beliefs are being set aside here are the Inuit values of honesty, listening, respect, acceptance, patience, tolerance, resourcefulness and talking the long view has not been on display in this situation. At this very moment, the elders of Nunavut do not know what's happening in the proceedings in the House.

This is about rules in a style of government that does not fit Nunavut and as the first speaker stated, we have to be an open and accountable government so that the people out there would know what's happening.

What do we mean by saying that we have to be open and accountable and if they do it, end up at the end of the day slapping them on their hands because they stated something that we're opposed to.

I have been informed that there has to be a vote on this motion as a government. I have been informed that we have to be open and to work hard to represent the people of Nunavut.

I've heard that the Cabinet Members have been forced to vote on the basis of the same strange procedure. What does communication mean? What will happen if I vote against or for this motion?

Would that jeopardise being an open and accountable government. I would like you to know that when I go to the other side, I'll be perfectly happy with it because that's what this whole procedure is happening, and of course I'll be open to respond to questions and let the information out there that is required by the people of Nunavut to be aired.

(interpretation end) Mr. Speaker, the larger challenge is for all Nunavummiut to consider. It's about the need for a much broader discussion. The kind we used to have over many years prior to April 1st, 1999. What kind of Nunavut Government are we aiming for once again? What will it take to get us back on track to obtain it? Nunavummiut ask carefully what they're going to do about this situation and I speak to them now.

It will be very important whom you select in the upcoming territorial election. It will be necessary to ask many questions of those who wish to serve you. Everyone really wants your votes. Question their creativity, their knowledge of how to do things differently and better.

Enquire about the beliefs and values and whether they know the history behind your expectations. Listen very carefully to how those who are after your votes answer you for you will have to decide whom to send to correct the situation.

Finally, they have the courage to speak out under all conditions. If they understand the Inuit values and beliefs, if they can and will, under all circumstances, question about what is going on, on your behalf.

Find out who will come up with better rules, more capable structures and voted processes that have the feeling of being just right.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I am at peace at this moment and I will still be at peace and be able to work on behalf of the people that I represent and the people who worked extremely hard to create the land claims, the government and Nunavut Territory.

If we have the values and the beliefs, I know that they stand behind the people of Nunavut that I represent. They will work extremely hard to represent them and not stay only focussed on the procedural matters.

The way it's going today, and we worked so hard for is it now a reality? We have to make the Inuit vision a reality. We don't want to be just overshadowed by procedural matters. We're always talking about these rules, policies and everything else that has now overburdened us and we take it, just accept it.

It is time to reassess where we need to go and to get energized, once again, to discuss how we are going to get there. I know that the people out there and the leaders understand exactly what I am saying.

Once again I want to say this, (interpretation ends), in voting for Nunavut, we seek a government that places people first, that represents and is accountable and fair to all of its residents, is a servant of the people of Nunavut.

These directions from the people, be shaped by and belong to the people of Nunavut, offers programs and services in an integrated and holistic matter, promotes harmony amongst people, places ownership of well being into the hands of individuals.

Families and communities conduct themselves with integrity and openness, encourages excellence and welcomes creativity, appropriates the best of Inuit and contemporary government systems.

(interpretation) That is the Nunavut vision statement and that is our orders from the people. As I stated, in order to properly represent the people, I will be told that of course, they are working hard on behalf of the people of Nunavut and their values and integrity.

We are saying, an open Government, would we be here today, would I be here today, if I was open, frank and frank to the people out there because, of course, we are hiding everything, I am now here, I am here today.

In this situation, we cannot use both systems; we cannot say that the Cabinet here has to be a unity and that to talk about things that are discussed internally. One hand we're

saying we have to be open and accountable and one hand, we have to show ourselves as a united front.

For myself, my priority is the people of Nunavut, who worked hard to create their own Government and their territory and to properly represent the people of Nunavut.

We are elected here on behalf of the people of Nunavut and they want people who help the feelings for the people out there and we are sitting here because we are extremely proud of the people out there that we represent.

Inuit are very patient, we waited many, many years to create our own Government of Nunavut and we knew that we would have our own unique Government and I have this belief and a hope that what the people wanted out there will be expressed in the upcoming election here, within our Government according to the needs and wishes of the people of Nunavut. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to, I will be giving the Members an opportunity to make their statements. At this point, I will have the Premier make his comments.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I personally feel that this is unfortunate for us to have to go through, but we have to go ahead with it. I am an Inuk and I am proud to be Inuk and also, I get support from fellow Inuit and they witness my colleagues here in the Legislative Assembly and I thank you for that.

But, a lot of the times as Inuit people, we sometimes have to go through procedures that were normally not a tradition to us because our forefathers did not have a traditional government like the one we have to go through today.

Today, I am a Premier; in the future someone else will stand here, and I must leave them a base to draw strength for the future.

As a government, we have to stand together, especially the cabinet, we must stand united as there are many tasks before us. As we pass on and finish that we have to do as a government or as a cabinet, we need to set aside some things and start afresh and go forward.

If we keep going back to the old ways, we're not going to go forward as we should and evolve as a government. Although it unfortunate that we have to go through this today, we have to make sure that we have a solid foundation for our next government, because there's a lot of work that we have to do as Cabinet Ministers.

Like he stated earlier, there are still many things that we need to do for our Government of Nunavut. At this present legislature, we're not going to be able to finish all the things that we have started.

Our successors will have to take on responsibilities that we have to work on today. There are always going to be debates in the Legislative Assembly but as Cabinet Ministers, we have to work as a team, in unity. We are under constant scrutiny; they look for our weak spots, but as a single unit we will maintain our strength.

We have steered governments outside of our own, the Federal Government, with the knowledge that I have had support from the cabinet ministers. That's the only way, as a Premier, I'm able to do my work with the necessary support from my them.

That's what I'm going to stress, as the Premier, that we work as a unit, as a team because we want to make sure that we have a solid foundation for our government for the next generation.

Although we are going through a hard situation at this time, we still have to look forward. I have talked with all my Ministers individually, especially the representative of the Rankin Inlet, Minister Thompson about this.

She has also agreed that we have to move forward. On this day that we vote, I am confident that my fellow Ministers will maintain solidarity, although I know that she has a difficult choice to make in trying to representing her riding and support for her fellow Minister. I have spoken to her and have reached an understanding.

However, this is a fundamental foundation for our government. I'm going to have to support the motion that was tabled and that is what I have told my fellow Ministers. Let's finish what we have started today and go forward because we have to represent the needs of all Nunavummiut residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There are other Members of the Legislative Assembly that I'll give the opportunity to voice their comments. You have a twenty-minute period in order to make your comments. I will now allow Mr. Iqaqrialu to make his comments.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Premier, Mr. Anawak, I smile at all of you.

There have been many times that I have tried to bring out the Inuit values and traditions and I'm very glad that there is a colleague who is in support of what I have been trying to do for a long time.

It has been my vision for a long time and it seems right now my hardest time, we have to empower the people out there.

We need true representation in the House. There has always been the Inuit who were suppressed by the government for many, many years. We have never had a true voice in the House and that's what we've been doing for a long time.

We as Inuit have a right too. If you look at the social ills, there are many suicides out there, which is created indirectly by the government. In the Legislative Assembly, I have seen very few people who are sitting here who voted against or did not participate in the land claims agreement.

And it seems, even to today, they don't understand the Inuit values, traditions and what their visions are. Inuit are having a hard time being understood out there. Today is the day that we fight for what we need because of course we have our own government.

We want to see our needs and wishes and visions integrated into the government. Whenever we say anything as Inuit, and when we're talking about traditions and culture, we're told that this is not the procedure.

That's how suppressed that we have been as Inuit by the government. I'm extremely happy today that I'm not going to be the only one who will truly represent the people out there.

Inuit have our own culture and tradition but we tend to put that aside in order to follow the legislation and the policies of a foreign culture. We have always set ourselves, put ourselves on the back burner.

We have to start today to listen to the people out there and to lobby so that there is a priority placed on our traditions and values in order to have a government that truly represents the people of Nunavut.

We have to be understood as Members of the Legislative Assembly. We have to get the message out there that Nunavummiut have a vision and a dream that has to be realized. In regards to the this motion and if there's a removal, we think that we're going to get focused and start doing things that should be placed as a priority by this government.

I would like, what I have done so far to keep going, to keep working on it, and if we're going to be taking out a Minister and put in a new one, then there's going to be a stall because we will have to replace a minister. Yet things have to keep going at this moment.

We have this momentum that we have to keep going. We cannot be making replacements. And we have to talk to the people of Nunavut that we represent. I can tell each Minister; because of course I have visited each of your communities.

There are some people who at many times have been told the concerns of their representatives. And they don't say anything about it in the House. There are people out there who say my representative is now a Minister and is neither representing me nor voicing the needs and the wishes of the people in his or her riding.

If that's the case, I have to work extremely hard because of the people of Nunavut out there. The people of Nunavut want to be represented now. They want to participate in the proceedings. When we got the Government of Nunavut in 1999, everything has come to a halt and the people who were working within the government have resigned because there is no place for them. They have not been able to go forward.

With this government we have to think about the unilingual Inuit who should be able to work within the government but there are so many barriers and challenges created now and the only thing that we are focusing now is the procedural matters and the policies and the regulations and so on where we can't move forward anymore.

No wonder the number of suicides has increased because we are creating more challenges and barriers from the time the Government of Nunavut was created. Our government and as people of Nunavut we have to integrate our beliefs and our traditions.

What had happened with the previous government is that they would come to our community and they would tell us this is how it's going to be from now on; we weren't given a voice; they didn't even go to our community to hear those wishes and concerns of the people.

Today with this present government we go on consulting tours so that we'll give you innovative ideas and to have pieces of legislation that were made for Nunavut. Although the Minister's roles and responsibilities have to keep going but it seems like they are not making the decisions on behalf of the people of Nunavut that they represent.

It is about time that you'll get closer to the people of Nunavut and here we are we are trying to use alien rules in order to remove a certain Cabinet Member. Yet, we are the legislators who draw up those pieces of legislation so that they are Nunavut made.

But if we do that then the Nunavut Government will have a made in Nunavut government. And of course, the people out there and the other governments can learn that we are a unique government.

We learn a lot of things everyday; we have students who we are paving to take our places and for those of us who are older who did not go through the formal school systems were taught by the mothers and the fathers and have learned the traditional values of the ancestors and there is nothing in the policies and legislation that is integrated Inuit Qaujimaqatungit portion.

When I was in Calgary in 1996 on a workshop, there were legislators who were there in that workshop and also an instructor who said, we don't have written traditional laws, what are we going to do and he responded and said that they are there; you use it on a daily basis and that was exactly true.

This is something that has been my foundation in whatever I do and I do that, even though I am unilingual. This is the comment that I wanted to make in order to keep the momentum going I will not be supportive of the motion. Thank you.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm really enjoying the discussion at this point because I grasp everything that is being discussed and listen to everybody's point of view. If we are frank and open, we will get everything out in the open.

Like I mentioned earlier because when we started talking about suicide we have no choice but to talk about it in the open because it has become a crisis situation - in the past nobody talked about suicide; we have no choice but to talk about it out in the open because it's become a crisis situation because in the past nobody talked about suicide.

That's why I'm saying that as Inuit, we are very much right to the point and very blunt about discussing things. I really believe the cabinet ministers must work in unity, have a consensus, because they are a consensus government; they must do their work together.

The discussion that we're having today, the motion to remove someone is based on a technical issue. It seems to me that the petroleum products issue that is behind the whole is really just an excuse, not the real reason for this current action.

If it gets passed, it will be passed. It will be carried. There's no other way because if the cabinet has already decided to remove a Minister it's going to be accomplished. It's going to pass. The reason for making this removal doesn't seem to be a valid one. Although we have been given a chance to speak on it, which is all we can do, express our views on it.

Mr. Speaker, he made one minor mistake and although we have a lot to say on more important issues, like I mentioned this morning, there's a lot of things that we need to do. That one little issue is the cause of the whole thing being used as a technicality. It is nice to be given twenty minutes apiece to speak to the issue, while we barely have anywhere near that time to discuss other matters.

It is great to have that amount of time to discuss one issue! Someone mentioned earlier that Inuit traditions are being used here. I couldn't disagree more! A rebellious person would have been given a slap and a warning not to do it again, and the next time he would be told he is on his own and to leave.

That one little issue that is being used to remove the minister, now you're saying that we're using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit that is absolutely nothing. There's absolutely nothing in Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit that we're using in this procedure and in this process.

Maybe they go through a process where they have disciplinary avenues for doing things like we did from our ancestors we use the same view; do this again, I'm going to do this to you next time if you do something bad. That's how we did it in the past.

I'm in my 50s; I understand my tradition but my colleague here knows even more about my Inuit tradition than I do. The leaders, cabinet leaders are younger than me. I am wiser than them because I'm older and since they're younger than me, they have not even caught up with the concept of what it feels like to be Inuk.

They have gone through the education system. They have been taught about the academics but they have no concept of my traditional unilingual values and principles. This little thing that we're going through is a very small technicality compared to the whole Inuit tradition.

We're going through a whole situation right where the media, CBC reports only the negative parts of what we're discussing. I don't know how many people said the removal of Jack Anawak is based on inadequate reasons and he should only have been given a warning.

Also, if we're doing it in this way, the younger people according to the cabinet members are removing the sole elder in the cabinet. You call this Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Those people who say they know about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, you don't know what Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is and I'm trying to explain it to you.

We are going through a very hard situation today and I think what I stated earlier has to be a priority, that if we recognize the human right of Canada doesn't reflect the needs of the Inuit people.

Like I mentioned earlier, I think our government needs to recognize us, we are here as Inuit people, beneficiaries, because Inuit are here we have a government and they receive funding from the federal government because of the Inuit and our land.

I'm glad we are able to speak on this issue because at least the staff in the departments will know what we're seeing and where there needs to be improvement to improve the government system.

I was so happy when Anawak became the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth because that was the only department that was able to voice the concerns of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and implement them in the workforce and I was so unhappy when his portfolio was removed from Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and then given to the youngest Member of the Cabinet.

Because the content of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is a very comprehensive portfolio, it should be under someone who is wise and our elder. You could give me a Point of Order. What I'm speaking is true. In Hall Beach, people who cannot speak English are forced to live in the English way. This does not help anyone.

I am thankful I am given 20 minutes to speak my mind. Mr. Speaker, I am speaking to the motion. I understand that there was a motion given. Mr. Speaker, I am speaking to the motion because a motion was table to improve the process or the procedures of the government and I agree with that there's room for improvement so that we don't have any more suicides. We need to be truthful in what we do and make sure that they train our social workers and counsellors to meet the needs of our Inuit people. Thank you I'll speak to this again later.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. Do not get scared, I am going to be using my hands.

As MLA's, we represent communities and as MLA's we have to abide by the rules and we have agreed to the rules and we have stated that we have been told that we have to incorporate any values into the system.

For example, in the Court System, we do have elders involved who know Inuit Qaujimagatunqangit, but to the Motion, I am in support of the Motion because for the future Members, like we have heard, there is a twenty-two year old in Greenland that is a Member of the Legislature of the Home Rule. This might happen in the future, and if this happens then they will have to amend all the rules that they might have.

For that reason, the voters, I am sure, will disagree with me, but I will be in support of the Motion because we have to abide by the rules that are set forth, because we have to follow the rules in order to operate and function properly whether we are friends or not. Jack Anawak is my good friend and I would like to see him keep his portfolio, but according to the rules that have been set, I am going to support the Motion because if I commit suicide, nobody else can revive me.

I just wanted to make that point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I still have names on my list. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I felt that I am wiser since I am older than Enoki. I have a very brief comment to make to the Motion. Yes, we need rules to follow in order to operate functionally.

I have a mother who is 88 years old. When I was a social worker and I was really frustrated, I would ask those questions, as an elder, I am sure you run into all of the Legislation of the Government and she told me, "You tell me that you, as a social worker that you want everyone to take care of their children and not abuse their children".

She told me what my responsibility and duty was at my work and she told me a long time ago they had many traditional rules and they followed their rules so much that they ended up killing another individual.

A woman had to deliver her baby in an igloo by themselves and no one could enter that tent and she told me all about these traditional rules and I started thinking, oh, I am so glad it is today, because we can now have rules that can keep you in line.

To the Motion, today, I would like to say, if we can have a Minister without a portfolio, then why are none of us on this side are a Minister? Any one of the Ministers should hold their portfolio because the majority of the Members are sitting on the regular Members' side.

If anyone is going to be a Minister, they should have a portfolio to hold on, if they do not have any portfolio, perhaps, we have the right to be Ministers too, without portfolios.

For that reason, I will be supporting the Motion because Members of the Cabinet and each Minister should hold a portfolio because there is a lot of other business to deal with.

Yes, I know that we are a very young government and Inuit beneficiaries have a very good entity, which is the NTI, which could deal with Inuit traditional laws.

This government is a public government and they're the government for all the people of Nunavut, not just the beneficiaries. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I am in support of the motion because we need a minister who holds a portfolio.

I don't want to be misunderstood. I'm not saying I don't want Jack Anawak. That's not what I'm doing. It's not personal; I have nothing against Mr. Anawak. If that happens to the Premier, I'm sure we would take it as serious.

I want the public to understand that we're not trying to oust a Member here, we're just deciding if he should hold the portfolio or not. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I would say that all the Members of the cabinet should have a portfolio to hold on to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is not easy for any of us. There's not one person in the House who relishes or is even going to enjoy what's going to happen today, whatever way it goes.

And the person in this House who says they want to see it happen, to me is not a good person. I don't enjoy it. I certainly don't enjoy it. I got off the plane in 1971 and Jack Anawak was one of the first Inuit that I met in Rankin Inlet.

I've known him ever since. Here's the issue, Mr. Speaker. I've been angry with this government for four years. I don't like how it works. I don't like the system. It's new and foreign to me also.

You go to any jurisdiction in Canada, any jurisdiction and you'll have the politicians saying the same things, we don't like the way it operates. But I'm telling you Mr. Speaker, thank God it's Canada. Thank God we have some kind of sense of rules that we have to operate under.

I know it might not be conducive to Inuit culture. Rules are not conducive to any culture. But I'm glad that we have them in Canada. Can you imagine if we had the Iraqi rules where we'd be today? I hate to make a comparison between Nunavut and Iraq.

I'm glad that the rules that we got, which I don't like either, and everybody knows that I'm vocal about what I don't like in this government. But fortunately for all those people who worked 30 and 40 years to build Nunavut, Arvaluk, Amagoalik, Quassa, and the personal sacrifices that they gave, the tumultuous lives they had, being away from their families, they did a wonderful job.

I can say, for somebody who's lived up here for 30 years, I think we've got a half decent system here. It might not be perfect but it's not bad. And I believe in consensus government. The responsibilities that these Ministers have to deal with, I made the decision early in my political career that I didn't want to deal with it.

Because when you are a Minister, you've got to give up your own constituency. You've got to represent everybody out there. So, every one of those Ministers has to forget about their constituency. And everybody who is a Minister or has been a Minister knows, when they're back in their community, people are mad at them because they're taking someone else's concern ahead of theirs.

It's a very tough decision to become a Minister. I know when these people become Ministers, they try to represent everybody and it's difficult because they go back to their communities and they say you're never there.

I've heard it about every Minister on that side of the House and I don't envy any of them. On that point, when I vote for you guys, when I vote Ministers, I'm saying hopefully they will represent my riding also on the big picture.

Unfortunately for us, along the way, we get elected and come into the House and we're going to change the world. We're all going to change the Nunavut system, take it in a different direction and make everything great, but unfortunately on our way to doing this, in every one of our communities, we've got suicides, alcohol abuse, drug abuse, assaults, we've got everything. And that's taking up our day-to-day lives, dealing with our constituencies and trying to make them better places.

Sure, if we had the time to detach ourselves from our daily responsibilities to go out there and make it a better place, which we are trying to do every day in this House, it would probably be a lot better than what we've got now.

Sure, it's not great and it's not the answer but give us some credit for it and what I hear around here, I believe what my colleagues are saying. There is passion in their statements and they put their lives in it. I represent a large constituency and I listen to my constituency also. So it's unfortunate that this is happening today, but like I say that is today.

I was in your riding of Taloyoak two years ago and I was angry with the government and complaining to the mayor, I said; "You know, I don't know what we are doing". Dennis Lyall said; "Relax Glen, this territory is only a baby and it's going to take years for it to get to where we want it to go."

That's the first advice I heard in four years as an MLA, relax, take your time and somebody else said it, I believe that Jobie said it. There's a 22-year-old MLA in Greenland right now, the next election we might have some 22 year olds and their ideas and the way they operate this Assembly are going to conflict with whoever else is here now and in the future. We all know that.

Some of us are young and some of us are old and some of us are not going to be here next time and there could be a new younger group with different ideas that say we can do it better.

So on that issue, what I have noticed in the last four years is teamwork; we need team work. Our function over here is to make sure that group over there, acts as a team and we try to do it sometimes.

Sometimes it may look like we don't have concentrated plans but our concern is somebody sitting behind me said: "Glen don't forget, people are the government not government are the people." That is another good piece of advice that I'd like to go by.

But my problem and the reason that I support the motion today is that I have known everyone of you for four years and we have to have teamwork and when the team's not working together, you're not operating the way a team should.

So, Mr. Speaker today I'm going to support the motion.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): To the motion. 2-1 (6). We will deal with this after your comments have been made. On my list again. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me the opportunity I will try and make my comments brief. I will try not to direct my comments

on a personal basis or as to how the personal lives are as it is not in my nature to attack people personally.

Looking back at the issue, if anyone had good leadership in the Inuit culture, I will only speak on my experiences in the Inuit culture. If there is a solid family unit they will have a good family if they have a good leader.

That's what I have learned. But if they didn't have good parents they don't know which direction to take and that's where the family breakdown begins if there isn't good leadership in a unit and that's how we should see ourselves by working together we are working as a unit.

A lot of things today seem to come down to monetary value and so with the procedural issue we are dealing with, we want to somehow incorporate the Inuit culture within Government. What I see today, at least operationally, Inuit culture has no place in Government at all.

We are using Government procedures and operations, it is like going backwards, as if we have taken a step backwards because the procedures take precedence over what the wishes of our people are.

We have stated in the House that we will use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, where is it? It is nowhere to be seen at all. It is not in use, there is no Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit applied here whatsoever, although we had made the commitment to incorporate it.

And our parents have always told us that we should help other people, we should help each other and that is what our youngest Cabinet Member has been told by his elders that he should help other people as much as he can.

And that is the advice that we get from our parents and our elders. What I see today is that we seem to take the responsibilities away from this person. We are their support for this person to ensure that this person take on his responsibilities as is expected.

So, where are we going forward with that? If Inuit culture and traditions are to be incorporated, how are we going to use it in this situation? I am not going for or against the motion, I am just speaking on my experiences with my culture, but it looks like we are taking a step backwards.

As the next election date is coming up, we are just worried about getting back in without really realizing what needs to be done. We are just going backwards and are not accomplishing as much as we should be.

We should be incorporating Inuit knowledge. I hope I made myself clear. I wanted to make my comments short. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, I have known Jack Anawak for approximately 20 years, but not quite as long as my elder colleague from Baker Lake, but certainly quite a long time.

And, it was in those days that he was a Mayor, he was involved with the Regional Council, in the Private Sector and I also helped work on his campaigns when he was elected and went for re-election as a Member of Parliament for Nunavut.

Having said all of that, I know that Jack also is a hard working and dedicated MLA and certainly as a Minister in carrying out his responsibilities. He also, as we all know, speaks his mind. He speaks out on issues that he believes in and I remember on popular decisions, I remember him seeking elders' support on Firearms Legislation.

I remember him speaking out against voting in favour of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement. And these were all minority positions at the time. There is one thing that he does not probably remember or maybe he does.

At one point, I was working for the Kitikmeot Inuit Association in Cambridge Bay, there was an ITC Annual Meeting being held in Cambridge Bay. I was asked by an elected official to represent KIA at those meetings.

A delegate challenged my status there, being a non-aboriginal person, and at that time, I believe he was a Mayor, but he was a delegate there, Jack came forward and spoke up on my behalf. You know, saying it was my right to be there to speak.

So those are some of the things that I truly respect in Mr. Anawak, sorry Mr. Speaker, because he does speak out in what he believes in. But having said all that Mr. Speaker, I have to put all those things aside in dealing with this motion today.

Every Member of the Legislative Assembly here has a right to speak his mind, particularly on behalf of their constituents and we actually have a responsibility to do that. Mr. Anawak has certainly done that in this case.

The question is, and the issue here is, speaking out as a Cabinet Member, contrary to a Cabinet decision, that's really the focus of how this has all come about. Now, the public at large, Mr. Speaker, really doesn't understand the difference between a Member of the Legislative Assembly and a Cabinet Member.

I think that as regular Members would know, and I've encountered this myself in the past before I became a cabinet member, that as a government decision, you Members of the Legislative Assembly, it's your decision and that's reflected in a lot of decisions that the government makes.

So, a Cabinet Member has the additional responsibility of not only being a representative of their constituents, but as Members have said, of looking after their responsibilities of their portfolio that they've been assigned to, looking after the broader Nunavut interests.

I think we all recognize that. Unfortunately, sometimes, these two things conflict, your responsibility as a Member of the Legislative Assembly for your constituents, your responsibility as a Minister for the Government for the legislature, the legislature who put you in as a cabinet member.

This is obviously one of those cases where that's happened. Mr. Speaker, I've been on at least three different cabinets, not including the current one of course, but that's all being new as the first legislature and this situation has arisen in the past. Certainly I can say, from a Nunavut Cabinet perspective, that personally I've run into this same situation. There have been issues that I strongly opposed at the cabinet table and had my say.

But unfortunately when the decision was made, I respected that decision of the cabinet, of my colleagues and carried forward supporting those decisions. Now, having said that Mr. Speaker, if it was a decision that was made, that I felt that I couldn't live with, my method, my option would have been to step down as a cabinet member and then publicly voice my opinion.

That's what I would have done certainly in a situation like that. That does not detract anything from Jack in any manner, sorry Mr. Speaker, Mr. Anawak and the manner in which he's handled it. That's his prerogative again, as a Member of the Legislative Assembly and as a Minister.

Mr. Speaker, parliamentary rules, practise or convention within a party system is clear, the Premier or the Prime Minister has the ultimate authority of picking or removing cabinet members.

In our consensus system, it's totally different as you know. All Members of this legislature vote in the Premier and at the same time vote in the cabinet representatives of people they feel can best represent them.

So, I don't know if that's good or bad in our consensus system, but that's what we're working with right now. The Premier has authority through us again, through the legislation to assign portfolios or remove portfolios.

That's obviously what he's exercised that authority in this particular circumstance based on what he thinks is the proper decision. Now our consensus system isn't ideal. I would agree with Members. It's not ideal. It may be a foreign system, like some of my colleagues have said, there's no doubt about that.

I can tell you, when I first became a legislator it was the same for me. I couldn't understand why things were done in the way they were done and I questioned it as well.

I also want to say first of all, in some of the comments about Inuit traditional practise and knowledge, I'm definitely not an expert, and I'd be the first to admit that. I rely on my colleagues in this legislature to provide that. I know that sometimes there's a difference of opinion. But having said that, Mr. Speaker, again good or bad, it's the system that we adopted when we took office from the Northwest Territories.

Remember, we had lots of debates about this and what we were going to do and what we were going to change and we have made some modifications. So, good or bad, it's our system. If it's not working, we have no one to blame but ourselves here today because we're the ones who have accepted it.

Now, based on that Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues have mentioned there is an election coming, it's on our caucus agenda next week, it's sometime before we leave during this session a decision will be made on when that happens.

There will be a new legislature, some of us may be back and some will be gone. That's just the way it works with elections. But the new legislature and government will have the opportunity to provide their input, to change the rules to do whatever they see fit and to see what will or won't work.

And if it won't work, then modify it, again it's not different. But Mr. Speaker, based on our current practices and our current rules, based on the circumstances of not being able to have in my view, a Minister without portfolio sitting on Cabinet, I have no choice but to support the motion as well. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Next on the list is Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's a blizzard in Rankin Inlet. Debating the motion and this is what we agreed on, even if I lost my portfolio when this was being formulated I had no choice but to follow it.

You had put in place some rules and procedures and Acts and Bills, we're dealing with Bill 22. In 1992 there were a lot of Bills and Acts that had been enacted although a lot of times we may not agree with the contents we have to deal with them to the best of Nunavummiut.

I'm not saying whether I'm against or for the motion. My colleague Mr. MacLean, I was happy to hear what he had to say. However we will have to come to a vote on this. A non-confidence vote that we will have to vote for or against.

However I have a question that has not been responded to. They say they understand what the issue is but the recurring question is whether the Cabinet or the Premier or Jack Anawak have to date discussed different ways to resolve the issue.

Did they research every avenue as to how to resolve this issue, on the issue of his portfolio and his Ministerial position and then I was told that because I did not get that information I will have to go against the motion so, there was a lot of discussion there in that regard.

If you want to look for ways on the best ways to resolve the issues as they come up, I'm not sure whether he's not happy with Mr. Anawak or do they have other reasons. There hasn't been a proper response on that issue.

But then I was told later the day before that it's got nothing to do with Jack, it's got nothing to do with Mr. Anawak. I was told the issue was if the Ministers are to get away with these types of things, it weakens the strength of the unity against the Canadian government.

So, I was told that it was up to me, whether I wanted to vote for or against the Motion. And if I did vote against it, that it was up to me whether or not it would go the other way. Looking back, I do not think it is against the Government, against Rankin Inlet. I do not think this would have come up if that issue came up. That was my understanding that I was told I couldn't vote against the Motion.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you. It is, I think it would be better if there is no clapping or stuff like that because we are not in a hockey game; this is not a joking matter.

I would like to make some comments to the Motion and I will be speaking in both English and Inuktitut in order to get my message across. So, bear with me, I will try to keep it within twenty minutes.

First of all, I would like to assure the Members that all the Ministers work extremely hard and I do not want them to be treated like dogs because of course, they are my colleagues.

We are able to make comments on issues and carry on with other responsibilities and represent our communities, but I think that we should place a priority in all items, whether we are Ministers or Members.

(interpretation ends) I'll speak to the motion. It will probably be very short and I make my points clear.

The consensus style of Government that we have here in Nunavut sees each of us elected independently. We are not members of a party nor do we follow party directions or guidelines.

(interpretation) We, as a Government, are called a Consensus Government in English, we work together as one unit and we are representing various Ridings and of course, the same goes for the Ministers.

We do not belong to a Government, we are not given direction, because of course, we are a Consensus Government, we have our own individual ideas and beliefs and we have a unique Nunavut Government.

And, it is exactly the same, of course, in the Northwest Territories.

(interpretation ends) We have never talked about what a consensus-style of Government should be or it should operate up to today. There are no clear guidelines to direct a Consensus-style of Government or to indicate how a Consensus-style of Government should technically operate. You cannot show me that anywhere. We have never discussed it, there are no written rules.

(interpretation) We have never discussed what kind of Government we would have and what type of Government, a Consensus Government was.

We have never had discussions on the type of Government we have; we do not have anything in writing of what a Consensus Government is. Here are your guidelines; there is nothing that we can base it on.

(interpretation ends) The Nunavut Implementation Commission, John Amagoalik and his group never asked the question of what type of Government system Nunavut might have.

(interpretation): the Nunavut Implementation Commission never asked us on the type of Government that we would have. Would it be party politics, would we base it on the other, the Parliament, or on the Northwest Territories? This is a question that we have never asked.

That would not be recognized or understood by a unilingual Inuk. For example, like my father I don't want to talk about Inuit traditions and values. I don't want to talk about anybody's traditions or anybody's traditions because I was brought up in a unique way.

(interpretation end) I don't want to talk about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. I don't specialize in it either. Neither are any of you guys. It's everybody's interpretation, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. We can say Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is this and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is that.

We are operating under the rules that were developed in England under the biggest parliamentary system regardless of whether we call ourselves a consensus style of government.

(interpretation) The present government that we have uses parliamentary rules, and England's system. It is styled from England. This is something that we've never discussed. We've never talked about the type of government that we should have.

(interpretation end): I thank my Premier for respecting this decision because we've had chats, we're honest with each other. We argue within the office. He respects me for this. That is a consensus style of government. People working together.

(interpretation) Today, I cannot morally, and I thank the Premier for respecting this decision. We've talked and we're honest with each other. We argue within the office. He respects me for this. And that is a consensus style government. People working together.

(interpretation end) I cannot morally vote against Mr. Anawak. Today I cannot say, I don't have confidence in Mr. Anawak. I can't. He did not commit a crime such as assault or rape or steal money from the government. He didn't do that.

As such I cannot help but believe that the intended punishment is just too harsh. If my father were here today, he would just be asking, what is going on?

(interpretation) I cannot say today that I do not have confidence in Mr. Anawak. It's something that I can't say. He didn't break any rules. He wasn't taken to court. He hasn't stolen any money from the government.

The punishment is way too harsh for what he did and for trying to oust him from his position, we might lose on this motion but I will oppose it. I'm a teacher and I have learned about the different governments anywhere in the world. We have a consensus style government and there are no guidelines or rules.

I have heard, I don't know whether it's true or not, that the B.C. Premier, Gordon Campbell, was charged with impaired driving. He has been charged and to date he is still the Premier of B.C.

(interpretation end) However, I still stand here today, Mr. Speaker, to inform my Cabinet colleagues, that yes, I stand with you in solidarity. I respect you. I remain a very responsible member of Cabinet. I'm probably the most reliable member in that Cabinet room in a lot of cases. I'm on time.

And though I want to continue to work with you for the betterment of the territory, but I cannot and will not morally or ethically vote against my colleague Jack Anawak. I won't do it, I just won't.

(interpretation) Today, Mr. Speaker that I can work very closely with the Cabinet, I can have open discussions with them and they can listen to me, I want to have a close working relationship with the Cabinet Members and they are well aware of that fact but today I will not punish an individual for doing something trivial.

He hasn't committed murder, he hasn't stolen from the government, and he hasn't assaulted nor punched anyone in this room. I can say that if my father was here and if you knew who was my father he would probably say that you're making a big fuss out this trivial matter.

There are lots of other serious things you can consider. I will oppose this motion because it is not something worth this much punishment. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to inform the Members that I have no other names on my list. I would like to ask the Members if they have any other comments. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker just a few brief comments and one, I agreed wholeheartedly with the people when they say, there's rules out there and we need them. I heard a number of colleagues here say that today.

Our House Leader pointed out quite well and as I stated in my earlier statement there has to be some kind of order and there has to be a unity in Cabinet. As I stated earlier if there isn't we could have chaos and we can't afford to have chaos.

We have to make sure that the decisions that we make are the best decisions that we think possible and as I stated earlier too it's up to us as regular Members to question the Cabinet as my colleague from Qamanittuaq would say it's up to us to hold them accountable and make sure that they are making the best decisions possible for us.

That's the role of a regular Member. In the system that we operate in, it is our system; it's the system that we have.

Mr. Speaker I believe it was last March we made amendments to our Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act; again there was an opportunity where we had to make changes to our legislation for us.

Just yesterday in this House Mr. Speaker, one of the Ministers was indicating that we no longer use standards from the NWT because they were no good for us, that we use our own standards now.

Those are examples of how we are doing things differently. I believe that. I also believe that, sure I'd like us to be done a lot quicker than we are going right now but I don't believe that we should rush into decisions and make changes just for the sake of making change.

We have people who have entrusted us to make sure that we make the best decision possible and the only way to do that is to make informed decisions. And you need to do

your homework before you make any decisions.

I believe as I said earlier that that is what Cabinet and this Assembly is striving for and working towards as a whole and I look forward to the day when we get there. Some of the people said we are not perfect; well I don't think anyone is perfect but regardless of whether we like it or not, this is the system we have and it's the system that we operate under and that's it.

Some guys were saying, you know, age and wisdom are things that go hand in hand; well, that is not always true. I would like to tease some of my friends there about.

But, my grandmother had told me, one of the things that we have to be very proud of as Inuit is that, we have come so far is something.

I believe we have come as far as we have and it have accomplished as much as we have by putting aside our own personal differences and working towards what is best for everybody.

That is what the negotiators did and that is what we are here doing and that is how we survived for thousands of years. So, I said we have to count on our Government, our Cabinet to speak as one. I think it is vital to the operations of Governments and I think that is it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We will now vote to the Motion. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Mr. Speaker, I would like to call for a recorded vote.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a request to have a recorded vote. At this time I will state your names and ask you to stand up if they are in favour of the Motion. All those in favour, please stand up.

Mr. Havioyak, Mr. Tootoo, Mr. Havioyak. I apologize, if you would please stand up again, Mr. Havioyak. Mr. McLean, Mr. Havioyak, Ms. Williams, Mr. Nutarak. I did look inside of the room, Mr. Picco. Mr. Akesuk. Mr. Ng. Mr. Okalik. Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Kilabuk.

To the Motion Opposed, please rise. When I state your name, please be seated. Mr. Alakannuark, Mr. Irqittuq, Mr. Arvaluk, Mr. Iqaqrialu, Ms. Thompson, Mr. Anawak. Opposed. Abstentions. To the Motion are 11. Opposed to the Motion are 6. The Motion is carried. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in accordance to rule 46, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Qamanittuaq that this House adjourn for the day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order and it's not debatable. Agreed. To the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders of the Day for Monday, March 10th, 2003

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. Tabled Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 28 and Bill 29
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 23 and Bill 24
 - Minister's Statement 95 - 1 (6)
 - Tabled Document 30 - 1 (6)
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We have concluded for the day and will resume our session on March 10, 2003 at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms

>>*House adjourned at 14:37 p.m.*

