



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**6th Session**

**1st Assembly**

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**Friday December 5, 2003**

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**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

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(Arviat)

**Ovide Alakannuark**  
(Akulliq)

**Hunter Tootoo**  
(Iqaluit Centre)

**Jack Anawak**  
(Rankin Inlet North)

**Enoki Irqittuq**  
(Amittuq)  
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Whole*

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Minister of Energy, Minister of  
Homelessness and Immigration*

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Cove)  
*Minister of Human Resources  
Minister of Education;*

**Uriash Puqiqnak**  
(Nattilik)  
*Deputy Speaker*

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(South Baffin)  
*Minister of Sustainable  
Development*

**Glenn McLean**  
(Baker Lake)

**Hon. Paul Okalik**  
(Iqaluit West)  
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Minister of Justice*

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**Hon. Kelvin Ng**  
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*Deputy Premier; Minister of  
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**Donald Haviyok**  
(Kugluktuk)

**David Iqaqrialu**  
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*Deputy Chair, Committee of the  
Whole*

**Patterk Netser**  
(Nanulik)

**Hon. Peter Kattuk**  
(Hudson Bay)  
*Minister of Public Works and  
Services*

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk**  
(Pangnirtung)  
*Minister of Community  
Government & Transportation;  
Minister of Culture, Language,  
Elders and Youth*

**Rebekah Williams**  
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Friday December 5, 2003**

**Members Present:**

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

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker:** I would like to call on Ms. Thompson to say the prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker:** Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Akesuk.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 247 – 1(6): Premier Absent from the House**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform you that our Government Leader will not be here today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** I am seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 2. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Minister Akesuk.

**Minister's Statement 248 – 1(6): Climate Change**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to share with Members of this House the substantial progress that we have made to address climate change issues in Nunavut. On October 31, 2003, Energy Minister, Ed Picco and I signed a memorandum of understanding on climate change with the Federal Government.

With this signing, Nunavut made history as the first jurisdiction in Canada to sign a Cooperation and Coordination an MOU with the Environment Minister Anderson and Natural Resources Minister Daliwall.

This agreement affirms our commitment to cooperate with our federal partners to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Our own Nunavut climate change was also publicly released on October 31. The strategy is a broad outline of goals and objectives we will gradually implement in the coming months and years.

The strategy was developed using scientific methods and Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit. We know Nunavummiut understand the need for a concrete plan to address climate change, as they have witnessed the affects of changing weather patterns are having on our traditional activities.

We can be very proud of the fact that we have taken a lead role in Canada to increase public awareness on climate change, develop energy management programs, find alternative and renewable energy sources, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The efforts we make today to protect our land and resources will be remembered and appreciated by future generations of Nunavummiut who can continue to reap the benefits of our traditional lifestyle. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Are there any further Ministers' Statements? Minister Picco.

#### **Minister's Statement 249 – 1(6): Telehealth Improves Professional Development**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning.

Mr. Speaker, through the use of Telehealth technology, the Department of Health and Social Services is removing the geographic barriers to professional development for health and social services professionals working in Nunavut.

With support from Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the Northwest Territories, the Department of Health and Social Services has provided professional development programs in Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Suicide in Rural Communities, and Adolescent Pregnancy. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to report that four out of five of these provincial and territorial partners offer their services to us free of charge.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the Department provides weekly rounds to physicians at the Baffin Regional Hospital, Rankin Inlet, Pond Inlet, and Cambridge Bay through the Telehealth program. These rounds are made available to Nunavut by the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) in Ottawa. These services are offered to Nunavut, again Mr. Speaker, free of charge.

The Department of Health and Social Services is continuing to improve the retention rate of health and social service care worker providers, by working to expand these programs to our health support staff.



Telehealth would also be used as a recruitment tool in recruiting new physicians, nurses and social workers for Nunavut communities. Mr. Speaker, telehealth technology is helping us bring care closer to home here in Nunavut. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister and I apologize for missing your hand being shown. Are there any further Ministers' Statements? Thank you. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

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

#### **Member's Statement 775– 1(6): Recognition of Josie Inuaraq**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to rise as a Minister, I think I am eligible to be a Minister soon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an individual who demonstrated commitment to Nunavut's education in Nunavut, along with Minister of Education, Manitok Thompson.

Mr. Josie Inuaraq joined the Clyde River Community Education Council in 1973. Mr. Inuaraq served as Chairperson for most of these 29 years. Mr. Speaker, he also was a member of the Baffin Divisional Board of Education and Baffin Divisional Education Council from 1985 to 2000.

Mr. Inuaraq has taken his responsibilities seriously and handled them with integrity. He has a personal commitment to the importance and value of education for young Nunavummiut. His commitment is reflected in his time spent working in his own community on the regional boards.

Mr. Inuaraq has worked with students, staff and other board members to determine their needs and identify appropriate next steps. Mr. Speaker, Josie Inuaraq is a champion who helped shaped education in Nunavut.

As a member of the local education authority, I am pleased to recognize leadership in education that ensures communities move forward. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank my constituents in Clyde River and Broughton Island and send them my regards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Member's Statement 776– 1(6): Education System in Nunavut**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as my last rising, I wish to conclude by raising an issue that has been a priority of mine over the last four years. Mr. Speaker, I am referring the system of education which is critical to the future of our children and the future of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the success of Nunavut, the wellbeing of our communities and the growth of healthy individual lives in giving our children the tools that they need to succeed. One of the most important means that we have to provide these tools is our education system.

Mr. Speaker, we must put more emphasis on preparing our young children for schools. Many studies including a number that we are contracted by the Department of Education have shown that providing early childhood education programs promote successful entry into the school system.

In fact, in countries such as France and Spain, both of them carry preschool programs for children aged 3 three were introduced in response to concerns by their Governments that their students were not completing their school system with a high enough level of education.

These programs have already made a big difference in their graduation rates and how well the students are rating internationally.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard of Inuktitut language initiatives being developed for preschool programming. We have heard of training for daycare employees. We know that our children's first secretariat has been established to address these and other issues.

Mr. Speaker, we must now put the resources into making these initiatives more than just fancy ideas and announcements. We must put them to work.

Mr. Speaker, I would anticipate that the second Assembly will bring forward a new Education Act that will better address the needs and goals of residents of Nunavut.

I sincerely hope that the new Act will address issues such as class size, program funding and a structure that is better adapted to the needs of Nunavut's students.

Mr. Speaker, our children are the key to our future. As I mentioned in the House the other day, it is critical that Nunavut develop a trained local workforce. Our current employee turnover rate is somewhere between 30 and 35%. One of the main reasons for this is that employees hired from the south return to the south.

Investing in education and growth of a northern workforce is critical self-reliance of our territory. Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my Statement.

**Speaker:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his Statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays, please proceed, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Colleagues and Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these are some of the challenges that are facing our education system today, but, Mr. Speaker, they will still be there tomorrow. When Members of the second Assembly take up the role as leaders of Nunavut, these issues must be addressed as the priority.

Mr. Speaker, children are the key to our future and they are the key to their own future. Our responsibility is to give them the tools that they need to make our future and theirs a success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Members' Statements. Mr. Netser.

**Member's Statement 777– 1(6): Congratulate Armand and Susie Angutialuk – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning I would like to congratulate two people from Coral Harbour. They are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Armand and Susie Angutialuk have been married for 50 years.

>>Applause

I would like to send my regards. Angutialuk is 70 years old and his wife is 65 years old. They were married December 5, 1953. Armand and Susie have 13 children, 52 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak in the honour of Armand and Susie Angutialuk who are celebrating 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Armand is now 70 years old and Susie is 65.

They were married in Coral Harbour on December 5, 1953. Armand and Susie have 13 grandchildren, I am sorry, 13 children, 52 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 778– 1(6): Inuit Employment Strategy in Nunavut**

**Mr. Haviyok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to make what is perhaps my last statement on this, the last day of this Assembly.

Uqaqti, I want to speak to you about the challenge ahead in the area of Inuit employment in this Government. Mr. Speaker, Nunavut was created and our constituents expected that there would be a new opportunity for them to seek meaningful work serving their communities.

As a Member of this Legislative Assembly, I have spoken out many, many occasions on the need for a strong Inuit strategy. Uqaqti, our result has not been as good as we wanted

to see. The number of Inuit in positions, especially senior positions, has not improved significantly. This time I feel like we are stuck in the middle of the trail.

Mr. Speaker, in order to move ahead we need to increase the number of people with the education and skills to successfully compete and hold down jobs. Mr. Speaker, I know our Government is working with NTI to obtain the necessary resources from the Federal Government to implement truly comprehensive training programs. I support them in this effort.

Mr. Speaker, our people want to work. They want to have an opportunity to earn a decent living for their families. They want to make a positive contribution to their communities. Mr. Speaker, I believe that one of the top priorities of the next Assembly and Government must be delivered on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Member's Statement 779– 1(6): Member of the Legislative Assembly in the Last Five Years**

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate your position as we end our membership here, that you have been the Speaker for about approximately a five year term that we just held recently.

In 1999, since the election of the Members of the Legislative Assembly, it is very good that we have been able to finish our mandate, and especially that I was able to represent Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven.

I believe in the Members of the Legislative Assembly, and that we all believe in the work that we are supposed to do because I believe in myself as well by representing my constituents.

I would like to also thank the female Members of the Legislature, Manito Thompson, and Rebekah Williams, because they have been able to fulfill their mandates. They have been able to work with us, with us, the male Members of the Legislative Assembly, without regard to gender. Sometimes they smile, and sometimes they do not.

>>*Laughter*

I would especially like to thank our Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, John Quirke, for being able to assist us in every way, as well as Nancy Tupik. And I would also like to thank their support staff, the operation of the Legislature cannot always happen without them.

I would also to thank the person who provides us with the airline tickets, Erie Leighfield. Even though we make her work so much, she never complains. She also provides us our hotel accommodation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to get unanimous consent to conclude my Statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Why not, it is the last day. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? Do I hear a nay? Do I hear nay? There are no nays. Mr. Puqiqnak, please go ahead.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, colleagues. I would also like to give my appreciation to those individuals as well. I would like to give my appreciation to the people of my constituency as well. When I first got elected in 1999, we had to deal with bad gasoline and we worked very hard to resolve that through the Department of Public Works.

We tried to explain to the Minister, but it was just like trying to penetrate through the rocks. I also remember sometimes during the Sessions, we were not always home on time, but when we finally come home, we would be happy and celebrate with our constituents.

And when, one time I came home and one of my constituents brought me a glass of water with a blood worm. I tried to keep it alive, but it died. It was from our reservoir or from our water tank. I had to overnight in Yellowknife, but I guess it died enroute to Iqaluit and I wanted to bring it over here. It did not survive the trip.

It was when Mr. Jack Anawak was the Minister of Community Government and Transportation and I wanted to give it to the Health and Social Services Minister. As I put it on the podium, the Speaker told me to take it down.

The five years have been a lot of fun and with lots of challenges. Although it is like that, within those five years, I have left my wife and my children for long lengths of time. I have had no choice but to come to the meetings to here, to Iqaluit and to other places as a Member of the Legislature.

And the five years that I have spent here as a Member of this House, I tried my very best to represent my constituents and to represent the people of Nunavut. We have to represent the people of Nunavut as a whole and, as Canadians in the north, it has been very hard because of the high cost of everything.

It is not just Nunavut that we have to think about. We have to think about being Canadians as well and we want to be able to return home and to have no health problems for our people.

This is a very good, this place is a very good place, the north, Nunavut and I am very proud to represent my people because they are intelligent and they are survivors. I would like to thank my mother who has passed on, who has given me the ability to represent my people.

And I would like to state that as Members of the Legislature and as Government of Nunavut, we have welcomed various kinds of races to our community in Nunavut and we should not be prejudiced to anyone.

Mr. Speaker, the five years that we have spent here in the House or as Members of the Legislature, I have been looking at my chair and I have thought of it as a chair that is for the people of Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, in the five years that I have spent here, I would like to thank my wife and my children, Wayne, Kenneth, Tunik, Jonathan and my daughter, who is my favourite, Aittauktungiak and our youngest daughter Valerie, especially my grandchild Etuk. The five years that I have spent here I dedicate to my wife and my children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak. Member's Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Member's Statement 780 - 1(6): Thank Constituents in the Last Five Years as Member of the Legislative Assembly**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't expecting that. Mr. Speaker, since this is our last day of the first assembly, I would like to thank my wife Rosie. She was here with me on the first day and she is here with me on the last day.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to say thank you to my relatives in Pangnirtung, as well as my wife's relatives, and her little sister Phoebe who is here with us as well. My wife's sister Phoebe has been very close to us and we are very good friends.

My son Kevin, who is in Broughton Island, I would like to say thank you, and Susie, who are not able to be here with us today.

It's been about five years since our first sitting and I can remember my mother, my son Wayne, my sister Geela, and her daughter Laura who made a huge contribution when Nunavut was created.

To my constituents in Pangnirtung, I extend my gratitude to each and every single one of them. I will not be naming anyone in case I leave someone out. Also our staff here at the Legislative Assembly building, I would like to extend my gratitude to them because we were inexperienced when we started.

Mr. Speaker. I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think you heard anyone say no on the other side.

Since this is the last time that I will rise, I just wanted to extend my gratitude to the people of Pangnirtung whom I represent, who worked extremely hard and overcame their challenges. They also included me in their deliberations, so I would like to thank them for that.

Mr. Speaker, to my colleagues, I would like to thank them for standing beside me in the good times and the bad times.

To conclude my statement, Wilson who is Ovide's grandchild, I believe he is in Repulse Bay today, I say hello to him. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 781– 1(6): Progress of the Legislative Assembly**

**Mr. Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say, first of all that I might need to extend my time.

First of all, I would like to make a preamble and I can say that we have had some challenging times. Today, I am extremely proud of our achievements and Peter Irniq, who was appointed to be the Commissioner of Nunavut. He promoted Nunavut nationally and at the international level. I would like to thank the Government for appointing Mr. Peter Irniq, who settled into his role as the Commissioner of Nunavut and in promoting Nunavut most admirably.

I would also like to say thank you to the people who I work with, from the time I was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, and prior to that, as the Interim Commissioner. I would like to thank the Clerk, Mr. John Quirke, and Erie Leighfield, who worked extremely hard prior to the First Sitting of the Legislative Assembly and during the tenure of this Government.

I am deeply thankful to the staff of the Legislative Assembly and also to the present Members of the Legislative Assembly who faced challenging times, but worked together as Nunavut representatives.

Even though we faced some challenging times, we always have to remind ourselves why we are sitting here as Members of the Legislative Assembly. I think that is the main goal as elected Members. We might not become friends, but we have to achieve that goal that we face as representatives.

Mr. Speaker, those are some of the comments that I would like to make and I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my Statement. Thank you.

**Speaker:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his Statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Anawak.

**Mr. Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The statements that I wanted to make on these issues, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to officially let this Assembly know that I will not be running in the upcoming Territorial Election. This was a very big decision to make and one that I did not make lightly.

In my many years in politics, serving the people of Nunavut in many positions has taught me that this kind of service is the highest calling. I cannot think of any time at which I felt I had to make the wrong choice or wished I was not doing the work I did.

In thinking back at the earliest times with the introduction, the Settlement Council in Repulse Bay, I can recall the curiosity and the pleasure of becoming the elected Chairperson of the Repulse Bay Settlement Council, and in the ensuing years, the Settlement Council Manager, and working to bring the community of Repulse Bay to Hamlet status.

I worked as a senior administrative officer and after that, it was very rewarding as we built a strong administrative structure for the community and tackled many issues over the years.

In 1981, I relocated to Rankin Inlet; I served as the Speaker of the KRC and as Mayor of Rankin Inlet. In my capacity as the executive director of the Keewatin Inuit Association and it is even true, as president, I can recall the many urgent issues facing us in regards to the Land Claims Agreement packages and striving to come up with a negotiation stance that reflected our priorities.

I also had the pleasure of serving as the Member of the Parliament for Nunatsiak for two terms and I had the pleasure of assisting in the introduction of the Nunavut Act and the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. So, a passage on June 4, through the House of Commons, that was on June 4, 1993 and it was an honour to be there at that historic day.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in the start of becoming the Interim Commissioner charged with the task of identifying the infrastructure needs for the new Government and the human resource framework which we supported, I realized that we were creating history in a way that southern Canada has not had the opportunity to do for 200 years.



As a participant in the formation of the Nunavut Vision statement, along with my Colleague from the High Arctic, I took great pride in the consultations we held and receiving the advice and direction of the people of Nunavut in their strong desire to guide their new Government along the right path that would lift them and meet their needs.

Mr. Speaker, as the Member of the first Nunavut Legislative Assembly, I had the privilege of sharing in the many debates on where we were going and why it was important to pay attention to that Vision statement, and why it matters to people out there.

(interpretation) Through that result, my family grew in numbers and in need. I thank my wife Caroline and my many children who supported me throughout these many busy years, and throughout the hard times from the challenges, they have supported me and I would like to thank them and show them my gratitude. The people of Nunavut never stopped caring and cheered me on with their insights and their concerns and it was very touching to hear from them.

As my term of service comes to an end, I find myself ever so grateful to the people of Nunavut. They have consistently kept me going with their patience, their support and their deep commitment to the communities.

I could not have done it without them as their representative. They are as valuable and respected by me today as the hours were and I thank them for all the time that we spent and the thoughts they have shared with me. They are prizes worth cherishing.

To my constituents in Rankin Inlet, I also thank you for the trust you have placed in me to serve you and to advocate on your behalf. No one can know how meaningful that support from Rankin Inlet has been over those challenging times.

It is priceless and I cannot put it into words the pride I have in having served in this capacity.

The people of Rankin Inlet will need a representative who knows the events, the current events of Nunavut and who is proud to represent the Nunavut Government.

And in regards to the second Legislative Assembly Members, I would like to tell them to fight for their constituents, and to display the spirit and inventiveness to assist the new Assembly, and to truly represent their values and their beliefs in their tenor.

I would like remind this Assembly that I will not be very far away and also to the people of Nunavut, in my new duties, which I will assume on January 19<sup>th</sup>, will include consultation with the Inuit Organizations and the Government, the Nunavut Government and the non-Government bodies.

So, I will continue to be involved on behalf of these Canadian circumpolar communities to address critical issues at the world level. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the people of

Nunavut who supported me during my various elected positions and for having supported me and for giving me the support.

I am truly grateful, also to my family, my daughter in Tikigaarjuaq, my son in Rankin Inlet and my daughter who is named after my mother, Aluqsaraq, who is in Rankin Inlet and my relatives and I would like to hit myself for having forgotten Gene Kusugak and I am still hitting myself today. Thank you.

(interpretation ends) I feel, Mr. Speaker, I feel very honoured to have worked with our group of people on the first Nunavut Legislative Assembly. We may not have always agreed, but in the end, I think we never lost sight of the fact that we are here to serve the people of Nunavut and that is the people who are important, not the people around this table, around this Assembly.

(interpretation) And, thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to make my last Statement. I am sure that I will be seeing you and the rest of the Members in my new position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Anawak. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

### **Member's Statement 782– 1(6): Gratitude to the Members of the Legislative Assembly**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to rise today to show my gratitude to my fellow Members of the Legislative Assembly and to my constituents for having been here for over four years, and thank you to the staff for their hard work.

I would also like to thank Peter Kilabuk and his wife; they were very supportive with my daughter taking courses in Pangnirtung and when I visited her, my daughter and his wife were like sisters.

So, thank you for your hospitality. I would like to speak today, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking for more time, I will talk about the positive issues in my life and I will also speak on different issues when I was growing up.

I would like to rise today to talk about my life, the life that I have had growing up. We travelled to different lands in search of wildlife and it is well known by Inuit that we depended on our dog teams and I experienced that.

I was a hunter when I was growing up, then I started work in the Cooperatives in 1970's. Over the years, because we did not have very many foxes in our area, I was thinking that my wife and my kids perhaps, I will not be able to provide for them.

So, I had to do something about that and found a job and I worked with the Kitikmeot Inuit Associations and the hamlets and wildlife. Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my Statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his Statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays, please proceed.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, to my Colleagues. I have also worked in other areas as the representative of my people and when I was a hunter, at times, we were not very successful in the hunt and those are the experiences I have gone through in life.

Mr. Speaker, the life we have today is very easy compared to the past and we still look out for our kids to ensure their safety. My wife, Victoria, we have been married for 43 years, we have three adopted kids and numerous other children.

Although my wife has been ailing over the last while, she has been very patient. Mr. Speaker, I would like to state that in Naujaat, I would like to state again that there is no recreation facility in Naujaat. The youth are the ones suffering due to the lack of a community center and it is my wish to ensure this is provided for by the next Government.

In regards to the future Members of this Assembly, I urge them to continue to represent the needs of Inuit. Having sat here for four years, I am very grateful for my experiences. Mr. Speaker, the housing shortage is still a critical issue that should continue to be the priority of the next Government.

And our youth who suffer a very high unemployment rate, we should continue to look after their needs and people with mental disabilities still continue to need being looked after. I urge the next Government to look at those needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 783– 1(6): Thanks Family and Constituents for Support as a Member of the Legislative Assembly**

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to show my gratitude to my Colleagues and we have a lot to be thankful for. First of all, my family, my husband Glenn, my son Ben and daughter Virginia and my granddaughter Kirsten and my son Virgil; I thank them for their ongoing support. I am able to be here because of their support and it gives me the strength and when I go home, they are always there for me and I thank them for that.

And the three communities, almost five communities and because there are two old mine sites that are still manned and I know the people that work there. So, I would like to thank all of the people of the High Arctic, especially those who pray for me and my well being.

Mr. Speaker, there is a church in Arctic Bay and every Saturday, they gather to pray for the Members of this Assembly and the Government.

I thank them for that and I have often told them about my Colleagues and the support I get here and the Cabinet and the Standing Committees and actual Sessions in this House that we can pray five times in a run of a day and that we all know that if we do not have a higher Being to believe in, we would not be here and we always pray for the support and the strength. Our good Lord hears us when we pray.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to state that before I was a Member, when the Government was being formed, I was involved, I was working with the Interim Commissioner, my colleague Anawak was the Interim Commissioner and it was kind of, I was always kind of leery when the Members came in when Mr. Anawak had to meet with them.

And Mr. Speaker, my time is up, so I would like unanimous consent to conclude my Statement? Thank you.

**Speaker:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her Statement, are there any nays? There are no nays, please proceed Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my Colleagues. It used to be intimidating when the Members came in. All of these people in such high positions and we had to inform and brief them on the different issues and we had one year to make sure everything was running well enough.

And I am grateful for that experience and I took it very seriously, especially in the area of justice and social services and the agreement for the different prisons in the south.

And I would like to remind Members that, I never wanted to mention this in the House, but I got this permission yesterday that during the Northwest Territories, the Ministers did not even acknowledge the employees, I used to have an office here in Iqaluit at that court house and the door was all glass and there used to be a lot of people coming in and out to my office for coffee. When I went in my office, there a lady standing in the porch and I asked her if she needed help. She was chewing gum and when I looked back, this lady with white hair and I was wondering who this was and she shook my hand, she told me, I did not even recognize the Minister. That is how much we had no contact, with Minister Kelvin Ng that I never, when he was with the Department of Justice, I thought he was some ordinary guy coming in for coffee.

Now we know who he is and we, the Government is very closer to the people now and so, I am sure all of his staff in his Department recognize him now. It was very far away

back then during the Northwest Territories days and now it is very much better where the Government is closer.

There will be elections for mayors and District Education Authorities and different councils within the communities. So, I urge the people to go vote and to congratulate those who win those elections.

I would also like to thank the staff, the two who I have known, John Quirke who I have known for many years when I lived in Inuvik as a nurse. I never felt like I had family. So, John Quirke and Annie came in and I felt so much better in Inuvik.

I do not think that they lived there for a long time, but that was in the 1970's and Nancy, one of our tireless workers, when I went to Kuujuuaq in 1966, I think that it was in a DC-3 that we flew from Resolute to Kuujuuaq.

When we came in late at night, the first time I have ever seen trees and there was a young lady who was working there and said to me that it was Nancy. Now we can be good friends and have this contact and at the professional base, and she is a very professional lady.

I thank you, too, Mr. Speaker, when I first became a Member, you really assisted me and guided me, you gave me some different ideas and suggestions as how I should work as a Member and you people seemed very experienced and were so confident in your positions and that was comforting.

And Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful for my mother who is in her 90's, I am sure she will be watching, so I send her my regards and my family in Arctic Bay and Resolute and Grise Fiord and the people of the high arctic, thank you and I wish you a Merry Christmas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Williams. Members' Statements. Mr. Nutarak.

**Member's Statement 784– 1(6): Thanks Constituents, Family and Members of the Legislative Assembly for Support as a Member**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to show my gratitude. I first became a Member in 1999 when we first started; I am forever grateful for all the experience I have gone through throughout our tenure. Having become a first time Member of the Legislative Assembly, it was quite intimidating. I thank my constituents for putting me here. My grandchildren, I have mentioned who they were before, a big hello to them, two in Pond Inlet and two here in Iqaluit, I send my regards.

As Inuit of Nunavut we are very inter-related, through family and through stories by elders. We start getting all these relations whether you are from the Kitikmeot or the Kivalliq I have an in-law in the Assembly who I am not sure you are aware of. Maktar

and I are related, so, Ovide Alakannuark, I am somehow related to him from our ancestors.

It was kind of surprising to see, although he is from Kugaaruk and we are pretty far away. And I am also related to another person as well that I will reveal to you in the future. I will not mention it today.

As well, just the other day, there was an announcement by one of the Members who will not be running again, the Member for Cambridge Bay, and he said that he will be relocated in Yellowknife. Mr. Ng, I want to invite you to Pond Inlet in the springtime, the beautiful time of the year.

Dennis Patterson, as a previous Minister in the Northwest Territories days, went up for a holiday in the springtime, so I invite Mr. Ng to visit Pond Inlet in the springtime or middle of August, and I would help him and show him the best part of Nunavut besides Pangnirtung.

I would like to thank my wife for her ongoing support. If I did not have her support, I would not be here. Because of her continuing support, I thank her very much. She may be leaving today, and so she could not make it here today.

I will remember Members. It will be hard for me to say whether we will be back, or which of us will be back. It is very hard at any election, and working in a job and you know you will have that job until you decide that you do not want to do it anymore, but being elected you do not have that option, so we will probably be applying for this job again, at the next Election.

I have learned a lot, Mr. Speaker, from when I first became a Member. We say that we have a rising when we have a Statement, and so I do not say that I rise today, because when you see it on TV, you are already standing. It probably makes sense on the radio, but that is one of our rules in this House, that you have to say that. You rise today; I do not say that I rise today because you are already standing when they see you on TV.

So I thank the staff, John Quirke, and Nancy Tupik, Leetia Wisintainer, Erie Leighfield, I thank them for their hard work and I used an interpreter while we are not in Session, Nancy. And I tend to go to Nancy more than John because of the language difference and I thank them for all their support and hopefully, we will see you again, in the new year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 785– 1(6): Thanks Everyone for the Last Five Years**

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to keep my Members' Statement short today and it is Friday, so, I am trying to lighten up here a bit. It is very heart warming to hear the Members' Statements about their almost five years in this House. I am no different to that.

I have to say and I have to admit that we disagreed on various issues, we get up and we voted on them and for our own reasons and our own minds, and I really respect the Members in this House who I sat here with the last, almost five years because of their views.

And I must say everyone of you in my humble opinion and being a 30-year northerner from the south that there is not one Member in this House that I can honestly say does not care in their hearts about this territory and their community and that includes you, Mr. Speaker.

Everybody, everybody in this House I can say and like I say, we have had our disagreements, but when we walk out of this House, the next day, everybody seems to be smiling to each other and it is nice to see that everybody respects everybody else's opinion at the end of the day, no matter what race, creed or religion or sexual orientation.

Mr. Speaker, on that issue, off that issue, I would like to say over the last five years and if it was not for John Quirke when we first came in here as a bunch of rookies and his, I would like to call him the mother hen attitude, no offence to anybody, but without his strong guidance in the first couple of years. I do not think we would have been as effective as we were and that is how the public bases how effective we are in his regard, but I give all, I give all my gratitude to John Quirke and I think he made me a little bit better over the last five years.

I would like to thank Nancy, Kooyoo, all of the interpreters, especially Mary, but somebody called me up one night and said, Glenn, your Inuktitut is very good, but he says, you sound like Mary and I laughed at that.

So, I would like to thank Mary and the interpreters for my fast talks, I would also like to thank all the CBC reporters; they have been very, very gracious to us. The CBC television people, Jim Bell has been very good to us, a few of us and also, Daryl Greer has been good to one of us and I would like to thank him because without that side of the media attention, whether it is the newspaper, the voice media or whoever, I think we probably would not be as vigilant in the House.

So, we need you and I appreciate what you have done for me in the last five years in this House as reporters because you forced us to make issues and ask questions maybe a bit more vigilant because sometimes you sit here and you look across to say, do we have to beat up on those Cabinet Ministers again?

And we have to, it is our job and I hope before we head off into the next general elections that nobody ever took it personal and I can say honestly that I do not think any of you did.

I would like to thank Eerie, who has done my travel arrangements over the last five years and I try, I changed my ticket, but I think 95 percent of the time, not because I wanted to, but I think our great weather in Baker Lake forced me to.

So, at the end of the day, I would like to thank everybody, but before I stop, before I stop, I have to make one thing. My last weekend here was a good weekend, but it was very excruciating and one of the Members that had always made me feel welcome here was Minister Picco.

Like the first year I was here, he invited me over to his house and baked me up a great Newfoundland supper of boiled corned beef and cabbage and potatoes and this weekend I was in my office doing work and he was in there.

So, I went up to his office and I tried to talk about issues of Nunavut and he was plain as peas and I sat through the seven songs, Mr. Speaker and I tried to be, you know, I was taught by my elders to respects people in their endeavours in life and that they may not be great at it, but you know, you should give them, give them consideration for really trying to do something that they are not really set out to do.

So, after listening to the CD all weekend, I said to myself, I said, you know, he tried. But what I want to say to the people out in Iqaluit East, all of his Constituents and voters, please vote for Ed. Picco in the next election because he is not going to make it as a singer. So, I hope he can make it as a politician. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. McLean. Members' Statements. Mr. Irgittuq.

### **Member's Statement 786 – 1(6): 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly Activities**

**Mr. Irgittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we were first elected, when I made my first speech along with Mr. Alakannuark and the other Members, I'm not really sure what I said but there were many people looking at us and it was quite nerve wracking.

My mother made this for me and I used it at the beginning of the session. I am wearing it again on the last day of the Legislature.

I thank my constituents for having faith in electing me into this House for the last five years. It is sometimes very challenging to work as a Member of the Legislature, and I would like to state my appreciation to my constituents for that.



As well as my family, who have always been there to support me, I thank them. As an MLA you don't have just one life, you have many different lives. There are good times and there are bad times, and although that happens our families are always behind us and so I would like to thank them for that.

In the five years that we have been here we have criticized each other, especially the Ministers. Myself, I get upset quite easily. I have challenged Mr. Picco on many occasions, and there was one time we went to the bathroom and we almost had a fight. I am happy that he did not try to punch me and so that is why I did not try to punch him.

Since today is Friday we can talk about the things that we have experienced and I would like to say thank you. I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, colleagues. This is a true story in Inuktitut. When we were talking about the time change, we were really sad at one time on the next day after the vote on something that we were defeated on as regular Members.

My good friend M. Picco wrote me a note saying that God loves you, and he has done this to me on numerous occasions. Even though I tried to maintain a positive attitude, I was very upset so I left the Chamber and I went to go see Leetia Nowdlak to write a letter in English to Mr. Picco.

Mr. Picco wanted me to be happy in saying that God loves me and I told him that he will not be elected again in the next election is what the note said. I gave it to one of the pages and I did it secretly, and I had told them to deliver it to Mr. Picco. When he looked at the note and he looked around the room and he couldn't figure out who wrote the note.

When he stood up awhile later, he did not seem too happy and he made a point of order and if you look at the televised debates then you can see it in one of them.

Those are the experiences we had, some of them were true and some of them were in good humour.

I would also like to thank everyone for letting me be a Member of this House along with the rest of you. I have been upset many times but that is in the past now.

I would like to be able to make a reply to the Commissioners address later on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 787- 1(6): Progress In Sanikiluaq**

**Hon. Peter Kattuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think this is the last time and I rise today before you in the first legislature...bear with me I have a three page Member's Statement.

Sometimes we are given Member's Statements from constituents. I am very proud of what I am going to talk about in terms of what happens in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, Najuksivik is a non profit society that was formed in January of 1998. It runs a daycare and is involved in community activities trying to support economic development.

Support to nurseries from Nunavut Government has resulted in many benefits for our community career development in the Department of Education. They have supported polar bear making and making of full use of northern animals.

This has allowed babysitters in town to make some income in our northern polar bear. Career development has allowed people and students to train in picture framing.

Mr. Speaker, a picture framing shop allows us to frame culturally significant objects for sale, and small grants from the Department of Sustainable Development have allowed us to obtain fish skins from Pangnirtung. I thank my colleague here.

Mr. Speaker, people are now making fish skin dolls and they are beautiful and framed. Career development has supported the special skills program. Senior students in the schools and people on income support have had a hard time doing math, science and language and the half learning of how to do construction.

Najuksivik operates Kuni Kuni FM radio station 105.1. This station talks about good things happening in the community. Najuksivik also operates SCTV, Sanikiluaq Community TV, which goes into every house in the community and operates twenty fours a day, seven days a week. It offers a great opportunity for elders to demonstrate cultural activities.

Najursvik also operates a small community museum in the school lobby. I think some Ministers and regular Members have seen that in our school.

Mr. Speaker, the funding from Canadian Heritage through the Small Museum Assistance Program has allowed many opportunities to frame and show to the community.

For the third year, Najursvik has a response with six students in business development Bank of Canada contest for developing business skills in students.

For the last two years students have won national prizes. This year, finals are in British Columbia and the team hopes to win another prize with the business on Inuit culture. Najursvik has produced two Community Historical Yearbooks with funding for one book from Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

The third book produced was in 2004. Three books together will show future generations of life on the Belcher Islands from early 1900's to present.

Mr. Speaker, before I end my Member's Statement, today is Friday and I think that some of us will be flying today.

(interpretation) Some of us will be going home today. When we were talking about bad gas at the time, when you go on a plane, than it will be much faster for you.

I did not raise dog teams at that time, I used to want to go fast on the dog teams when I did use them. When I used to go by dog team I used to go "Uliu, uliu". That was the type of things I used to do to make my dog team go faster. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 788 – 1(6): Happy To Have Served As a Member of the Legislative Assembly**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, after hearing the kind words from my colleagues over the past couple of days, and I thank you for those kind comments, I had a chance to reflect on the past few years, and then I start to think about what has to be done before I left. There is an apartment to pack up and move the personal effects, Ministerial office, the constituency office in Cambridge Bay will have to sort out the constituency assets, Ministerial assets, personal assets, files destroyed and sort out, etc.

There is quite a bit of work involved and as well heading up to notify the telephone company, the utilities companies, etc. In a brief moment of insanity I thought about reconsidering my decision not to seek re-election for a moment, and then as I was thinking about that I thought do I really want to serve possibly another four to five years with Ed Picco, and I came to my senses, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

On a more serious note Mr. Speaker, in closing once again, I do want to thank my wife Susie and my family for all their love, support and understanding over the years. My constituents for allowing me the honour and the privilege to serve them and represent them over almost eleven years. The Government of Nunavut staff, the Legislative Assembly staff, my executive staff and certainly the interpreters who are always able to

keep up with me in my pace of delivery, for their support in really making my job a lot easier.

To all my colleagues in this House, Mr. Speaker, to yourself, all the other Members, we've all had our personal losses and tragedies with our families over the years, I know it's something that we rarely speak about but everybody in this House certainly knows about it, and without the support of our colleagues here, it would be a lot more difficult to get through those difficulties and I certainly appreciate that.

In closing, I wish you and your families and all Nunavummiut a very Merry Christmas season and all the best in future years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ng. Member's Statements. Mr. Akasuk.

**Member's Statement 789 – 1(6): Thanks Constituents and Everyone for Support as Member of the Legislative Assembly**

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my Constituents in Cape Dorset and Kimmirut. I had thanked them already in the last few days, but I would like to thank them for giving me their support over those years.

And also to the people who work in my Department, Ulluriaq Cornwall, Joanne Manning and also my previous employees, Jane Cooper and Ooleena Naujuq who have supported me throughout all those years. I am sure that the workload would have been a lot harder if it was not for my employees.

And also to Aqqaluk Qumangaapik in Cape Dorset, my CA and Nicotye Michael from Kimmirut who worked in our Constituents Office and also to the mayors of the two communities who have shown me their support during my tenor as the Member of the Legislative Assembly.

And also to my wife who I would like to thank very much because I leave her a lot of the time during my Ministerial duties and also to my children and my sisters in Salluit and Rankin Inlet. They call me once in a while and it helps me when they give me a call during my hard times.

And my older brother and my members of the family who give me advise and help me in my time and also to the Elders who have the wisdom and the knowledge and are recognized by the people out there.

And also to my Colleagues who have supported me over the years from the time that I started. They have always stood by me, even at the most challenging times. I thank you all and also, Mr. Speaker, I thank you all very much for supporting us all and recognizing us when we want to make our Statements.

And also to Erie Leighfield, who helped me tremendously when I was a regular Member and also the administrative staff and the people of Nunavut who extend their welcome in our travels throughout Nunavut. I thank the people of Nunavut and I wish them a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Akasuk. Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Look at that book he has written.

### **Member's Statement 790– 1(6): Reflecting As an MLA on the Last Five Years**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Open the book and you tell me that it is the very best. Mr. Speaker, my mom used to always tell me when I was growing up, I would always like to play jokes and try to keep things light.

My mom would always say, "Eddy, they tease you because they love you and respect you." So, I take that. In all seriousness, I have had quite a bit of fun over the last several years playing jokes on yourself, Mr. Speaker and I would not be able to begin to say the number of jokes, as Mr. Ng knows we have played on each other over several years.

Some of them are all in good fun and indeed, Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin today, this traditional day of fun, a Friday, for some wilder statements in the spirit of the season, many of the Members here today received a gift from me this morning.

No, Mr. Speaker, it was not money, the gift was not silver or gold or diamonds, it was not clothes or toys. Mr. Speaker, it was not sports equipment, it was a gift of fun so that the Members could have 24-hours, 7-days a week of Ed, all Ed and more Ed on a compact CD which is almost indestructible. Mr. Speaker, it not like a tape, it's not going to break., you can't destroy these CD's. So they're going to have that.

For the past eight years Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the past two assemblies, I've passed out verbal today, as well as a musical gift. On the verbal side Mr. Speaker, to the three wise men from the west, Ovide, Mr. Haviyok, Mr. Puqiqnak, I offer my commitment Mr. Speaker, to the wonder trio from the Kitikmeot. I offer my commitment not to change the time zone, again.

To Mr. McLean for bringing these, thank you Mr. McLean, for bringing me wieners, pickled wieners, pickled eggs, I gave him a picture and a case Mr. Speaker, a case of Shopsy's hot dogs. I won't get into the explanation right now but Mr. McLean sitting right there, knows what it's about.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Anawak and I go back a long ways, and indeed in 1988 when he was campaigning for the first time as MP, he stayed in my house in Hall Beach. He forgot his shampoo, I don't know if he remembers that and he got to Clyde River and then, it was to

Hall Beach, got to Clyde River and stayed at my wife's, my in-laws and he phone me back and wanted his shampoo, which I was able to return.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask a unanimous consent to continue my statement.

**Speaker:** He's seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Kelvin Ng mentioned, he said, my god and you're in the office at 7:30 in the morning, you're working till 8 and 9 every day, you're 12 hours, how do you do it?

And I told him, it was something like the energizer bunny which we have renamed the Ed-ergizer bunny. It goes back to Mr. Anawak, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Anawak, my good friend, soon in his new world of ambassador will be known as his Excellency.

Mr. Speaker, I make a commitment right now, his Excellency Mr. Anawak, I promise never to refer to him as your Ed-linsey. Just think about that for a second Mr. Speaker.

To our high arctic members, Member Rebecca Williams, who has been a social classes on the House, a breath of fresh air, who has thought up so many of the issues I believe that are important to people including health and social services with a lot of respect.

And my good friend from the high arctic also, Mr. Nutarak from Pond Inlet, I gave a gift yesterday to two of these wonderful people, a gift of the power of corporation pen with a red light to help out our friend Santa from the high arctic, if Rudolph gets sick.

Mr. Speaker, to my other good friends, Mr. Iqaqrialu and Mr. Irqittuq, Mr. Speaker I call them to I's. An I for Mr. Iqaqrialu and I for Mr. Enoki Irqittuq. Mr. Speaker, I give the two I's another I so they can hear me finally say ii (yes). Think about it Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, to our new member Mr. Netser, I want to say that I've had some good checks with him over the last few weeks. The other night we were playing hockey, I want to make a special present to Mr. Netser, some advice, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Patterk Netser whose hockey skill almost, Mr. Speaker, almost equalled my skills, I invite him to join with me on the old timer's team in the new year so that I will be able to offer him some advice and tips on how to avoid the check, I was trying to help him on the ice, I hope he remembers that.

Mr. Speaker, two, Mr. Speaker the two P's. Peter Kilabuk and Peter Kattuk., the two K's. Peter Kilabuk, K and to Peter Kattuk, K. I'll add another P, Mr. Speaker for Picco and we'll have special K.

>>Laughter

Mr. Speaker, to Olayuk Akesuk, unbelievable guy Mr. Speaker, we've all seen how he's grown not just in weight from the video from years ago...

>>*Laughter*

...but from intelligence and confidence and Mr. Speaker, he's always there for a laugh and when Mr. Akesuk was running in the first election, I didn't know who he was, he came to me at the Parnaivik Building and our good friend, Kirt Ejesiak said, Ed, would you like to get a picture, and of course everyone was asking for my picture so I said yes and I got a picture of Olayuk and next thing you know it turns up in these pamphlets in Cape Dorset and Kimmirut.

Mr. Speaker, to my good friend Olayuk Akesuk, the Wayne Gretsky Mr. Speaker, the Wayne Gretsky of the legislative assembly, I give a stop watch so he can time his shift so the fans will no longer go hog, hog, but hurray, hurray.

Mr. Speaker, to my good friend sitting next to me and who sat next to me for almost five years, the Honourable Manito Thompson. Now she has had to put up with me for a long time and I remember in Yellowknife, we had some good debates in Nunavut caucus.

Mr. Speaker, she has also had the pleasure of sitting next to me. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome my good friend Mani, Mr. Speaker, a gift of friendship, respect and memories of your good friend Ed. I have an autographed picture for you.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, to the last Member in the House here, the Premier is not here right now. I spoke to the Premier about this, I asked the Premier, I said, "Paul, can you give Kelvin his seat, like they do in the House of Commons? The Prime Minister got his seat, Joe Clark will get his seat, they will all get a seat. Can we give Kelvin Ng a seat?"

Mr. Speaker, Paul said, "No." So, I am going to give Kelvin something else, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, finally to the Kelvinator, we cannot give him his chair, but I will be providing to the Kelvinator, Mr. Speaker, a new deck of cards and some new poker chips and a case, Mr. Speaker, a case of Lady Grecian formula so that hair is always so perfect.

The other day, Mr. Speaker, he came in, his suit was wrinkled and one of the staff members said, "What is wrong, Kelvin? I have never seen you with a wrinkled shirt and a wrinkled suit." And I said, "If the truth be known," Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kelvin Ng and I have seen it with my own eyes, hangs himself up in the closet at night and that is why he is always so stiff. He remembers the night that we spent together in Bathurst Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, to my friends and constituents, employees and Ministers' Office employees over the years, to Unga Henderson, to Lorian White-Ejetsiak, to Annie Akuak, my former employees Susie Baines-Saimaiyuk, Aseena Alorut and Maryanne Demmer, I gave to them a great gift, it is a gift of being with me, knowing me and learning from me and also, Mr. Speaker, a copy of my CD.

Mr. Speaker, to the Speaker, the Leg staff, the translators and clerks I have to say is thank you, also a copy of my CD, to Mr. Quirke, a very special thank you, and Mr. Quirke, as Members know, served with us over in Yellowknife, he was under the tutelage of the great and Honourable David Hamilton who just recently retired.

I had an opportunity, some time ago, to speak to Mr. Hamilton and he said to me, “Ed, make sure that Quirke Clerk, Clerk Quirke”, a good friend, continues the yeoman service that he has done in the Leg and, Mr. Speaker, he keeps that sense of humour because I have noticed over the last couple days with an ailment that Mr. Quirke is going through, he has not been himself and Mr. Speaker, as the doctor of health, I mean, Minister of Health and Mr. Speaker, the best thing for Mr. Quirke is to go home after today and spend 24-hours, three days over the next three weekends with Ed and all Ed, the music.

Mr. Speaker, finally to the media, CBC’s Salomie Awa, I am offering Salomie a special gift today, Mr. Speaker, she has a great smile as you can see, a great political family, well-known all over the Arctic, especially in the High Arctic and the South Arctic and, Mr. Speaker, she needs to get to hear more things, I think. So, to help Salomie, I am offering her some earplugs so that she can drown out some of the rhetoric she hears in here on a regular basis.

Next to Salomie there is person by the name of Patricia Bell and below Patricia Bell there is Patricia D’Souza, to the two Patricias, I offer not, Mr. Speaker, a Pulitzer Prize, I do not offer a Peabody Award, Mr. Speaker, I do not even offer an Emmy or, Mr. Speaker, a Genie Award, but I offer them an Edward Picco Award.

Mr. Speaker, the Picco Award for fairness and honesty in reporting in Nunavut, and to my good friend over here, Paul Quassa from IBC, I offer him, Paul Quassa, an autograph of our good friend Super Shamou, because of the excellent work done by IBC on a challenging shoestring budget.

To our good friend Carrie McKlusky who just came in and on the fly, can anyone do a better Genie, Mr. Speaker, Carrie McKlusky a former reporter of News North, now working for the Government of Nunavut and now NTI, I offer Carrie my condolences for having to put up with me several months ago at a Constituency meeting where, indeed, I have made my presence myself without the CD. Mr. Speaker, she will have to think about that.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to say in all seriousness, Mr. Speaker, I want to say in all seriousness that I have appreciated the past four and a half years with the Members here. As Enoki said earlier, I wanted to say something about Enoki. In 1991, Enoki ran for MLA the first time and I believe he can say without a doubt that one of his big supporters at that time was me and I remember that campaign went very well.

Hard to believe that 12 years later we’d be sitting in the assembly here in Iqaluit. And I think it goes to show us some of the tremendous work that has gone into putting Nunavut



together, as well as, sometimes anything can happen and anything is possible. I think we have to remember that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this last opportunity of the year 2003 in this assembly to thank my family again, to thank my colleagues, and to especially thank the constituents of Iqaluit who have shown faith in me over the last eight years and I want to take this opportunity again to particularly thank a couple of important people, my wife Opah and my three children who was out there supporting us.

I always refer to Minister Thompson because she knows what it's like on the road and travelling and the other Members too. Without their support you wouldn't be able to do this job.

And lastly Mr. Speaker, the person I want to thank and yes you were correct Mr. Speaker, you're pointing at yourself. You're pointing at the clock. We have a full today, I'd say 5 o'clock, I think I'm going to win it.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank you above all. The man who's picture was in the Globe and Mail, the National Post, the Evening Telegram, the man who they called Goliath.

David who fought and slew Goliath and then he offers anyone who has an opportunity should go into Mr. Ovide's office and see on the wall where Kevin O'Brien had slayed Goliath. Mr. Speaker, he did more than slay Goliath. He brought forward some of the best information every available to any Member in this House.

He debated the issues, he knew the issues. Mr. Speaker, when he began in this House, we use to call him a hippy. Mr. Speaker, eight years ago, Kevin was known as a hippy. He was 186 pounds, full of muscle and brawn and today Mr. Speaker, after the tremendous work put in by Mr. O'Brien. We'll just look at him.

>>*Laughter*

In all seriousness Mr. Speaker, as I said yesterday behind the scenes and the Members here know that the tremendous work that you have put in for the people of Arviat, you don't have a opportunity to stand up in the house to ask questions, to give members' statements about your constituents because you are the speaker.

And we do have a lot of fun with you but you've held the role of speaker with dignity, fortitude and I would suggest to you from all the Members here with honesty and with friendship for the Members, and on behalf of all the Members, I want to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and the Members a very, Merry Christmas across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco for some of those kind words. Next we have Ms. Thompson.

**Member's Statement 791 – 1(6): Reflecting Nunavut's Progress**

**Ms. Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ed Picco for having sat beside me and he always ends up making us laugh. In English before a meal there is always a joker, with those funny hats. I think he's our joker of the Assembly. I thank him.

Mr. Speaker, if possible on Friday I think English is televised (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I just want to remind Tom that Buddy needs to do his homework, if you're listening to me Tom.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, in Qikiqtarjuaq, the family whom I adopted from, I wish them a Merry Christmas and their family. My son Trevor's natural parents and Jeannie Nukappiaq, I thank her for my Buddy.

Mr. Speaker, when I became a Minister in 1995 for the Municipal Affairs to ensure that Inuit would start benefiting from the programs and services of the Government. Community empowerment initiatives was started so that hamlets who are the ones that know best about the issues and I am very proud that as a Minister of MACA, I am very proud of that achievement in that program, to help ensure hamlets were benefiting and Mr. Speaker, my time is up already. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my Statement. Thank you.

**Speaker:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her Statements. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we all have some words to give before we depart and thank you for giving me the opportunity. As I said, as Minister of MACA, I was very glad to be in that position.

And I still believe that the communities have really started taking their own affairs because they are the ones that know best about the issues in the communities and without imposing any programs on them, let them decide what needs to be done and I still believe in that today.

Mr. Speaker, at times, if we disagree with those communities that elect us and put us in our position, what the majority says then we should go for what the majority says and even if we disagree, then we should have to voice their concerns for them.

And Mr. Speaker, I always remember the words of wisdom from elders. I am not saying I am better than anyone, but our Elders are very knowledgeable and wise and the youth who often get neglected the middle aged people who are often very smart and I am very proud of them and we should do more for the youth.

And Mr. Speaker, with the ending of our term, I was very grateful to take on the portfolio of Education and it feels like I just started this and we are already done. So, that is unfortunate.

In 1975 when there was a program for teaching teachers within the Northwest Territories, I was one of the first ones in the teacher education program and I thought that, it would be good to have, to become a Minister in the future.

And so I was very proud when I was put in the Education Department, it would have even been better if I was given another five years to work it, but it is not up to us and it is not up to us which portfolios are given to us.

I had a very good time in, on working on the education issues, but still a lot more room for improvement. The adult learning stream and the school systems should be more integrated and there is still a lot of work to be done in this area and in the future, we have to really take a stand and fix the problem.

And Mr. Speaker, the sewers, the elders who go take, that take hunting, who teach hunting skills, I think we should not cut any budget in that area, in those cultural inclusion programs because these Inuit who work in this sector are not paid well enough and they are more or less paid as janitors.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I think we should really focus our efforts on the youth because they are going through some very tough times and their parents, Mr. Speaker, are the ones with not enough support and when you are a parent, you do not feel you do not have the support when your child, this youth, does not really know where to go.

And so, I think the Government should be focusing more on the youth and to ensure there are more programs and services for the youth and we have set up many programs within Government.

But Mr. Speaker, it is still not reaching our youth and for some reason there is that big gap and the parents, no matter how hard they are working, we cannot seem to bridge the gap I think because we have the Qallunaat mind set and if use our mind set as Inuit, then we would go into these offices and look for these jobs and because we should not be looking at the 18 year old children and 35 years old or 50 year olds.

If we have parents, then we should be told, go do good for yourself. And I think that is one of the windfalls of this Government because when they become 18, when they come to us, we say, yes, I will look after them because as a parent, but we have to make them understand that you should go out there, look for those jobs, get the education, but some Inuit, they are just waiting to be told and that is how we have been brought up.

So, I think we should create jobs through the radio then do some campaigns that we should be proud as Inuit and because there are a lot of parents out there who are

struggling because of their children dropping out of school and not getting the adequate education.

Mr. Speaker, as a Minister of Education, I was very proud and very happy. However, I did not have the opportunities and so, it was very heart warming that education is very special to me because you help people grow and teach youth.

It is in my heart and I would like, I would love to spread that. Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that we do not get to choose which portfolio we would like and so, Mr. Speaker, I thank my Colleagues and Mr. Speaker, I will told, yes, there is not enough females in this Assembly and that I do not really want that to be an issue.

Mr. Speaker, however, I understand that I will never change and being an elected leader, anybody can be an elected leader. If it does not fit, you have to be a certain weight to be elected.

So, as long as we can voice the concerns of our people and finally, Mr. Speaker, perhaps if there were to be all females in this Assembly and take after, the husbands and just send the men out hunting.

So, I know the cycle of how men feel like in the springtime and in the summertime. All they talk about is their boats and their willingness to go out hunting. So, I think we should allow their wives to replace them and let them go for a while. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** If Members will involve me later on, maybe as Speaker I can make a few comments. As of this point, I think we should break for lunch and report back to the Chamber at 1:30. This is somewhat irregular, but what is your request? We will hear your request.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Mr. Speaker, I have a plane to catch this afternoon and I will not be here after the break. So, I am just wondering if, with the Members' permission, if I do a very short few words that I was going to do under Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** This is somewhat irregular and I will question the Members on it. What is your wish to allow Mr. Tootoo to go to Item 3 and make a second Statement? That would be the appropriate place to comment. Are there any nays? Are there any nays? Mr. Tootoo, proceed.

#### **Member's Statement 792 – 1(6): Concerns Ahead for Nunavut**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Colleagues. I did not want to leave and not mention some of the things that I was planning to say on the reply. Mr. Speaker, I know today is now my final Statement on this first Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

In less than three months, the people of Nunavut will have chosen their leaders for the next four to five years. I am sure that all Members will agree with me that there are challenging times ahead for this Assembly and this Government.

These challenges always pose both serious difficulties and genuine opportunities. We have tough decisions ahead of us and we will need to have the political will to face them and deal with them head on.

Although we are very close to Christmas, I think it is safe to say that Santa Clause does not necessarily live in Ottawa. Although we continue to make our legitimate case to the Federal Government for serious investments in such areas as housing and infrastructure, I am concerned that our arguments may fall on deaf ears down south.

We will need to watch our wallet carefully in the coming years. We will need to make sure that we put our scarce dollars into real priorities in education, health and housing.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to oppose such things as Supplementary pension plans for politicians and Deputy Ministers. I will oppose contracting practises that are not transparent and costs us more than we can afford.

Mr. Speaker, although our fiscal situation is likely to be very tight, we do have opportunities ahead of us if we seize the moment. We have had the opportunity to strengthen our education systems, we have an opportunity to strengthen our education system by reducing class sizes and encouraging excellence.

We have the opportunity to strengthen the integrity and transparency of our practises by introducing whistle blower protection in legislation, establishing an office of an independent ombudsman in order to open up our financial books to the fullest possible scrutiny.

We have the opportunity to make a dent in our housing crisis by exploring innovative solutions, taking advantage of very welcome new resources from the federal infrastructure initiatives and looking forward to getting some extra operations and maintenance dollars to go along with that.

We have an opportunity to achieve a fair deal with our workforce over the next several years. Treating our employees with rights will save us in the long run as we reduce our turnover costs and strengthen morale.

We have an opportunity to live up to the expectations of our constituents to focus on their needs. Mr. Speaker, it has been an honour working with the Members of this House and we certainly have not always agreed on every issue, but that is exactly what this place is for.

I wish all Members, those who are moving on in their lives and those who are seeking a new mandate from their Constituents, the very best for them and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to give a very special thanks to those who have helped me out. To get here, first off, the people who have assisted me in my campaign and I will not list any names, they all know who they are. If it was not for them, I would not be here.

I would like to thank the staff of the Legislative Assembly for all of their support and patience that they have given to me over the last five years and last but not least, a special thanks to the interpreters, who without them, I would not have a clue what is going on in here for the most part, and that goes for all of us, I am sure, and also, our technical crew, they put in long hours and if it was not for them, a lot of us would not know what is going on.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a privilege to represent the city, the people of Iqaluit Centre since 1999 and I will do my outmost to continue to have their trust and confidence in the years ahead.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank each and every one of the Members here. It has been a tremendous first term and I know I have learned a lot and I have seen everyone has learned a lot and we have come a long way.

So, the naysayers around, we are still here and we are doing, there is always a lot better that can be done, but we are doing what we can with what we have and I would like to just congratulate all of us on that and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. We will break for lunch now. Lunch will be served upstairs on the second floor and also, courtesy of Mr. Netser, there is also some caribou meat in the side room here, the Members' room and all the Members and interpreters staff are invited for lunch and caribou. Sergeant-at-Arms.

*>>House Recessed at 12:07 and resumed at 13:45*

**Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Puqiqnak): This is our last session of the Legislative Assembly and I'm sitting as a Speaker.

Getting back to our agenda items. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was the only one who didn't get to thank everybody.

I would like to recognize myself first of all because I've never recognized myself before in the House.

When I was eight years old, I wanted to become a politician and I now have my wish. From that time when I wanted to become a politician, I have achieved my dreams and it is very important to me.

I would also like to recognize at this time, being a Member for five years, I would like to recognize the interpreters who have assisted me during my travels and interpreting in the House. I thank them very much.

I would like to recognize also our researcher Leetia Nowdluk who has made my job as a co-chair at government operations committee easier. I thank her very much. And Alex Baldwin and John Quirke and his capable staff, Nancy, everybody.

I thank everybody because I wanted to recognize everybody. Mr. Ng mentioned to us that he will not be running next election. And the other Minister followed his footsteps by thanking Mr. Ng for assisting them.

And I finally found out that Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit was not being used too much and I will remember Mr. Ng for the rest of my life. But I would like to be able to, I know that he has not had a chance for the cabinet to have Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit in place. Thank you.

I would like to thank all the people who I represent in Clyde River and Broughton Island. I will be seeing them in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I haven't had the opportunity to welcome many people to the gallery and I would just like to include today for welcoming first, Sue Cooper to the gallery. She's in the gallery right now, our excellent law clerk, who put in long nights.

Last night, the Assembly had a debate on the bill. I'd also like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to thank the support staff of the Legislative Assembly who are also in the building. Especially on the third floor, Siobhan, Leetia, of course, Steve Pollock and Alex Baldwin.

Irene Tagoona, an excellent worker of my phone. And also Mr. Speaker, the Members talked about the interpreter and translating staff. They followed us on the road into Cambridge Bay and into Rankin Inlet, Mr. Speaker, they even followed us into Pangnirtung. They have done yeoman service.

So, I would like to, I wanted to thank the interpreter translator staff who we have with us. Some of them are my Constituents. I would also like to, again Mr. Speaker, to thank the two Clerks, Nancy and Kooyoo for their excellent work.

And I want to remember one of the first Clerks of the Assembly at this time, too, who is in Baker Lake and a Constituent of Mr. McLean, who has helped us tremendously in the first months of this Assembly and year, Rhoda Perkensen, I would also like to say hi to Rhoda and her family in Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to recognize an individual this morning who was here, Raymond Ningeotsiaq from Rankin Inlet, even though he is not here. I would like to recognize him, Raymond Ningeotsiaq.

When I was a child, I have known him that long and he is originally from Coral Harbour, where I am from originally and he has always been involved in politics and he has become an Elder. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize individuals who are not here right now, but Neil Porter, Simon Ukpakkuk from Gjoa Haven and they worked tirelessly and never say no to my requests and I would also like to recognize three people who are interpreters, Blandina and Mary.

They have assisted us greatly in the provinces during CPA conferences. They have always assisted me as interpreters so I could be involved in the CPA conferences. So, I would like to thank the interpreters Blandina and the others.

And someone mentioned that Inuktitut is the only language that we can use here, we are using here in this House and I would like to thank all the interpreters, Mikle Langenhan, Blandina Tulugarjuk, Mary Nashook and Ooleepika Ikkidluak and also, I would also like to recognize Kitikmeot interpreters, Inuinnaqtun interpreters, you are very professional, thank you.

Whenever I am trying to talk, my fellow Members interrupt me and I would also like to recognize my wife who is in my office, if you are watching me on TV, hi.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak. Mr. Akasuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize my daughter behind Mr. Iqaqrialu, Saimaiyuk and also from Cape Dorset, originally from Cape Dorset is Joanase Tunu and also the interpreters, I would like to give them a recognition and to thank them, Ooleepika Ikkidluak, Mikle Langenhan, Blandina Tulugarjuk and Mary Nashook, also the Inuinnaqtun interpreters.



Even though I do not understand the Inuinnaqtun interpreters, I recognize them because I am beginning to understand them, too, as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Picco, can we have some order here, please. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize all the interpreter/translators, but in particular two gentlemen who are in the booth today who do the Inuinnaqtun from Cambridge Bay, James Paneoyak and John Komak.

And Mr. Speaker, yesterday when I did my farewell address I omitted, I made one of my rare mistakes Mr. Speaker, when I was recognizing the media I forgot to recognize two gentlemen that have been around and have done lots of excellent interviews with myself and other Members of this House, and that is Mr. Vinny Karetak and Richard, and I apologize that I can't pronounce his last name properly, Mr. Richard that cameraman. Thank you very much.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ng. I have yet to name anybody in this House but you've come very close because of that mistake. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If it wasn't for the interpreters, my cousin Mikel Langinhan, when I first started coming over here, I realized that she was my cousin. She has been working for a long time, when she was a member of BRIA, I made her work very hard, Blandina Tulugarjuk. I would like to recognize her for helping me greatly in the past.

The individual who was not with me for quite some time, when I was a Qikiqtani board member she also followed me just recently as she is very professional, everyone of them is professional, even though Mary isn't here I would like to say thank you to her and Oleepeeka Ikkidluak. If it weren't for them we wouldn't be able to have a meeting in the House.

Perhaps if they were not our interpreters I would be able to speak English. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Mr. Anawak.

**Mr. Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the staff. I have worked with him for quite some time before 1999 as the Interim Commissioner, Mr. John Quirke. I would like to say thank you to Mr. Quirke. He does a lot of work, as well as Nancy Tupik.

And of course the interpreters. Sometimes we don't even bother to think that they're keeping up with us but we just keep on talking very fast and it's going to be nice for them to take a few months rest before the election. I would like to thank them for that.

I would also like to thank Simanek Kilabuk who is our Sergeant at Arms. When we started seeing the government I guess we didn't think that we were going to have an Inuk Sergeant at Arms. We are proud of him.

I didn't know him before but I know him now because he told me one time when I couldn't tow by boat here in Iqaluit. I know that he is a very capable person in the House as well as out hunting. I would like to recognize Simanek Kilabuk. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize you first of all Mr. Speaker. Our staff, our communities, our constituents assistants should be recognized by the Members of the Legislative Assembly because they work very hard for us. I would like to recognize my constituency assistant and also, all of the interpreters and George Metuq who worked tirelessly as a technician and his staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker, I am sorry.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any further Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery? Well, if I may recognize my constituent workers over the last nine years, just to name a few, Rosie Mangart, Arviat, Vick Amarujjuaq, Diane Ingmak and Ms. Kuksuk.

So, I would like to recognize those people for their services and their hard work over the last many years.

Item 6. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Mr. Iqittuq.

### **Item 9: Replies to Opening Address**

#### **Reply to Opening Address 006 – 1(6):**

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I have an opportunity, I would like to make a reply to the Opening Address of the report. I was able to be a Member of the first Assembly for the past five years and we faced some challenges and

we came across some hard times, some hardships and some losses to our immediate families.

Even though that is the case, we were given the strength and the support by our family members, our parents and by our relatives and by our Colleagues. They have all been there with their support.

I would also like to recognize the individuals, the two individuals who resigned from the Legislative Assembly: Mr. James Arvaluk and Levy Barnabus who, because of our laws, had to leave the Assembly, but we are still friends and we know, even through along the way in the upcoming years, they will be coming back to political life.

Again, in the House, we faced a lot of challenges during the course of our mandate so that we would have a solid foundation for Nunavut.

It is obvious, first of all that we worked extremely hard in regards to the single time zone and the regular Members and a lot of the people out there worked hard to oppose the single time zone proposal.

But it was unfortunate that even if we turned down the proposal, it was going to go ahead anyway, which is exactly what happened. A lot of the regular Members thought that we had a long debate on it and we were told that even if we opposed it, it would go ahead.

That is the information that we received. It would have been okay if we didn't deal with it but it did give us a deeper understanding of truly representing the majority of the people out there.

Mr. Speaker, the government realized that the majority will always win. At that time, on the same issue, the regular Members, especially the Baffin representatives fought hard and we now have our three time zones in the Baffin, Kitikmeot and Keewatin.

Today, we are still functioning even though we have different time zones in Nunavut. We also know that we have today's technology that we can use to get the information out there through the internet and other tools.

We are still functioning as a government and the three time zones does not create a problem. I just wanted to mention that because there was a huge debate on this issue.

We had some problems especially with bad gas and many people lost their equipment as a result so we fought hard on this issue as all Nunavummiut started to voice their concerns. Now we can make the government realize that as a collective voice we can turn things around. A good example for that was the bad gas compensation as a way of apology to the people of Nunavut.

The gasoline prices were discounted until we got the new shipment. When we fight hard for what we believe, at first it seems impossible, but once we start working together we can get things done and we have realized that over course of our mandate.

The Human Rights legislation is well intentioned, however, it became apparent that there are many people who are unhappy about it. As regular Members we fight hard for the Inuit way, and to ensure the government's legislation are better suited for our people. We don't only think of our own thoughts when we voice our concerns. Unfortunately it was passed, in the future we'll see more amendments to that legislation.

Our rights as Inuit did not seem to be recognized through that Human Rights legislation. It seemed like a waste of time to have to recognize the rights that we already have. Inuit rights and traditions are very strong if we apply it.

I can use for example, in Igloodik, an elder had requested some muktaaq while he was still alive and because we were forbidden to hunt Bowhead Whales when I first became a Member of the Inuit organization, they were just about charged because it was an international regulation that they breached.

Mr. Speaker, we realized that the strength of the elders and the strength of the Inuit. If the elder had not requested it then the hunters would have been charged and have to pay a hefty fine. And because we followed with the needs of Inuit, the lawyer was able to win the case and not have them charged, and that is how we realized the strength of Inuit and the elders.

We still have that strength. We can still use it, even when it is not in legislation. We all know the issues in our communities and we all know the wrongs that were done to Inuit. As Inuit, we have fought collectively for our needs in 2003 and now we have buildings like these that are for Inuit.

We were set up in 1999 as the First Assembly, because Inuit were seen as money objects. If we were not money objects then we would just be considered the people of the cold climate, but because we are seen as money objects there are a lot of people who have good high paying jobs, as a result.

That can be our strength collectively, as well we have to be well represented. If we make our case heard, and Mr. Speaker, we have often struggled on the issue of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit that was set up by the Commissioner to ensure the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit was applied within Government. However, the recognition for that was often too little over the years.

It was just lip service by the Government that they would use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit just as lip service. We knew full well that it was just to make themselves look good. So because some of the staff do not know the concepts of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, it cannot be applied until we really make the effort. If we were to apply Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in the future they would follow it right from the Inuit and use the actual Inuit knowledge.

I am very glad today that Bill 35 was concurred with, and that is a good example that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit can be properly applied within legislation. I am sure in the future that will follow suit in other areas.

As well, the money saving efforts by the Government, I will speak of a few of those examples. I am not an expert in this field but we use a lot of money, and a lot of it is being wasted due to mismanagement.

Mr. Speaker, for example, the bad gas situation and the contracting procedures also were a waste of money. I bring these up because more than once the Government have chartered a plane for the petroleum products in transporting fuel in Igloolik, and Kugaaruk, I think it was. Those big planes are very expensive.

So the money that we could have used elsewhere was wasted on chartering those Hercules' and if there was proper management in the area of Petroleum Products, and if they followed their guidelines well we would not have had to have wasted all that money.

And we also could invest money in the area of decentralization, if it were planned properly. We have heard of many cases through, although they were not written on paper, that a lot of them that were newly hired had to stay in hotels for many days at a time.

Those are things that you heard on the street, but it makes a big impact and some of the wrongs that we have faced and we have to take measures to prevent that in the future at the next Assembly.

As well, in the future, the next Assembly will have to take a closer look on the issue of education and one of their big priorities is, will be to come up with the proper Education Act in recognizing Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

In Arviat, it is very encouraging that there is a lot of work being done in the area of curriculum development and we should ensure that there is more recognition of the Inuit culture within the schools and so that we have a stronger foundation in the future for our people.

We have the rights and freedoms that we are well aware of now. However, the teachers, I think, should make a better effort because we hear time and again that it is very hard that when you go down south for further schooling, it is very hard, although you have done grade 12.

When we went to lobby Ottawa, it was unfortunate that watered down provisions were attempted. Fortunately, someone spoke up and we were able to change a better situation in that sector.

Mr. Speaker, those are some of the things that I wanted to bring up so that the next Assembly will take these seriously and make them a priority. Mr. Speaker, because

education is so critical and our children have to be taught properly and given the tools for their future.

And because it is not traditionally our way, we often lose sight of our Inuit culture and we will know that if we slap or spank our children that we can be brought into the court system and a lot of that has been imposed on us that is against our tradition.

For example, and Mr. Speaker, in the future, we have to really start taking hold of our culture and it has to be taken seriously and strengthened in the system.

And as well, our language has to be strengthened because it was quite embarrassing as aboriginal peoples Ottawa conference the first nations, me and Iqaqrialu and Mr. Akesuk we could not say what, we could not stand up and voice our concerns, but we could ask questions. But, they could not, they did not use their own language, the other first nations people and very select few used their own mother tongue in speaking at this conference and we should not be embarrassed in using our own language.

We should further strengthen it and I wanted to bring it up in this House that we really have to make a better effort to strengthen and preserve our language because it is a source of our strength.

Those are just some of the comments that I wanted to talk about during our last sitting of the first Assembly and I am sure that they will be taken into consideration by the next Assembly.

Lastly, I would like to say thank you to the individuals who supported me, my constituents, Members of the Legislative Assembly, I would like to thank you all for your support over the years and during the challenging times.

I'm not the only one that just about gave up, but I feel that the caring personality of the individuals sitting around the table gives us strength. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Mr. Netser.

### **Item 10: Petitions**

#### **Petition 011 - 1(6): Skyward Aviation**

**Mr. Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition from the communities of Coral Harbour, Chesterfield Inlet and Arviat asking the Government to give Skyward Aviation a fair and equal chance to do business in the Kivalliq.

I did not count how many signatures there are. You have to do them yourself. I want to tell you that there are many. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Netser. We'll certainly do the counting. Item 10. Petitions. Are there any further Petitions on our last day: Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Ms. Thompson.

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

#### **Tabled Document 177 – 1(6): Workforce Profile March 31, 2003**

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the following Workforce Profile as of March 31, 2003 on behalf of the Government of Nunavut.

As of March 31, 2003 we had 2,459 employees in the Government of Nunavut. 1,492 employees were female, and 967 were males. Female employees made up 61 percent of the total employees. Male employees made up 39 percent of the total employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we have done very well for the female population in the territory.

*>>Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Are there any further Tabling of Documents? I have one document to table.

#### **Tabled Document 178 – 1(6): Annual Report of the Language Commissioner of Nunavut 2002/2003**

I wish to table the Annual Report of the Language Commissioner of Nunavut 2002/2003.

Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16: Motions. Item 17: First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in the Committee of the Whole of Bill and other Matters. Bill 50, Bill 51, Bill 52, Bill 53 and Bill 54, with Mr. Iqaqrialu in the Chair, and in accordance with authority provided to me by Motion 2-1(6) the Committee of the Whole will stay in Session until it reports itself out. Before we proceed with the Committee of the Whole we will break for five minutes just to get set up for the meeting. Five minutes back in the House. Members, thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms

*>>House recessed at 14:26 and resumed at 14:37*

#### **Item 19: Consideration in the Committee of the Whole of Bill and other Matters**

**Chairman** (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): Thank you, for coming back for Committee of the Whole. First before we go back to our agenda, I forgot to mention CBC for their attention to the Legislative Assembly. They are able to help us inform the public, so, thank you to CBC, very much and those Igalaq show, I thank them for getting the information out and it is very encouraging to see Inuktitut programming.

And back to our Orders of the Day for Committee of the Whole, we have for consideration Bill 50, 51, 52, 53 and 54. What is the wish of the Committee? Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to start with first of all, Bill 50 and then 51, 52, and then 53 and finally Bill 54. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): At this time, I would like the Finance Minister Kelvin Ng to do his Opening Remarks, Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before you to speak to Bill 50, the Interim Appropriation Act April 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2004. This Act authorizes the Government of Nunavut to make interim appropriations for the 2004-2005 fiscal year.

This is required to enable the Government to maintain operations during the first quarter of 2004-2005, until the new Government finalizes and submits 2004-2005 Main Estimates to the Legislature for approval.

Mr. Chairman, the total amount of appropriation is \$190 million 640 thousand dollars. This represents one quarter of the expected annual appropriations for the Departments. Exceptions to this is the Legislative Assembly and the Departments of Education and Community Government and Transportation. These Departments have higher than average expenditures in the first quarter.

Mr. Chairman, I would be happy to answer any questions from Committee members on this Bill. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. I will ask you go to the Witness Table and if you have Officials, please take them with you. Thank you, Minister Ng, for coming to the Witness Table. Please introduce your staff. Kelvin Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From the right is Mr. David Akeeagok, Assistant Deputy Minister and to my left is Mr. Paul Vardy, Director of Expenditure Management. Both would be capable at the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. At this time, according to the Rule, if you have General Comments, you may have 10-minutes each and afterwards, you will also have an additional 10-minutes to ask questions. Any General Comments? If not,



would you like to go Clause-by-Clause? Bill 50, Interim Appropriation Act April 1 to June 30 2004, do you have it in front of you? Clause-by-Clause? Okay. Clause 1, Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 2. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 3. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 4. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 5. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 6. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Do you agree the Bill as a whole is ready for Third Reading? Do you also agree that that the Bill is now ready for Third Reading? Thank you. We have concluded that, Agreed? We will go to Bill 51. Minister Ng do you have Opening Comments? Kelvin Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this Bill will provide \$5 million 900 thousand dollars in additional capital funds for the construction of condominium units for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. At this time, according to the Rule, I will allow 10-minutes for each Member, any General Comments or Questions? I am sorry, Supplementary Appropriation Capital Act #3 2003-2004, any comments? Turn the page. Do you have a copy? Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): My wife will be leaving, so, I am a little bit late because I had to go to the airport. For the Supplementary Appropriation for \$5 million 900 thousand, have they allocated where this will be allotted to? Which communities will be this in? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this is to complete the condominium program that was initiated last year. All the communities that currently have them are in place, but as the purpose of being finalized, this is to pay off the condominium program for those particular communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Thank you. We'll go clause by clause. Supplementary Appropriation Act. No. 3. Do you have it in front of you? Please distribute copies. Turn my microphone off. No. 3. Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3. Do you all have copies? Page 4. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Does anyone have any comments? If not. Supplementary Appropriation. \$5 million, 900 thousand. Any comments. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Opposed. Going back to page 2. Supplementary Appropriation. Total. \$5 million, 900 thousand. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Going to Bill 51. Supplementary Appropriation Act No 3. 2003/2004. Do you have it in front of you? Clause by clause. Clause 1. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Clause 2. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Clause 3. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Clause 4. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Clause 5. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Clause 6. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Clause 7. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Do Members agree that Bill 51 is ready for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Going onto Bill 52. Supplementary Appropriation (O and M) Act No. 2. Do you have a copy? 2003/2004. Department of Finance. On page 4. Supplementary Appropriation. Total. \$4 million. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Total Department. \$4 million. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Turn to page 5. Department of Public Works and Services. Total. \$545 thousand. Agreed?

**Chairman** (interpretation): Total Department. \$545 thousand. Agreed?

**Some Member:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Turn to page 6. Community Government and Transportation. Total \$1 million, 125 thousand. Agreed?

**Some Member:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Total Department. \$1 million, 125 thousand. Agreed?

**Some Member:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Turn the page. On 7, Health and Social Services. \$675 thousand. Agreed?

**Some Member:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Total Department, \$675 thousand. Agreed?

**Some Member:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Go back to page 2. Do you have it in front of you? Total Supplementary Appropriation. Operations and Maintenance, \$6 million, 345 thousand. Agreed?

**Some Member:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Bill 52. Agreed?

**Some Member**: Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Do you agree that the Bill 52, the Supplementary Appropriations Operations and Maintenance Act 2, 2003-2004. Would you like to go Clause by Clause? Do you have it in front of you? Clause 1. Agreed?

**Some Member**: Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 2. Agreed?

**Some Member**: Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 3. Agreed?

**Some Member**: Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 4. Agreed?

**Some Member**: Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Turn the page. Clause 5. Agreed?

**Some Member**: Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 6. Agreed?

**Some Member**: Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 7. Agreed?

**Some Member**: Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 8. Agreed?

**Some Member**: Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Does the Committee agree that Bill 52 as a whole is now ready for Third Reading?

**Some Member**: Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Ng. Do you have any Opening Comments? Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** I would like to make Opening Comments for Bill 53, if I may?

**Chairman** (interpretation): There were still some more. I did not see them. Do you have any Opening Comments on Bill 53?

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. But first, for the record, to my right now is Sherry Rowe, the Director of Government Accounts in the Department of Finance.

Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before you to speak to Bill 53, The Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2003-2004.

The Financial Administration Act requires that all debts that individually exceed \$20,000 be written off through a specific write-off Act.

This Act has two components; the first is the write-down of inventory for the Nunavut Development Corporation. As part of its retail and wholesale operations, the Corporation has to reduce prices periodically to sell slow-moving items. For accounting purposes and to satisfy the needs of the Auditor General, this reduction in price is reflected in the value of inventory in the amount of \$49 thousand,097 for the fiscal year 2002-2003.

The second component is the write-off of debts that cannot reasonably be collected. Before a debt is written off, every effort must have been made to collect the amount owing. The total amount being written off is \$458 thousand,562 for accounts owing to the Government of Nunavut and the Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Chairman, I would be pleased to answer any questions from Committee Members on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Questions? Comments? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Government Operation was able to review Bill 53, Write Off of Assets and Debts Act, 2003-3004.

Mr. Chairman, although Members recognize that in its ability of bad debts occurring from time to time for any organization as large as the Government, it is nonetheless a matter of concern.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee noted that four specific proposed write offs are in relation to debts owing to Nunavut Arctic College. Earlier this year, during its public review of the Auditor General's report, Members posed questions to Nunavut Arctic College officials with respect to the financial management practises of the college.

Members wish to see further improvements made to the financial management practises of the college and other crown entities.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee also had concerns about the write off of debts of District Education Authorities stemming from deficits and would raise the related questions of whether the resources provided to District Education Authorities are adequate to meet their needs.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my Opening Comments. The Standing Committee recommends the passage of Bill 53 to all Members. Individual Members may raise their own comments and questions as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Any comments, questions? Do you want to go to Bill 53 Clause-by-Clause? Bill 53. Clause 1. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 2. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Does the Committee agree to Bill 53 as a whole. Agreed, Bill as a whole? Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question in the following page under schedule. These debtors have their names written on the numbers from 1 to 11. Under Item #5 or debtor #5, it says that the Métis Development Corporation, I do not have the Inuktitut part.

Métis Development Corporation, rental arrears, do I understand that is there, do I understand that there is some houses that are being rented by Public Works, is it an office or a house that we are, is it being rented by the Government of Nunavut at this time?

**Chairman** (interpretation): Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They were, there was a 21 plex building here in Iqaluit, Mr. Chairman, and the circumstances that surround this is that is Public Works deemed that they overpaid while operating the maintenance charges to the Métis Development Corporation.

I sent them an invoice for that, which they subsequently ignored because the Métis Development Corporation contested that invoice and in addition, their position was that the Government for the Northwest Territories at that time just happened in '91 to '93, Mr. Chairman.

The Government of the Northwest Territories, at that time, owed them \$50 thousand dollars. So, there was, really a difference of opinion here. We assumed that it was account receivables on the establishment of Nunavut on April 1<sup>st</sup> of 1999.

There was an allowance for doubtful accounts set up for this and this is the form of procedure, Mr. Chairman, for writing off this uncollectible receivable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, for the background information. My question was that: Is this still existing? Is Government still using this building right now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have an answer to that question Mr. Chairman. The Public Works Minister, I understand maybe the Housing code authority, I understand now has the responsibility for that unit so I would take it that it is not Housing Corporation or Public Works issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the standing committee we had advised the Minister to have people that might be able to answer these questions. Unfortunately they are not here. \$458 thousand, 562 dollars is a lot of money and I know that we are aware, the standing committee is aware that a lot of these are from the Government of the NWT. I just want to make sure on the record that when people can't pay, or agencies or universities cannot or they are contesting to pay, the government ends up paying for it.

A lot of it is Arctic College and there are individual people, DEAs and other agencies, University of Saskatchewan, so I just wanted to make sure that everybody knows and understands that when people can't pay or agencies can't pay we end up paying for it and it's a lot of money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, every government tries as best as possible to collect all the debts, the receivables that are owing to it. Some circumstances unfortunately, that is not the case. We have situations that are outside of the government's control, for example, in some of these societies here dissolved so there is nothing to collect from.

Some of the agencies, they didn't finalize their contribution agreements for whatever reasons so the money was deemed to be uncollectible. But all reasonable efforts are made to collect outstanding money to this government and agencies of this government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hopefully the next government will have a better system in place so that we don't wait six years, ten years later to try to pay for it. I know that the Department really tried very hard every month to collect these, but there must be a system in place and maybe the government leader or Minister can elaborate on what is in place now so that we don't end up paying for something that happened ten years ago. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I can assure the Member and all Members of this House that procedures have been put in place and are in the process of being implemented in respect of ensuring that the possibility of this happening is minimized.

Having said that, there are situations, like I said, that are outside of the government's control. There has been a review of all accounts receivables, for example, in the Nunavut Arctic College they've put in procedures through the new financial officer that was hired this past fall. They monitor all their accounts receivables and follow up on those that are greater than 30 days.

There have been as a result of some of these incidents new procedures put in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Anything else? Questions? If there are no questions. Bill 53. Write Off of Assets and Debts Act. 2003/2004. Clause 1. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 2. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Does the committee agree to Bill 53 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Does the committee agree that Bill 53 is ready for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Moving onto Bill 54. Does the Minister have any Opening Comments? Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I do at my other desk, but it does not relate to finance. But before I get to that, Mr. Chairman, I would like to



recognize and thank Ms. Rose, Mr. Vardy, Mr. Akeagok and Mr. Arkaid, today's witnesses and certainly some of the others who have appeared on my behalf with me over this.

Are we on now? Sorry, Mr. Chairman, just to repeat then, I would like to say that for Bill 54, at the desk, the comments, they are at my other desk and I will go there shortly. I would like to thank and recognize Ms. Rose, Mr. Vardy, Mr. Akeagok who have been here with me today with the Department of Finance.

And over the years since I sat at this Table in respect of Finance, Mr. Vardy, Mr. Steve, Mr. Victor Tootoo, Mr. Roger Perchard, Mr. Dingo, and maybe there might have been others who I may have missed, but I certainly thank them for all their support that they have provided to me and, of course, all the patience and understanding of my Colleagues here, Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will go to my desk now and deal with Bill 54. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Chairman, failure to enact Bill 20, an Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and Related Statutes, creates a need to delay the coming into effect, which would be December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2003 of subsection 4(2) of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Subsection 4(2) would make the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act prevail over any other Act where there is an inconsistency or conflict, unless the other Act expressly provides that it will prevail over the ATIPP Act.

Mr. Chairman, Bill 54, that we have now, delays the coming into effect of Subsection 4(2) and prevents the ATIPP Act from prevailing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Does the Committee, Mr. Iqaqrialu, do you have Opening Comments?

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services had the opportunity to review Bill 54, an Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act change of precedence.

Mr. Chairman, the passage of this Bill is the responsible measure. The next Assembly will have the opportunity to consider Legislation to fully address issues associated with the Act.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my Opening Comments. The Standing Committee recommends the passage of Bill 54 to all Members. Individual Members may also raise their own comments and questions as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister, if you could go back to the Witness Table or can you deliver it right there? Okay, go ahead. Does the Committee agree that we continue on with Bill 54? Bill 54, an Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, change of precedence. Clause 1. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 2. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Does the committee agree to Bill 54 as a whole and that it can be read for the third time?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. What is the wish of the committee? There is motion on the floor to report progress. All in favour. All those opposed. Carried. Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Returning to the Orders of the Day. We did have a request to extend question period but it was denied. So we'll continue on with Item 20. Report of Committee of the Whole with Mr. Irqittuq. Mr. Chairman.

### **Item 20: Report of Committee of the Whole**

**Chairman** (Mr. Irqittuq) (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is the last day. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 50, Bill 51, Bill 52, Bill 53, Bill 54, and would like to report that Bill 51, Bill 52, Bill 53 and Bill 54 are ready for third reading. And Mr. Speaker, we move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. There is a Motion on the Floor. Is there a Secunder for the Motion? Is there a Secunder, for the last time, is there a Secunder? Mr. Ng will second the Motion. The Motion is in order. A question has been called, all in favour, all in favour, all opposed, the Motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

**Item 21: Third Reading of Bills****Bill 50 – Interim Appropriation Act April 1st to June 30th 2004 – Third Reading****Bill 51 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act No. 3, 2003/2004 – Third Reading****Bill 52 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act No. 2, 2003/2004 – Third Reading****Bill 53 – Write Off of Assets and Debts Act 2003/2004 – Third Reading****Bill 54 – An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act – Third Reading**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baffin South that Bill 50, Interim Appropriation Act April 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2004, Bill 51, Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #3 2003-2004, Bill 52, Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #2 2003-2004, Bill 53, Write Off of Assets and Debts Act 2003-2004 and Bill 54, an Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ng. The Motion is in order. All those in favour. All those in favour. All those opposed. The Motion is carried and the Bills have had Third Reading. Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Quirke, would you please ascertain it. The Deputy Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the Chamber to give assent to the following Bills.

**Assent****Bill 35 – Wildlife Act – Assent****Bill 49 – An Act to Amend the Safety Act – Assent****Bill 50 – Interim Appropriation Act, April 1 – June 30, 2004 – Assent****Bill 51 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2003/2004 – Assent****Bill 52 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2003/2004 – Assent****Bill 53 – Write-off Assets and Debts Act, 2003/2004 – Assent**

**Bill 54 - An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Change of Precedence) - Assent**

**Deputy Commissioner** (Leena Metuq): Mr. Speaker, Deputy Premier, Members of the Legislative Assembly, honoured guest and elders.

As you prepare to return to your communities and homes for the Christmas season, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate all the Members of this House on the work undertaken since April 1, 1999.

As Deputy Commissioner of Nunavut, I am pleased to assent to the following Bills:

Bill 35 – Wildlife Act

Bill 49 – An Act to Amend the Safety Act

Bill 50 – Interim Appropriation Act, April 1 – June 30, 2004

Bill 51 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2003/2004

Bill 52 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act No. 2, 2003/2004

Bill 53 – Write Off of Assets and Debts Act, 2003/2004

Bill 54 - An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Change of Precedence)

I wish to advise Members that the Commissioner of Nunavut has received instructions from the Executive Council, consistent with Section 17 of the *Nunavut Act*, that a general election is to be held on February 16, 2004.

>>*Applause*

The First Legislative Assembly is to be dissolved on Friday, January 9, 2004. A Proclamation of Election will be issued on January 12, 2004, and writs of election will be issued on that day.

Dissolution Guidelines for Members of the Legislative Assembly have been tabled by the Honourable Speaker of this House.

As Deputy Commissioner of Nunavut, I hereby prorogue the Sixth Session of the First Legislative Assembly.

I extend to all Members, staff and their families and communities my warmest wishes for a safe and joyous Christmas season. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Well Members, we have come to the last hour, the last minute, the last day of this term. And Mr. Picco I would ask that you just be quiet...

>> *Applause*

>> *Laughter*

I know you are my good friend, you are always trying to help, but just for a few minutes try to be quiet. I have a few closing comments to make before we close the session and close the end of this term.

I'd like to take a moment to express my thanks to every Member of the Assembly for their support and cooperation during my time as Speaker.

I know it hasn't always been fun; it's been a lot of hard work. There have been some decisions that have been made that were not very popular, but that is part of the political world that we live in.

As Members know, this is a place where passions and emotions often run high. And Mr. Ng can readily agree. And Mr. Tootoo knows of it here, and Mr. Picco. This is a place where Members work long hours doing the work of the people.

Being an MLA is not often easy. It can be very stressful, and for the most part, most Members are away from their homes, away from their families and their children and their loved ones for days at a time, for weeks at a time and in some cases, for months at a time.

Our business is not only in this House, but it takes us around the country, the various provinces and in some cases, outside the country.

A complaint that I hear, or a concern I should say that I hear very often is that Members are not in their ridings enough. Again, that is part of the job of being an MLA. The bottom line is that the real decisions for this Government are made in this House, in this Chamber. This is where decisions take place, the dialogue, that debate, the solutions and the agreements.

I would just like to point out that although most of us, or all of us would like to be home with our families, with our friends, with the constituents, that is not the case; it's not the way it is, being an MLA here in Nunavut. It may be different down south where people live in their ridings, they live close to their families, they can drive to work. For people like David and Jobie, Enoki, Kelvin, all the Members, Peter, most Members have to travel back to their constituencies to be home.

As Speaker I consider myself to be very fortunate and very honoured to have served this chamber, this Assembly for the past four and half years. It has been an honour.

Before I close off I would just like to thank all the Members for their support and encouragement, their understanding, I know I may somewhat of a...I don't know how to say this, but, somewhat of a different character, I'm not your most traditional person, but that is just the way God made me, as he's made the rest of you.

For the time that I've been late, I do apologize. But I can assure you it was always for a good reason, some I can't tell you about.

I'd like to wish all the constituents back home in Arviat a Merry Christmas, and again I'm sorry for not being home as often as I would have liked to have been. But again, the decisions that are made for the good people in all of Nunavut are made here in this House.

I've heard one Member tell me a few months ago that he had not been home to his riding for three months, and that is the work of a Minister.

For the people who are back home in Arviat, I want to thank them for supporting me and I hope to be home in the next week for Christmas with my daughter, spending that time in my community. Once again I thank them for all their support and understanding.

I want to wish all Members of the House a safe journey home and God's speed and best wishes in the future for whatever road you may take whether you decide to run again and take up the challenge to be an MLA or take another direction, whether that be private business or just plain retirement like some Members, not to mention any names.

I'd just like to thank all the Members for their support. It has been a great four and half years and all the Members that are re-entering in the next election, I wish you all the best.

A special thank you to all the media that have covered us for the last four and a half years, ladies and gentlemen and also interpreters that we could not get by without them, ladies and gentlemen.

And of course, the pages who have been here throughout the years, the last five years, four and a half years, we could not do without them, we would not have any more water or we could not take our notes around, those very secret notes that some people write that we have to destroy.

And especially the staff, I guess, the staff who make this building and this Chamber work, without them, all of our EAs and CAs and right down to the janitorial staff, we owe them great many thanks and I know I share that with all the Members. Once again, thank you and good luck in your future endeavours.

I would be remiss if I did not thank my CA, who is no longer with us, Kate Atwood and a special thanks to our table staff, Clerks Nancy and Kooyoo and at that, we will close off the last day of our term by calling the Sergeant-of-Arms, my good friend, to come forward.

>>*House adjourned at 15:31*

