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Speaker: The Honourable Peter Kilabuk, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Peter Kilabuk

(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq
(Nattilik)

Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister responsible for Status of Women Council

Hon. Levinia Brown
(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Community and Government Services

Hon. Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit West)

Premier; Minister of Justice; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk
(South Baffin)

Minister of Environment

Tagak Curley
(Rankin Inlet North)

Keith Peterson
(Cambridge Bay)

David Alagalak
(Arviat)

Joe Allen Evyagotailak
(Kugluktuk)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Ed. Picco
(Iqaluit East)

Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for Multiculturalism, Homelessness and Immigration

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(Uqqummiut)

Deputy Speaker; Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Peter Kattuk
(Hudson Bay)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

David Simailak
(Baker Lake)

James Arvaluk
(Tununiq)

Steve Mapsalak
(Akulliq)

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk
(Amittuq)

Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Finance; Chairman, Financial Management Board

Hon. Levi Barnabas
(Quttiktuq)
Minister of Human Resources; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

Hon. Patterk Netser
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Members Present:

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. David Alagalak, Mr. James Arreak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Honourable Levi Barnabas, Honourable Levinia Brown, Mr. Tagak Curley, Mr. Joe Allen Evyagotailak, Mr. Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Honourable Patterk Netser, Honourable Paul Okalik, Mr. Keith Peterson, Honourable Edward Picco, Mr. David Simailak, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Peter Kilabuk)(interpretation): I would like to ask Mr. Evyagotailak to say the opening prayer. Mr. Evyagotailak.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Good morning, Mr. Premier, Ministers, and Members. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Barnabas.

Point of Privilege

Hon. Levi Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to rise on a Point of Privilege today. I would like to take this opportunity to formally apologize to the House with respect to my comments on May 30, 2008. While I had no intentions of misleading the House at any time, I take full responsibility for my comments and apologize accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Your comments have been noted and this matter is closed. We will now proceed with the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Premier Okalik.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 198 – 2(4): RCMP “V” Division Recruitment DVD

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague for his apology.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to announce the development and production of a new recruitment DVD created by “V” Division of the RCMP specifically for recruitment in Nunavut. This is one of a number of steps that the government has been working towards in tandem with the RCMP to increase Inuit representation so we can have a more effective and culturally relevant police force.

I encourage each of you, along with the local detachment, to engage community members and promote careers in the RCMP as our territory's police force. Through a career in policing, Nunavummiut can help to make their communities safer.

I am also pleased that 21 young people from 18 communities will be arriving in Iqaluit next week to start their training as summer students. In addition to their useful work in your community this summer, we hope that it will spark their interest in working towards justice for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Finance and CLEY, Minister Tapardjuk.

Minister's Statement 199 – 2(4): Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. I wish to extend a good morning to my mother-in-law, mother as well as my god-mother, as they are quite elderly women in Igloolik.

Mr. Speaker, the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders, and Youth fully supports this special day as a time to share information, learn more and discuss the issue of abuse of older adults. It is unfortunate that elder abuse exists in Nunavut, it is shameful.

Throughout Nunavut, it is time for everyone to be more aware that elder abuse exists in our territory. Elders are our teachers, our link to our past and they deserve to be treated with the utmost respect and dignity. They should not be left to their own devices. All of these people have rights and nobody should violate these rights they hold.

No one deserves to have their rights violated. No one deserves to be mistreated or exploited at any age. They should not treat anyone like orphans; they have to treat them with dignity. Those who are suffering now, mentally or physically, due to abuse, are the ones we have to assist immediately, Mr. Speaker.

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders, and Youth continues to work with other departments to raise awareness and education on this issue as increasing public awareness is one key way to addressing the needs of abused and neglected elders. It is wrong to not treat elders with the due respect and dignity they deserve. With that, we will be distributing information kits and posters regarding the deferential manner in which Inuit are supposed to treat their elders, in all official languages, to every hamlet and community in Nunavut.

Please join me in making Nunavummiut aware that we need to treat our elders with respect and deference. When that day arrives, please ensure that if you happen to pass by an elder requiring assistance or who is walking, I am telling the younger generation to provide that assistance to show their respect for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education and Energy, Minister Picco.

Minister's Statement 200 – 2(4): Community Access Program

Hon. Ed. Picco (interpretation): Good morning. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the House about the Department of Education's Community Access Program, or CAP. CAP is an initiative developed by Industry Canada to help provide Canadians with affordable public access to the Internet and the skills to utilize it effectively. Under CAP, local schools, libraries and community centres act as gateways to the Internet, providing computers and support on how to make the best use of the Internet.

Mr. Speaker, this spring, the department completed a three-year project funded by the Office of Learning Technologies. The project was launched in six pilot communities to reduce the digital divide in Nunavut by increasing the availability of Inuktitut training and materials in Information and Communication Technology, or ICT. One of the outcomes of this project was the development of a website containing educational materials on ICT. Mr. Speaker, this site contains manuals in both English and Inuktitut. These manuals were reworked to make them Nunavut-relevant and then translated into Inuktitut.

Mr. Speaker, this project also delivered of workshops and one-on-one instruction on ICT. Over the course of three years, 4,459 people received one-on-one assistance and 178 participated in workshops.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, skill development is crucial to the success of all Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, based on the number of users accessing this information, this initiative has been a tremendous success. The department is pleased to offer access to and training on the Internet and computer technologies and look forward to continuing this important work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. It is noted that your Minister's Statement did not come with copies to the desk. So therefore, I'm asking you to provide a copy to the front desk for distribution to the members and the House, please.

Thank you. (interpretation) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Finance and CLEY, Minister Tapardjuk.

Minister's Statement 201 – 2(4): Youth Strategy Update

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, youth representatives from Nunavut's three regions came together in Iqaluit in March 2008 to review and revise the Youth Implementation and Development Strategy.

In community-based committees across Nunavut, youth work tirelessly to volunteer, work with their peers, and fund-raise for on-the-land events and social activities. It is evident by their commitment to committees that youth are passionate about their identity, language and culture. They value highly the importance of traditional knowledge and encourage its practice within their communities.

Mr. Speaker, my staff has prepared the Strategic Action Plan for Youth Initiatives, which I will be tabling later today, to inform us all of the developments to date, the values and the goals set out by youth for the coming years. In this document, youth participants have directed CLEY with steps to meet strategic outcomes which will strengthen youth within our society.

I would like to emphasize that we have worked very closely with NTI and the regional Inuit associations on this project, and their participation and contributions to this revised Strategic Action Plan for Youth Initiatives have been very constructive and helpful.

Mr. Speaker, the March 2008 Youth Strategy Meetings provided both an opportunity for youth to meet face-to-face and also work together to create the Strategic Action Plan for Youth Initiatives wholly based on values and ideas of Nunavut's youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

Minister's Statement 202 – 2(4): NAC Health Program Graduates

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a tremendous pleasure to recognize the graduating class of the Nunavut Arctic College.

This coming Friday, June 6, 2008, is a day to honour the graduates of the Maternity Care Worker Program and the Nursing Program. All of the graduates have worked hard at getting to this stage. I applaud them on reaching this goal and formally acknowledge this achievement.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, please join me in congratulating the Nunavut Arctic College/Dalhousie University Bachelor of Science nursing students:

- ◆ Sharon Owljoot
- ◆ Trista Mercer
- ◆ Shelly Fisher

- ◆ Allison Wheaton
- ◆ Sara Greeley

And, the Nunavut Arctic College Maternity Care Worker Certificate students:

- ◆ Terri-Lynn Byrne
- ◆ Carol Akeeagok
- ◆ Sula Enuaraq
- ◆ Nina Kanayuk
- ◆ Qovik Netser

>>Applause

The graduation of new health professionals is an exciting event. All are embarking on a journey to a wonderful career.

Mr. Speaker, learning is a lifelong process. I encourage those who are graduating Friday to continue broadening their scope of health care knowledge. The pursuit of a career in health care comes with great responsibility. These are individuals with great character and commitment.

All are role models, and for that Mr. Speaker, I wish them the best. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. If there are no more, Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 487 – 2(4): Farewell to Leetia Nowdluk

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to express my best wishes to Ms. Leetia Nowdluk, who will shortly be leaving the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, Leetia has been with the Legislative Assembly since 1999. During the Second Legislative Assembly, she has served the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* with energy, enthusiasm and dedication.

I know that I speak for all of my colleagues when I say that we will miss her. Over the years, our standing committee has spent countless hours in meetings and Leetia has always been there for us.

Mr. Speaker, I have lost count of the number of opening comments and other items that I have delivered in this House. I want to thank Leetia for helping to ensure that I have always been well prepared for our proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, Leetia is rejoining her family and moving on to a new position in Ottawa. I ask all members to join me in wishing her and her family the very best, and to thank her for a job well done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Arvaluk.

Member's Statement 488 – 2(4): Congratulations to Pond Inlet Graduates

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the grade 12 graduates in Pond Inlet. There are 14 graduates this year and they are: Joyce Angnetsiak, Ezra Arreak, Alice Erklou, Christopher Idlaut, Daniel Inuarak, Jennifer Kautainuk, Naomi Killiktee, Lysa Koonark, Natasha Mablick, Robert Peter, James Pewatoaluk, Maria Quaraq, James Simonie, and Monica Simonie.

David Parks, the principal, and the teachers have invited me to attend their graduation. I would like to say in this House that I would be very pleased to attend their graduation on June 9. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Members' Statement. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Member's Statement 489 – 2(4): Boating Safety Awareness

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I thought I was going to be waiting a bit longer. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make everyone aware that summer is coming and that students will be getting out of school and many families will be going out camping by boat. Our oceans in the Arctic can be very calm and then at times, they can become very rough. For that reason, I am encouraging people to ensure that they have safety equipment.

It is my belief that the government is responsible for ensuring that boats have safety equipment. I also believe the government should provide safety programs for boaters in Nunavut.

I think we need to know now whether or not we will be doing any studies. We should do a survey on whether all the boats have radio equipment and what kind of survival equipment they have; we need to know what the boats are equipped with.

I know in the south, the Canadian Coast Guard helps everyone by way of radio. They are provided with all kinds of equipment, such as high frequency radios and towers. We need to have this kind of equipment in Nunavut. This government should be requesting equipment from Ottawa, such as high frequency radios with antennas, comparable to those used by the Canadian Coast Guard.

I rise today because in Nunavut, during the summer, sometimes we find ourselves in dangerous situations. Therefore, I urge Ottawa to make sure that we are provided with marine safety equipment because we cannot continue without such equipment. As it stands now, we have to purchase our own radio equipment and antennas. I raise this issue in order for the minister to appreciate the seriousness of this matter.

I would like to wish the boaters an enjoyable summer in Nunavut. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Before I acknowledge any other members, I would like to note that Minister Picco's statements have been found, copied and distributed, and therefore is no longer an issue. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Member's Statement 490 – 2(4): Comments on Wife in Anglican Ministry

Mr. Simailak: Time is up, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) I just wanted say that before my time lapses. Mr. Speaker, I'm not too sure about the appropriate time to speak on this issue but I would like to raise it at this point and I could elaborate on it at some later time.

My wife Jean is here with us today. She attended the Anglican meetings held here in Iqaluit. Not only is she is my wife, she is a mother and a grandmother, and has never stopped working. Back in 1980s, she started working on religious issues. In April 2004, she was ordained as minister. Just recently, on May 31, she retired from this position.

I was very pleased to come home on May 24 when a surprise ceremony was held for her. She did not expect this. This was a very special event and everyone shared in the joy. I

know that the people of Baker Lake really appreciated her work and as my wife, I know she put in a lot of effort into her work not only in Baker Lake but everywhere.

Furthermore, I know, that although she is retired as an Anglican minister, she will continue her work. On behalf of everyone, I would like to thank my wife and that I love her, my wife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Members' Statements. Member for Baffin South, Mr. Akesuk.

Member's Statement 491 – 2(4): Reflections on Working with Peter Kattuk

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues. Before I make my Member's Statement, I wish to send my love to my wife. This is our 10th anniversary, although we have been together for more than that. I wish to let her know that our children and I are very fond of her. For 17 years, during my father's illness, my wife took care of him. I love her very much and I'm very grateful to her.

Now, to my other statement, I believe we will be heading home soon. Mr. Kattuk and I were elected back in 1999 to the First Assembly of Nunavut, including you, Mr. Speaker. During the First Legislative Assembly, we first served as regular members. I would like to thank Mr. Kattuk for all that support he has gave me during that time. We eventually became Members of Cabinet after less than two years as regular members.

When we became Members of Cabinet, one memory stands out from all the rest. I remember the issue of the time zone in Nunavut. It was quite difficult for the regular members and it was our very first challenge to deal with in the House, and that bill did not appear to have been passed in the House. We were very happy to see that, as we were on our way to our offices on the first floor, and became quite exhilarated because we thought the bill was not passed, so we assumed that it would not be implemented.

Mr. Irqittuq, Mr. Iqaqrialuk, Mr. Nutarak, and I were so pleased because we were all from Baffin Island and we would stay in our regular time zone. However, we did not expect to see Mr. Quirke come to the first floor offices to say that this bill was passed and that's how it was going to be. All of a sudden, our group plunged from feelings of exhilaration to deep depression. So that is a very vivid recollection of that period.

So with the challenges we were faced with, they will serve as memorable times to remember Mr. Kattuk by, as well as the previous members at that time who have all assisted each other to this day.

I am so pleased that Mr. Kattuk continued to serve his constituency. I know that even when he is no longer a member, he will recall events such as these and that he will not forget the challenges we faced at the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. I believe that you feel that it isn't any warmer this morning in the Chamber. The fans are not working properly, so that's why it's a bit cool in the Chamber and we apologize for that.

Members' Statements. Member for the High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 492 – 2(4): Zacharias Kunuk Awarded Honourary Doctorate by Trent University

Hon. Levi Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good morning. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my relatives to inform the Members of the Legislative Assembly and all Nunavummiut of a momentous occasion involving my older brother, Zacharias Kunuk.

Zacharias will be receiving an honorary doctorate from Trent University tonight and as a result, his title will henceforth be Dr. Zacharias Kunuk. This is not the first time that he has received recognition. Zacharias is a recipient of the Order of Canada. He is, as most of you are aware, a co-producer and partner of the famous Isuma Productions film company.

This film company was the first ever to produce a movie entirely in Inuktitut, with Inuit actors, Inuit clothing, and based on the Inuit legend of *Atanaarjuat*. They have also now produced their version of the Journals of Knud Rasmussen to try and preserve Inuit culture. This company has been in the forefront of producing films by Inuit, for Inuit, and in Inuktitut.

I am quite pleased to announce this as it is a reason for celebrating the achievements of Zacharias Kunuk. So on behalf of my sister, who is in Baker Lake, as well as my relatives in Igloolik, please join me in celebrating Zacharias' achievements. The ceremonies will take place tonight at 8 p.m. at Trent University. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 493 – 2(4): Thanks to All Members

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I did not have the opportunity to complete my Member's Statement and if I am in error, I know that you will stop me, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, as I previously stated, I believe that this may be my last session. Yesterday, when members started to say their greetings, my prepared statement went by the wayside, so I would like to return to my original statement.

I wish to announce a significant item to the House, Mr. Speaker. During our very first meeting, our Clerk, John Quirke, was unknown to me. However, I am quite proud to state that I know him. He is continually assisting me, although I have to be routed through Montreal to reach Iqaluit, especially when we are conducting our standing committee meetings, he still makes all my travel arrangements.

I thank all the Legislative Assembly staff as well as all the interpreters for all their hard work. Even though I might have a different dialect, the editors managed to convert my statements into the proper context in English, so I thank them for their assistance.

I would also like to express my gratitude to my family. Firstly, to my wife Alice, I hope to see her tomorrow, as well as my grandchild, *Unakuluk*.

>>*Laughter*

I hope to see them tomorrow and although we talked on the phone, she is still less than a year old, having been born last August, so she generally does not recognize me, but I get her to call me *Ataatatsiaq* on the phone. I am grateful that I will be able to see her tomorrow.

As well, I called home this morning and my wife answered, she stated that she was quite bloody, so I asked her if she cut herself. She stated that she had bloody hands because she was making *Nikku* from Beluga meat.

I can state unequivocally that Sanikiluaq residents do not waste any meat whatsoever. When we are done with a beluga whale carcass, all you see is the skeletal remains. The meat is made into *Nikku* and this includes the back muscles, as well as their intestines, which we stuff with meat. The intestines are very delicious to eat and they are called "Sanikiluaq Sausages."

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues.

There have been several cases where I have undergone stressful periods in the House and I am quite pleased that there were people who could assist me in dealing with them.

Take medical travel as an example. This issue vexed me earlier, but it is now something I am proud of since the Minister of Health collaborated with me to resolve the issues, both in the Legislative Assembly as well as through other means. There are now three trips to Winnipeg a week, however, there is always a qualifier.

Mr. Speaker, the qualifier in this case is the concern that I kept raising about these flights and that is the fact that there were no toilet facilities on that aircraft and it tends to be a long flight to Winnipeg. I flew on that flight once, perhaps three weeks ago, and the toilet was quite unstable. I tried to use the toilet and was it ever problematic; it is a push button toilet.

>>*Laughter*

But I am happy that it's at least available for use now.

As well, I would like to raise the matter of social issues which Inuit are still grappling with in our communities, so I would like to make this statement here in the House. In recalling Premier Okalik's statement that when he was undergoing stressful periods, I would call him every so often and I would advise him with *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* which had been passed down to me from my father and grandmother, and that was my sole advice.

No one is immune to this as everyone undergoes hardships some time in their lives and more so on certain days. IQ states that you are to immediately try and leave that stressful environment. You may grapple with an issue for a while, but you are supposed to release it so that it stops stressing you out because it is a past event. Problems may drop onto our laps and cause us grief or anger, but we're supposed to leave them behind after we deal with them because it is already in the past. We are moving forward into the future, so we have to look at more optimistic ideas.

I am making this statement especially to the younger generations, who have inherited the stressful environment which we are now living in, and when they get troubled, they tend to try and cut their lives short. This is the case and that is why I am stating for the record, if you are deeply concerned about an issue, don't dwell on it and move forward. We all wake up to a new day everyday and one ought to take that approach that today is a new day. So please ensure that you always try that approach.

I wanted to state this here in the House as I would like this to be practiced: if you have concerns, please do not dwell on them. The more you dwell on these issues, the more they take from you mentally and spiritually, so that is why you have to leave those issues behind. Even if someone tries to make you depressed, please be aware that it will pass,

even though it feels as if it will never pass. That is a common belief of people suffering depression. Let go of your problems and try to be more optimistic in your life, and that is my wish that everyone can do so.

I know that I have stated that I will be under the surgeon's knife on September 9, but I do not know how long I will be convalescing. If I am fine, perhaps even on crutches, I may be able to return prior to the end of the fall session if I have the opportunity to do so.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. I know that this may be your last statement, but please know that your advice will not be forgotten in this House and we are thankful for your sage advice.

Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Member's Statement 494– 2(4): Graduates from Hall Beach

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. I was struck by the thoughtfulness of Mr. Kattuk's comments, so I thank him for that.

I rise today to congratulate the students in Hall Beach who will be graduating from grade 12 on June 9, 2008. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we make statements to try and encourage students to complete their education, so I will mention the students who are graduating in Hall Beach.

The graduates are: Jennifer Angutaattuq, Joyce Arnarjuaq, Louise Ikeperiar, Steve Itturiligaq, Silas Kammuka, Nina Kuppaq, Mavis Panikpakutsik, Sharon Pialaq, Susanne Pialaq, Kane Pikuyak, Jonah Qanaatsiaq, Erica Tungilik, and Lorne Tungilik.

Those are the grade 12 graduates from Hall Beach and I congratulate them on their completion of their secondary education. I, along with all Members of this House, wish them success in all of their future endeavours. Please join me in congratulating these graduating students in Hall Beach. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit East and Niaqunnguq, Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 495 – 2(4): Mr. Peter Kattuk

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Kattuk is well-known all over Nunavut. He is a hunter, he is a father, and Mr. Speaker, as everyone knows in the House and across Nunavut, he's a great storyteller.

Mr. Speaker, Peter and I went out hunting a few times and I want to tell a few stories about our good friend, Mr. Kattuk. One time it was just Peter and I, it was very cold, and we had gotten a couple of caribou, so Peter and I began to skin the caribou.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as you know, and you have been with me a few times, remember in Bathurst Inlet, Mr. Speaker, Peter kept looking at me with a puzzled stare, with a strange look on his face, but he didn't say anything. As you know, Peter can be very quiet.

After we finished, Peter, using the skill of a surgeon and years of experience, he had his caribou all cut up in about 15 minutes. Now, Mr. Speaker, being a pretty good skinner of caribou, and a lot of the members have been hunting with me, it took me about 45 minutes longer than Peter. So Peter looked over at me and he said, "Eddy, that was kind of messy."

>>*Laughter*

We started to laugh, and then Peter left his knife behind and we couldn't find it. Mr. Speaker, I was standing in a pool of blood. There was blood on my head, blood on my clothes, blood on my *Qamutik*, and blood on the snow. Peter looked at me and said, "Maybe next time you will be a little cleaner." Mr. Speaker, Peter is a storyteller and a hunter, but he's also a good teacher.

Mr. Speaker, Peter was the minister, as the members said yesterday, during the bad gasoline situation, and it was very stressful and people were very upset. Peter was renting a unit near me, so on our way home from the Legislative Assembly that day, we went into the Quickstop. A shopper saw Mr. Kattuk and said something very mean to Mr. Kattuk in front of myself and Peter about the gasoline and about Mr. Kattuk. Peter just smiled and was polite. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kattuk demonstrated patience and courtesy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to continue my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. The member is 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.

I have known Peter for a long time, long before we came to the Legislative Assembly as colleagues. Mr. Speaker, when you're under stress on the job as minister, and as all of the MLAs know here, sometimes it affects your family more than it does you, sometimes people will say things to your family that they won't say to you.

That day at the Quickstop, I learned something new about Peter Kattuk. I was quite upset with what was said to Mr. Kattuk and I told him so. Mr. Kattuk smiled at me again and said, "Don't worry about it. It's not worth it." I won't say exactly what he said, but he

said, "Don't worry about what they said, they'll learn." I think Mr. Kattuk demonstrated some sincere leadership.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we will be in Sanikiluaq with Peter for the graduation at the high school. I want to take this opportunity to thank Peter for his friendship and advice, and Mr. Speaker, his good humour.

Mr. Speaker, in Inuktitut, Kattuk to me is a hammer. Our Kattuk, Mr. Peter Kattuk, has been a hammer for Sanikiluaq and the residents of Sanikiluaq since 1999, and I think the whole House, we wish you the very best, Peter, in your future and we wish you the very best on your surgery on September. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Member's Statement 496 – 2(4): Grade Six Graduates of Cambridge Bay

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the grade six class in Cambridge Bay. Mr. Speaker, they will be graduating on June 10 and have invited me to their ceremony. I am very honoured by that invitation. Mr. Speaker, this is a big achievement for these kids.

Mr. Speaker, several years when I was the mayor, I held a brainstorming meeting with the youth of Cambridge Bay to talk about things that Cambridge Bay kids need.

Mr. Speaker, one of the younger kids in the elementary school said that he would like a school locker like the older students. Mr. Speaker, I told him that if he worked hard and studied that he would get that locker some day. Mr. Speaker, these grade sixers who have worked hard will be in the high school next year, and I hope that they will all get a locker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the House to join me in congratulating the grade six class on their graduation and wish them all the best in their high school years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Ms. Brown.

Member's Statement 497 – 2(4): 43 Year Anniversary with Ron Brown

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I wasn't going to make a Member's Statement but I was reminded that this might be the last time that we are here. On June 24, my husband and I will be celebrating our 43-year anniversary, and I thank my husband very much. Sometimes we go through hard times, perhaps because (interpretation ends) I'm too pushy and bossy to him. (interpretation) If that's the case, I apologize as I'm sure you're listening.

We lived with Ollie and Lizzie Ittinuar at the time Ron and I got married. They have taught us a great deal about having a good marriage. I think it was June 24, 1965 when we got married and then I gave birth to my first son on September 28 that same year. My husband cooks supper for me and never allows me to cook unless I wish to, and that's why he calls me (interpretation ends) pushy and bossy.

(interpretation) On June 25, Sally and Lorne Kusugak will be celebrating their wedding anniversary. Although they're younger than us, I will say to them, (interpretation ends) "A June Bride is a bride forever like me." Thank you for the month of June.

(interpretation) I would like to thank Mr. Kattuk and I would also like to tell a brief story about him. We all have cell phones today and when he visited my house, his cell phone rang but it was lost under the couch and we couldn't find it. It stopped ringing before we could find it, but then it rang again and we finally found it. The phone was in his jacket pocket which was draped over the chair.

>> *Laughter*

You are a good person and I would like to thank and praise you, Mr. Kattuk, for representing your constituency very well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Member for Nattilik, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Member's Statement 498 – 2(4): All the Best to Peter Kattuk and Family

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I am grateful that we have made it to this day. (interpretation ends) I thought, during the session, I would have to stand up and ask to be excused because my water broke.

>> *Laughter*

Knock on wood, it's the last day.

I wanted to say that today is possibly the last day for us. As well, I wanted to wish all my colleagues here a safe summer. (interpretation) What Peter said greatly impacts and affects our lives and I'm very pleased to have been a Member of the Legislative Assembly along with him. He often spoke of how we need to get along together, resist

provocation, and be respectful of each other. I am very thankful for having been a colleague of his to this day. I am also thankful that my colleagues have made it to this day and I hope that they have a very good summer.

(interpretation ends) I also want to take this opportunity to thank my colleague, Peter Kattuk, and to wish him and his family all the best in his retirement. I first met Peter when we had our meeting of Institute of Public Governments back in 1995 or 1994 in Cambridge Bay. He was appointed on the transition team for the Nunavut Water Board, I believe, and I was on the transition team for setting up the Nunavut Impact Review Board, and we had our inaugural meeting in Cambridge Bay.

Since that time, Peter has been consistently a genuine, kind person and I have enjoyed working with him. I'm going to miss his sense of humour. When he's telling his stories, there's always something funny that comes out and I'm going to miss that, and the issue with his toilet has been a real challenge for me to address.

>>*Laughter*

I'm just thankful my colleagues haven't asked me to reconfigure the bathrooms on the jets to make them larger for taller and bigger people. But I'm thankful to the member for raising that and now we're able to respond to the scheduled flights that are now available in Sanikiluaq.

Before he leaves, I also want to say that, as an MLA, he carried out his job with great integrity and certainly has set high standards for the next incumbent who will be coming to replace him after the next general election. You are a great role model for your community and I'm proud to have worked with you. And I have certainly learned a lot from you in how you carried out your job in the last few years here.

So with that, I want to wish you all the best, and to wish my colleagues here a happy and safe summer as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Members' Statements. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Netser.

Member's Statement 499 – 2(4): Father's Day Message to Fathers

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank Mr. Kattuk for being someone who talks about life in the most memorable terms just like elders do.

Mr. Speaker, it will be Father's Day on June 15 and I would like to make a brief statement on that. I urge all children to wish their fathers a Happy Father's Day. I would also like to tell fathers themselves to look after their children because they are building

the road for them to take. We have seen and followed the footsteps of our own fathers, so be mindful of the future you are making with your footsteps.

From time to time, we have lost our temper with our children, but when it passes, we wish to be forgiven by our own children because we know we have to share life as the future unfolds. It is our inherent duty as fathers to lead our children forward and help shape a future our children deserve. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Members' Statements. If there are no more... I'm sorry. Member for Iqaluit West, Premier Okalik.

Member's Statement 500 – 2(4): Wishing Nunavummiut a Safe Spring and Summer

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is our last day and I would like to make it clear that, even though this is our last day, I will be travelling to the communities and I will probably go to half of the communities.

>>Applause

Let your constituents know that I will be travelling to the communities and I am always thankful every time I go to the communities because when I go to the communities, they take a big load off of me because they're always so welcoming. So I thank them in advance and I am looking forward to seeing them. I wish all Nunavummiut a safe spring and summer. Take good care of your relatives and enjoy the hunting season this summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Members' Statements. If there are no more, we will go back to our Orders of the Day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. If there are no... my apologies, Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 563 – 2(4): CGS Initiatives in Kugluktuk

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to a question on the shortage of naphtha in Kugluktuk. The Petroleum Products Division discovered, during their annual year end inventory tour in early March of this year, that the inventory of naphtha on hand in Kugluktuk would not be sufficient to sustain sales until the summer re-supply season.

On April 4, 2008, a total of 12 drums of naphtha were airlifted from our Cambridge Bay inventory to provide sufficient fuel until the anticipated re-supply date. However, due to increased activities in the community this spring, our sales of naphtha increased from 10,000 litres for the past four years to 17,000 litres this fiscal year. PPD was advised by the fuel delivery contractor in Kugluktuk that our remaining inventory was nearly depleted the week of May 23.

PPD is working to secure... pardon me, Mr. Speaker, I will start that over. PPD is working to source a supply of naphtha to airlift into Kugluktuk. However, all suppliers contacted are waiting on the main supply from Imperial Royal Limited of Edmonton, Alberta. PPD was advised that the supply of naphtha from Imperial would not be available until the first week of June. PPD will airlift an additional 15 drums of naphtha to sustain the community as soon as the product is available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. If there are no more, Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Netser.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I would like to welcome all the visitors here. My Constituency Assistant in Coral Harbour is Paul Pudlat.

>>*Applause*

And right next to him is Lucasie Nakoolak, formerly of Coral Harbour, but I believe he is now a minister in Taloyoak. He looks almost like his father, so it's very good to see him. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome them to the Gallery. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very honoured to finally recognize a person from Repulse Bay, Seemee Maliki. He is originally from Igloolik but has lived in Repulse Bay for a long time. With him is his son, Paul Maliki, who is well-known throughout Nunavut, perhaps throughout the world, as a very famous carver. Some of his work is even here in the Assembly and outside as well. I welcome both of them to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Welcome to the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation) I

would like to welcome all of our visitors to the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. If there are no Oral Questions... Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 607 – 2(4): Road Dust

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a few questions here. My question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, last week, I walked around Iqaluit and noticed there has been quite a bit of dust and it has been hard on the eyes and throat.

Mr. Speaker, I raised the issue of road dust control with the Minister of Community and Government Services during our fall session and I suggested a meeting with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities to discuss how to control dust on the roads this summer.

My question for the minister: can the minister update or inform the House what her department is doing this summer to help communities control the dust? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for raising his question. All Nunavummiut are concerned about dust, especially when it gets windy. I can only tell the member that all hamlets within Nunavut get funding of about \$48,000 every year from the government to try and address the road dust problems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, it has been well-documented that road dust is a health hazard and that it's a danger to pedestrians and traffic, and I mentioned that during the fall session. Other jurisdictions in Canada have actually addressed it by coming up with some innovative solutions. In Northern Quebec, I think they even paved most of the roads because it's that serious down there.

My question for the minister: would the minister explain to the House why the issue of uncontrolled road dust has not been a priority for Community and Government Services in recent years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is an obvious concern. We can work closely with other organizations and provinces. As a government, if these were related to health matters, we can sit down with the Health Department to resolve these concerns.

As well, I believe that there are funds set aside for that through the Building Canada Fund. However, the plans are not finalized yet. This is still an utmost priority for this government and as I mentioned earlier, \$48,000 has been set aside in our budgets for every community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the minister does recognize that dust is an issue. I'm not sure about the figure that she just gave me, the \$48,000, it doesn't sound like a lot of money for such an important issue in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the Department of Community and Government Services has done some research into road dust. My question to the minister: would the minister tell us which method of road dust control the Department of Community and Government Services prefers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for raising that issue. Yes, this is indeed an important and serious matter due to its health implications. Some of our people can get health complications due to the dust.

The mandate for the road dust control methods lies with the hamlets, and the communities have free rein as to the method and usage of those funds to deal with the dust control issues. I have been apprised of some of the methods used in the communities and every community has slightly different methods of dust control which they lay down on the roads.

Roads with heavy road traffic and the main roads within the hamlets usually are the ones that are focused on for dust control. I will keep encouraging the hamlets to inform us of the issues surrounding dust control. If I am notified that the funding of \$48,000 is inadequate, then I could look into the matter and help in trying to find solutions to this problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, I recognize that hamlets are responsible for dust control, but they are also responsible for thousand other things and there is only so much funding to go around.

Last summer in Cambridge Bay, the hamlet had to water their roads two or three times a day and that just wasn't adequate. You need a more permanent solution than watering. I believe this isn't a problem that's going to disappear overnight. The increasing use of vehicles and four wheelers contributes to the dust control.

The minister mentioned earlier that she talked to the Department of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister: has the minister talked to her colleagues about forming an Interdepartmental Committee of Community and Government Services, Economic Development and Transportation, and Health and Social Services to talk about innovative solutions to control the road dust in the communities in the summer months? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to acknowledge the Hamlet of Kugluktuk who waters their roads to control road dust.

This is indeed an increasing problem, seemingly with no end in sight. This can impact on several ministerial portfolios, including Community and Government Services, Economic Development and Transportation, Health, as well as Environment. Quite a number of departments can be impacted by this issue. This is especially the case if the road dust causes health complications or issues.

We would not be the only department dealing with it, but I know that we are the only department to allocate funds to combat this problem and this is to try and minimize the impacts on our residents. I am sympathetic to the concerns of our residents with respect to this common concern, but I take this problem seriously and will assist in finding solutions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Question 608 – 2(4): Help for Substance Abuse Addicts

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for Health, especially with regards to her Social Services portfolio.

Our population is increasing, who are our fellow Nunavummiut, especially the younger generations. However, it is affecting those who have grown past the age of majority and whom are now capable of thinking for themselves. A person has to make their own

determination as to their condition and only an individual can ask for help prior to them being assisted by the pertinent services.

However, unfortunate as the case may be, people with impaired mental faculties are gaining the age of majority. These people are suffering from FASD, or suffering from drug or substance abuse stemming from their childhood, and so on. However they fell into that category of mentally impaired people doesn't matter, but these people cannot make decisions as it relates to their mental or physical health and they will not ask for assistance.

When people are in that situation, how is it understood that they need treatment and how can they be treated if they have not personally asked for assistance, such as requests to the Social Services? I would like to understand how we can best assist these individuals who are in that situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, we have mental health workers, social workers, A&D counsellors, nurses, and psychiatric nurses that are available in the community level that are there to provide assistance for mental health issues or counselling, and so on.

If I understand the member's question correctly, I believe he's asking the question: how do we deal with individuals that cannot identify that they have mental health issues? From what I understand of the programs, there are referrals that can be made and concerns can be expressed through family, and so on, to be reviewed by individuals.

Under the legislation, I believe we also have provisions there where we can intervene in some cases. I'm not sure exactly which legislation that applies to, but the services are at the community level. At the same time, respecting that individuals have their rights, and so on, when referrals are made, the assistance is at the community level.

From the broader perspective, we're also trying to build better capacity at the community level through training people in the north to be mental health and addictions counsellors. We had our graduates last year and we're continuing with that program to try and build the capacity at the community level to deliver counselling services, not only through training, and so on, but also in the Inuktitut language and so on at the community level.

I hope that addresses some of the questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue is such that one wants complete clarity on. Do I understand correctly that a person who has attained the age of majority, who is suffering from mental health issues, who cannot ask for help, and whom

the family wishes treated, that either the direct family or relatives can identify that person to Social Services?

Let's just say for example that my son or daughter, whomever, has someone who requires assistance but who cannot ask for assistance, they can now go directly to the Social Services and request assistance for that person. Did I understand that correctly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to further investigate, but I understand there are provisions in place and I don't know if it's under the child welfare legislation or under the *Mental Health Act* where the department can intervene. I will have to clarify what legislation is in place when it's deemed "in danger" to that person. So before I elaborate on that, I would prefer to research that further before I can respond to the member's question.

But there are some services available at the community level and if there are issues around mental health issues, parents can seek assistance for their children, or family members, and so on. At the same time, where there are extreme cases, we, as a department, will provide 24/7 support to people with mental illness issues, and are provided 24/7 care and assistance by the department whether it be within the Nunavut territory or outside the territory as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Minister, for that clarification. (interpretation) What about the social service workers? Take Baker Lake for example. Are they trained to identify individuals with mental problems and how to give them the type of support that they require? With mental health, FAS, or substance abuse, are social service workers trained to identify those types of illnesses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to go down the list of physicians that are available in Baker Lake to see which professions are there. Having said that, there are also referrals made. If the service is not readily available at the community level, referrals are also made to specialists that can provide counselling.

In the north, like doctors that visit our communities, we also have counsellors that come in, psychiatrists that come in, or referrals can be made as well, depending on what is

available at the time, at the community level, whether it be for assessments or ongoing counselling services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People with mental health problems need services and I'm very proud of the nurses in our communities who have very heavy responsibilities. They try to provide all the services that are required, which is not a light responsibility. That's also the case with your social service providers.

Could you direct your senior management here in Iqaluit or in Rankin Inlet to make sure that there are support services provided to the social service workers so that we can provide the type of services that are required by the people with mental problems? There is additional support required by the people with those types of work. Could the minister indicate to the House if she would be willing to do that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just going through my notes. We have three mental health workers and specialists in Baker Lake and three social workers in that community. But to go back to the member's question, some time this summer or in the fall, in partnership with the Department of Justice, there's a conference that will be held in Nunavut to talk about mental health and addictions programs in Nunavut.

Having said that, I also responded to a couple of questions yesterday on the work that the Department of Health and Social Services is trying to do in developing a Mental Health and Addictions Strategy for Nunavut. I mentioned yesterday and responded to the Member from Cambridge Bay's question that we're doing a baseline assessment on how better we can integrate the services at the community level around treatment and mental health issues.

A lot of that work is still ongoing but I look forward to reporting on that. It is an issue that we have to address. I recognize the member's concerns and I share the member's concerns, and I look forward to providing some information on that, hopefully in September.

At the same time, the conference, in partnership with other stakeholders, will be held in Nunavut this fall or this summer just around how we can better address mental health and addictions treatments in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Question 609 – 2(4): Marine Safety Program

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question about an issue that I mentioned in my Member's Statement earlier.

With boating and outings coming up this summer, there will be safety incidents taking place. I would like to ask the minister what types of marine safety programs will be available during this upcoming boating season. Will adequate information be made available to the boating public about safety and whether their equipment is adequate?

I am directing my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services, whom I believe is responsible for boat safety. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleague. Yes, he is right on the nose, I am responsible for safety programs. I am also trying to ensure that we have safety programs available with the assistance of the different government departments during the boating season this summer.

We will make sure that the regulations are put out by Community and Government Services. We will be conducting a boating safety campaign and make sure that all information is made available to the communities with the assistance of Economic Development and Transportation and the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hear what the minister is saying and I hear that the various departments are going to be working together, but I'm sure that the Nunavummiut would like to know what exactly will be available.

Some of the boats are too small and get overloaded, and I think it's about time that we, as a government, should regulate the capacity of boats, floaters, and so on. Some boats go out without any floaters or lifejackets. Will this kind of thing be included in your safety campaign? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his concerns and for bringing up safety awareness. Of course, it's the responsibility of each boat owner, vessel owner, or large and small boat owners to abide by the guidelines. However, that does not always happen, so there needs to be some kind of a monitoring system, which has been poor in the past, and we're trying to upgrade that. We will work with that new

Workers' Compensation Board, they have a new name but it's under WSCC. I have not got the proper term yet, but it is under Workers' Compensation.

We will work on that with ED&T, the RCMP, and our own department because safety awareness is an issue, as the member mentioned. There will be advertisements and we will make sure that every community is aware about safety and regulations.

So we will attempt all we could and awareness is most important by any means of media, or TV, or even pamphlets, local radio - any avenue that we could use, we will try to use just to put safety awareness out to the public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister because we have to get the information out there. I'm sure you will be working with the RCMP in the communities, but I think it would also be important for you to work with the search and rescue organizations.

This spring, after there was a search and rescue issue, this individual was told that there are emergency locator beacons that are available from the RCMP. They shouldn't be with the RCMP because the RCMP is not user-friendly. I would strongly suggest that you give those devices to the hamlet councils because they will be more available to the individuals who are going on long hunts.

We use high frequency radios, but the Coast Guard uses antennae and beacons where they have a very strong signal and those can also be available to the boaters. Is it possible to get beacons set up in the communities so that we can have better frequencies? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleague for providing very good suggestions and advice. I would like to thank him very much because those radios have to be available. I know that we will start enhancing all of this because we're starting to work closely together with the RCMP. I know that we need to start developing some programs so that we could start saving some money on safety issues.

I take my colleague's question to heart because, as I stated, the RCMP, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, ED&T, and our department will continue to work together, especially search and rescue will be involved. I apologize for forgetting the fact that the search and rescue organizations are so useful and beneficial to the communities. They will continue to be involved because they hold vast knowledge in the communities when there is a search and rescue situation.

We will tighten the loose ends that need to be tightened. I would like to state that because I know that we had expended a lot of money in search and rescue due to flaws in the system. Sometimes the hunters don't bring their emergency equipment that they're supposed to bring along. The hunters have to make sure that they have adequate equipment when they go boating, or hunting, or travelling on the land for any reason. They have to bring along their survival equipment. Ed Zebedee, who is on our staff, knows about locator beacons.

I have heard many times that those beacons should not be at the RCMP. When I was going to travel to Whale Cove by snowmobile, I had to go get my own locator beacon from the RCMP. I wanted to bring it because, as the minister, I didn't want to lead a bad example, even though I didn't have to use that equipment. The RCMP officers were very receptive. All you have to do is sign the locator out and tell the RCMP when you will be coming back. I know, however, and I have heard that these locators should be situated at the hamlet offices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Just a reminder to the members that in order for all members to have an opportunity to ask their questions, please try and make your questions and responses short and to the point.

Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 610 – 2(4): Concerns Regarding Where Nunavummiut go to Voice Concerns about Mining Development

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask my question to the Premier.

Last week, I had asked who our constituents can go to if they had a concern in regard to the impact of mining development. When the Premier made his response to me, he stated that we could speak to the regional Inuit associations, such as the Qikiqtani Inuit Association as an example. I was not too pleased with his response when our communities are going to be impacted.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we cannot deny that the mining development can and will have an enormous social and economic impact. This issue was raised last fall by my colleague from the west. At that time, the Minister of Health and Social Services recognized the government's important role in the area and made extra effort to start their partnership with the regional Inuit association in order that all parties be better prepared with the impact of resource development

(interpretation) I would like to ask the Premier for a detailed response. How come the government has no direct role in addressing Inuit concerns regarding the social and economic impacts of resource development in the north during the same time in which

they're negotiating with the federal government and the mining companies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I believe I was responding to a question in relation to the land claims agreement and IIBAs, Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements, which are clearly outlined in the land claims agreement. Those are private arrangements that are negotiated between the regional Inuit associations and the developer. There is no role for the federal government and no role for the territorial government in those discussions. Those are private matters that are arranged through the land claims agreement.

What we have done as a government is we have created tax incentives for the developers so that we can have a role above that and try and ensure that there is a positive impact coming out of development throughout the territory. That's not outlined in the land claims agreement but that's something that we created as a government because we see the potential benefits and impacts of development for Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Your first supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the Premier. The Premier already knows that at the time when we were dealing with firearms licence issues, the government took part and took the side of Inuit along with the western provinces when they faced the federal government. I know that it wasn't the responsibility of the Government of Nunavut if they didn't want to take that on. Likewise with mining development, especially for the communities that are going to have a social impact.

It is clear that the social impact of mining development can have far reaching consequences. Let me make a preamble before I ask my question. Social Services will try to deal with individuals who are impacted. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, does the Premier agree that a healthy working relationship between the government and the private and public sectors is an important aspect of resource development? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yes, absolutely. Even though we don't control development and it's controlled by the federal

government today, we are trying to acquire that responsibility. Even though we don't have a role today, we are finding ways to take part and make sure that there are benefits flowing to the communities that are affected the most.

I'm going to Baker Lake next week to open a road that we have a role in creating through our tax regime. Thank goodness to the minister at the time and the Member for Baker Lake. It's an obvious benefit that we have created for that community and I want to see that everywhere throughout Nunavut. That is something that we're trying to do. Even though we have no control over it, we're trying to find ways to ensure that these companies leave a positive legacy behind to Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Your second supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is equally important to plan for the economic impacts of mining development, as well as the social ones. The mine at Mary River will impact local business opportunities in the area of logistics, transportation, catering, and other support services.

Will the Premier commit to working with the community of Pond Inlet, along with government departments, such as Economic Development and Transportation, to develop a plan to minimize the negative impacts that the mine will have on Pond Inlet residents and surrounding communities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We appreciate the investment taking place throughout Nunavut and we encourage it very much because it creates opportunities for Nunavummiut.

At the same time, the regime that we have set up is that if these developers want to have tax benefits flowing to them, they have to cooperate with our government, in turn, with communities that will be impacted the most. If they refuse to do that, they won't get any tax benefits like the fuel tax rebate that we introduced.

So that is the give and take that we have offered to all developers, and I look forward to good discussions with Baffinland and other companies that are doing some very good work throughout the territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does this mean that I can now inquire of the Premier whether they have concrete plans for development?

Using Pond Inlet as an example, Baffinland has already expended millions of dollars to date on their project. What happens if they do not get approval for this development? Will they turn on the people or government for the losses they may have incurred to that point? Is the government bureaucracy prepared to assist communities to minimize any future impacts as a direct result of lost developments, such as mitigatory plans, for the community of Pond Inlet as it relates to this and will we be able to get a copy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To date, we have not signed an agreement because we first have to come to an understanding as parties.

The mining companies in Nunavut have to submit their requests for assistance to the government. If they want to get the tax rebate, they first have to approach the government and once they have submitted their requests, then we can sit at the table and negotiate the issues. The first question we pose is, "How can you provide benefits to the community?" Once they have highlighted the benefits, then these negotiations generally progress from there.

That's exactly what occurred in Baker Lake and that has been a positive impact for the community as well as the surrounding communities. There are people gainfully employed in these communities. We want to see that happen in all of the communities in Nunavut no matter where they are.

This project is not even at that stage since they are only in the advanced exploration stages and are nowhere near the production stage. They are still conducting feasibility studies for that project near Pond Inlet. Once they have surpassed the exploration stage and have progressed further, then they can request our assistance and the process would be kick-started from there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Question 611 – 2(4): Polar Bear Quota for Sanikiluaq

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Environment.

This winter during our last session, I posed a similar question to the minister and it was with respect to the polar bear population in our area. The minister stated previously that the survey for the Hudson Bay population would commence this year. Can the minister advise me as to the exact date of this survey? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. The researchers have yet to inform us of the specific dates as to when they would commence their survey, so I will have to request information on that date. This is a very important project and we have planned it accordingly, but they have not given the start date for their survey. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This research should be commenced as it is a critical survey. The department stated previously that other communities received increases to their quotas, but that the Hudson Bay population required a survey prior to any possible increases. We were told that this survey would commence in 2008 and it should be undertaken immediately. We envied the other communities when their polar bear quotas were increased.

I would like to ask the minister this question as per his past statements that Inuit would be involved during the polar bear surveys. The concern that is overriding for the Inuit is the continued use of helicopters by the surveyors. Inuit could tranquilize the polar bear within minutes of sighting it, perhaps within two to five minutes. So will the local Inuit be involved in all future surveys of polar bears adjacent to their communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, I will request information on this issue. However, the HTO boards are fully involved with all wildlife management issues in their areas, including surveys. They would be consulted as to the start dates as well as the timing of the survey.

And as per Mr. Curley's comments, if we were to incorporate *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, it would be much better. We have made the Elders Advisory Committee a priority and are continuing to work at it since it would really benefit the operations of our government. This committee would really benefit us and since these Inuit are more knowledgeable about polar bears, we want to utilize their knowledge when it comes to more effective and less intrusive polar bear research surveys all across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister stated that he is not aware of the commencement date of the survey, so perhaps he can direct the surveyors to get around to it as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I will speak with my wildlife officials in regard to his request and let the member know. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Question 612 – 2(4): 30 Year Anniversary of the Hamlet in Repulse Bay

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a two-part question and all it requires is a yes or a no. My question is for the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, the Hamlet of Repulse Bay will be celebrating their 30th anniversary on July 2 and our community rarely gets important visitors from our government. Can I ask the Premier if he would be available to attend to the 30th anniversary celebration in our community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can agree to that request, Mr. Speaker, but they will have to take me on my first narwhal hunt. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Your first supplementary, Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Premier bring the CGS Minister along or appoint one of the other ministers to see if they can come to Repulse Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just spoke to Ms. Brown and her reply was that she would like to go if she can also go narwhal hunting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Your second supplementary, Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Premier saying that he's in agreement to go to my community? We will be in agreement to take him along if he says yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Question 613 – 2(4): Status of Clean-up of Old Baker Lake Power Station

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's slightly cold in the Chambers this morning, but very comfortable for us. In any case, I would like to ask my question to the Minister of Energy.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there are ongoing concerns within the community of Baker Lake and that there is a prime area of land that's been quite heavily contaminated with fuel spills, dating back to maybe even the 60s, 70s and 80s certainly, when that land was occupied by the old Northern Canada Power Commission, Ministry of Transport houses, who had an elaborate system of pipelines going to all of the houses by carrying fuel.

Over the years, there have been a large number of fuel spills in all of that whole area and also included in that area now is what used to be the Baker Lake power plant in the process of being decommissioned.

So with all of that pollution in a prime area of land in Baker Lake, can the minister clarify for the record the Government of Nunavut's position with respect to the allocation of responsibility between the territorial and federal governments for cleaning up that site? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Minister of Energy, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct, there is contamination on the site in Baker Lake and it does go back to the 60s and the 70s with the old Northern Canada Power Commission, NCPC. At that time, NCPC was a federal entity owned by and for as a Crown corporation of the federal government, as well as the federal Ministry of Transportation. We believe the hydrocarbon dating and data information shows and demonstrates to us that that fuel has been there since that time, and indeed, is attributable to the federal government.

So far, Mr. Speaker, we have spent over \$400,000 and that's the Qulliq Energy Corporation, QEC, along with the hamlet, we put a Waterloo Barrier in place because where the oil and the hydrocarbons are is on an elevation and gravity is bringing them down the hill toward Baker Lake itself. We don't want to see a situation where the lake of Baker Lake is contaminated by oil.

We have written to INAC, Indian and Northern Affairs, as well as the federal Ministry of Transportation. They have not given a positive response that they would be involved, or interested, or even take ownership over the issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Mapsalak.

>>*Laughter*

I'm sorry. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Hamlet of Baker Lake itself expected to cover any of those costs with their own funds? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Minister of Energy, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, at the present time, the Power Corporation has been working very close with the hamlets. We believe that the federal government has the fiduciary responsibility, has a legal responsibility to be involved, and indeed, to carry those costs with regard to the remediation and the clean-up of the site. It is an extensive problem in the community.

The costs that are associated with it to date, over \$400,000, has been borne through efforts of the hamlet and QEC. I'm not in a position right now, in the House, to state what the liability and what those costs may be and again who, at the end of the day, would be ultimately responsible. We believe that we have a legal opinion that points that the federal government, because of the dating of the hydrocarbon contamination, is responsible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister mentioned that they did put in a Waterloo Barrier last summer, are there any plans to do any more work this coming spring and summer in terms of reclamation of the land itself or any kind of work so that the Hamlet of Baker Lake can start using that land in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Minister of Energy, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Qulliq Energy Corporation will continue to operate the Waterloo Barrier to ensure that there isn't oil seepage into Baker Lake.

Secondly, CGS has also been asked to come on board to provide assistance toward the hamlets in clean-up operations or remediation. Those discussions have to continue and we believe that, over the next several weeks, following up with the conversations, and indeed, written work that we have done with our federal partner to see if we can get them to the table, it is going to be very costly and we believe the federal government has the responsibility here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister could state in the House today what the plans are for the demolition of the old power plant. Is that work scheduled to begin this spring and be finished this summer, or what sort of a timeframe was the department looking at in terms of the demolition of the old power plant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Minister of Energy, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will be moving forward on our decommissioning of the plant in Baker Lake. Again, I want to take this opportunity to thank the member for bringing forward not only the issue with the oil contamination but the issue with the more expedient decommissioning of the plant in Baker Lake.

I'll have an opportunity between now and the end of the month to be in Baker Lake with the member and have an opportunity to review what has occurred on the file. Again, Mr. Speaker, the decommissioning of the power plant in Baker Lake will be expedited this summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Curley.

Question 614 – 2(4): Government's Plan on Effects of Development

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask my question to the Premier to get clarification regarding mining, similar to a previous question, as Nunavummiut would like to know what is happening in Nunavut.

The Inuit organizations that assist their people by preparing for the impact agreements have to be commended and I would like to thank them for protecting Inuit and future benefits that can accrue from mining development.

I also know the federal government has legislation in place for petroleum and mineral exploration and development. They have that legislative authority. Yes, we know that they have that power. However, the Government of Nunavut has to consider strategies and plans to ensure that Nunavummiut can benefit further from these projects and how

our people can become wealthier, especially our people who live in the communities. This is within the mandate of our government - to plan for all eventualities and draft strategies to ensure those benefits that can accrue to our people are protected, and to provide for more opportunities for Inuit when there is a mining development project.

This government has to have a strategy in place, especially since there will be social impacts to our communities. We all know that alcohol and other social ills accompany such developments, so the government must have a plan in place. Mr. Premier, when you stated that the federal government has the responsibility for management of resource development, did I hear you say that the Government of Nunavut cannot assist due to not having jurisdiction over these matters? Is that what you meant when you said that?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I said was although the government has no jurisdiction over the management of resources, we have created a tax rebate program. If exploration companies want to work in Nunavut and wish to get this tax break, they have to approach our government. They are also required to come to an agreement with our government if they wish to get this rebate by offering more benefits to the impacted communities.

On top of this, we have also created a trade school to ensure that we train our Inuit to become future mine workers and this school will be in Rankin Inlet. Our territory will continue to be explored for minerals, so the government has attempted to meet these challenges with programs such as this. We are trying to ensure that our youth in Nunavut can have the opportunity to take the jobs that surface in this field. We are doing this as a government and we are trying to lay the foundation for our communities through these avenues.

If Members of this House can understand the initiatives that this government is creating to meet these challenges, such as our plan to add another RCMP officer in Baker Lake, then you would not say we are not planning for our people. Yes, we are aware of the social impacts that will visit these communities and as a government, we are offering the full support of our resources there and we continue to review these issues in Nunavut wherever it may surface. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Your first supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, these programs do assist our communities. We are aware of these programs and fully support the funds that filter down to our communities. However, we feel that it is still inadequate, especially the training initiatives, such as a trade school and other means of preparing Inuit for jobs.

In regard to labour, we ought not to prepare our people only as labourers for these mining developments here in Nunavut. Some of our residents wish to create businesses, whether

they are male or female, to work on contracts over and above the RIA contracts on the spin-off business opportunities created by such developments. There will be many opportunities created by these developments and I believe that the Nunavut government has to prepare for such eventualities. If you do not know the process that you are required to follow, I can state indubitably that the Department of ED&T grants will be insufficient to meet these challenges.

For major development projects, such as the Mary River iron ore project that possibly can operate for a 100 years, we have to revise the Mining Strategy to look at long-lived projects such as this so that it better reflects the reality we face and ensure that our residents benefit from such projects. This is especially important if we are going to look at the shipping and transportation aspects of the project, whether it's the maintenance of all-weather roads or others. We are preparing for that in Baker Lake and Rankin Inlet.

I believe that the minister has to get to work on these challenges and not just sit there because some of these projects will have long-term impacts on our communities and only this government can deal with these issues in Nunavut for Nunavummiut. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I reiterated earlier, the events in Baker Lake are a model for other communities. All businesses are working with the mineral companies to look at these challenges and create solutions that benefit both parties. If businesses and mineral companies work together, they can come up with innovative solutions here in Nunavut.

The communities in that area, such as Pond Inlet and surrounding communities, have not reached that development stage as of yet. They are only in the exploration stages. We are waiting for the company to approach us so that we can come up with an agreement. Mining development can benefit all Nunavummiut if done properly.

We will continue to travel down this road and we have seen examples of how best to deal with the opportunities presented by such developments. We have seen how goals and objectives can be reached, and as a government, we want to work with the mining companies as well as the communities to deal with these issues in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Your second supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to these developments and the processes that have already been followed and what we have witnessed, why is it that the government only has a ten-year mining strategy?

What I'm trying to say here is that opportunities arising from the mining development projects are increasing, over and above the issues listed as negotiable under the IIBA process, as well as the federal government programs geared towards benefiting from such projects.

I can state that the loan program administered by the Government of Nunavut has to be revised to increase the amounts. When a loan of \$1 million is approved, this House tends to act as if the world is falling apart. The loan program is inadequate, especially with the increasing business opportunities offered by projects here in the Baffin region. The government strategy for economic benefits also has to be reviewed in light of these developments. Will the Premier direct his staff to undertake these strategies?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are always looking at ways on how we can make improvements. In fact, yesterday, we had a meeting about the obstacles that we encounter, legislative barriers in particular.

Further, this House passed a bill yesterday and I thank the members for that. This will benefit the private businesses who wish to create businesses to take advantage of the emerging opportunities here in Nunavut. These barriers, where we have found them, do require revision and updating. We try to update and revise them to have them minimized. This is what we have done as a government, of which I am quite proud, due to the fact that we started seeing the real benefits of these programs.

As I stated earlier, I'm preparing for a trip to Baker Lake to go and see for myself what has transpired and I know that there are many Inuit working on that project. In terms of private businesses that are trying to take advantage of these emerging opportunities, this is something that all of us want to see and we will try to work with them to assist in any capacity that we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Your final supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the programs that assist the people of Nunavut to take advantage of these emerging opportunities, but they must reflect the desires of Nunavummiut. What I and my fellow MLA for Tununig are trying to tell the government is that they have to revise and improve these outdated programs to allow Nunavummiut to benefit. Some of these programs are too limited, while others are not meeting the needs.

An example here is in the North Baffin. They will soon need a bank since the growth will be phenomenal and this includes infrastructure such as a new airport. The impacts on transportation have to be looked at and we have to improve the infrastructure prior to the mine being opened in order to take advantage of the opening. This government has to

plan accordingly so that we don't lose out. Why isn't the government willing to do that? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't want to debate these issues needlessly since we are continuing to look at ways of how we can assist communities that are impacted in regard to banks for example. These are not controlled by the government, so why are we being queried about issues we don't administer? I don't even want to discuss this matter. The things that we do administer and manage, yes, we can look at ways to improve them, and we will continue to try and improve these programs and services.

I would like to thank the Members of this House for continuing to work with us to improve these programs and how best to assist the private businesses that require our assistance so that we can better serve Nunavummiut to take opportunities that arise in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Please note that Question Period is now over and that there were other people who wanted to ask questions. Before we proceed, I would like to acknowledge the Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask for unanimous consent to go back to Item 5. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. The member is asking for unanimous consent to go back to Item 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Kattuk.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. I don't get to recognize too many people in the House, but there is a person from Sanikiluaq who is here for the Anglican Synod. I am happy that I'll be joining them as they head home on the charter.

You probably know this individual; he is a former Member of the Legislative Assembly of the NWT, Moses Apaqqaq, I would like to welcome him and his daughter, Caroline Meeko, who lives here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognitions of Visitors to the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Barnabas.

Hon. Levi Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I was young, I saw Moses Apaqqaq for the first time while working for Lootie Palluq in Yellowknife. I welcome him as well.

I would like to recognize my youngest son, who is named after my stepfather, Paingut Bob Barnabas, who is here as well and I would like to recognize him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 7. Written Questions. If there are none, Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on Review of Bills. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Committee Report on Bills 016 – 2(4): Bill 6, Official Languages Act (As Amended)

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to report that Bill 6, the *Official Languages Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit*, and that the bill as amended and reprinted is ready for consideration in the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 6 moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) to have Bill 6 moved into Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 6 is moved into Committee of the Whole.

Item 12. Reports of Committees on Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Finance CLEY, Minister Tapardjuk.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 267 – 2(4): Strategic Action Plan for Youth Initiatives

**Tabled Document 268 – 2(4): Crown Agency Council of the GN Activities Report
April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008**

Tabled Document 269 – 2(4): Grants and Contributions – GN Report 2005-2006 and Grants and Contributions – GN Report 2006-2007

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table three documents. The Grants and Contributions Reports for 2005-2006 and 2006-2007; also, Mr. Speaker, the Crown Agency Council Activity Report for the year ending March 31, 2008; and Mr. Speaker, as I stated in my Minister's Statement earlier today, I wish to table to the Strategic Action Plan for Youth Initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. We will just have those documents brought forward to the table, please.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents.

Tabled Document 270 – 2(4): Members' Guidelines and Information on Indemnities, Allowances and Services in the 2008 Election Year (Management and Services Board)

Speaker (interpretation): Members, I wish to table today the document titled Members' Guidelines and Information on Indemnities, Allowances, and Services in the 2008 Election Year. Thank you.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Item 14: Notices of Motions**Motion 042 – 2(4): Referral of Tabled Document 216 – 2(4) to the Committee of the Whole – Notice**

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday, September 9, 2008, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baker Lake, that Tabled Document 216 – 2(4), *Government of Nunavut Request for Proposals for Standing Offer Agreement for Medical Travel and Scheduled Airlines*, be referred to the Committee of the Whole for consideration. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Minister of Education and Energy, Minister Picco.

Item 16: Motions**Motion 041 – 2(4): Extended Adjournment**

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Akulliq, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the House concludes its present sitting in Iqaluit, it shall be adjourned until September 9, 2008.

Further, at any time prior to September 9, 2008, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and the Members of the Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 6 with Mr. Kattuk in the Chair.

Before we proceed with Committee of the Whole, we will take a lunch break and resume at 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 12:12 and Committee resumed at 13:36*

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

Chairman (Mr. Arreak)(interpretation): I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have Bill 6 to consider and we will move directly to Bill 6. (interpretation ends) It's on your desk marked Bill 6. (interpretation) I would like to ask the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth to make his opening remarks. Minister Tapardjuk.

Bill 06 – Official Languages Act – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, my *Annuraaqatik*. It is my pleasure to be with you today. This is an important occasion that follows decades of hope and planning and more than eight years of hard work by the government with our partners in the community. The bill before you addresses one of the most significant issues facing Inuit -- the preservation and promotion of our language. That is an essential part of the dream that resulted in the creation of Nunavut.

It may be helpful to look at the issue of language in the context of other urgent issues facing us. For instance, people around the world are concerned about climate change. Many countries are taking urgent action to protect the air, land, plants, and animals for the common good of generations to come.

Mr. Chairman, our Inuit language is as important to us as our environment. But who is voicing concern about our Inuit language? Who is responsible to protect Inuit cultural heritage for the benefit of our youth and their children? The *Nunavut Act* gives the Assembly the authority to make laws in relation to the preservation, use, and promotion of the Inuit language. This is the clearest and most powerful delegation of authority to make language laws ever given to any territory or province. We must use it at this critical time in our history.

It is anticipated that 90 percent of the 6,000 languages spoken today on the planet will vanish within the century. If we do not act, the Inuit language could be one of those. It is under tremendous pressure and struggles for survival. At risk are thousands of years of knowledge and Arctic experience that are encompassed in our language. We must fight to preserve that knowledge. Only we, as Inuit, can protect what is dearest to our hearts. No others will do it for us. As we gather today in this Legislative Assembly, we can take collective action for the common good of Inuit, for the people that we represent and serve.

Mr. Chairman, once and for all time, Bill 6 will establish the Inuit language as an official language of Nunavut. For the first time, Inuit in Nunavut will have a clear legal statement of their inherent right to use the Inuit language in full equality with English and French. This will exceed any other statutory protection in place for Inuit or an aboriginal people in Canada.

Mr. Chairman, the *Official Languages Act* is a key first element in our work to ensure the Inuit language stays at the center life of Nunavut, while respecting the rights of those who speak English and French. The government has a duty to respond to indigenous as well as minority languages which experience disadvantages. The promotion of the French language and the vitality of the francophone community within Nunavut flow from many of the same considerations and legal principles as the protection and the promotion of the Inuit language. Bill 6 will deal with the use of language in the Legislative Assembly and the courts and with the delivery of territorial government services to the public. Provisions of the bill will ensure that signs, notices, and documents from Nunavut public bodies are in the official languages, including the Inuit language.

Bill 6 will establish clear lines of authority regarding language use. A single minister will be given the responsibility for overseeing an official languages implementation plan and be held accountable for progress. The role of the Languages Commissioner has been strengthened and expanded both as a language ombudsman and through a compliance function to ensure that the legislation is followed.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the support and cooperation shown by the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* in their approach to this work. They devoted a substantial amount of attention to Bill 6 through their deliberations, consultations, and the public session they held in December to discuss the bill with me. Recently, they concluded a very productive detailed review of the legislation and we have agreed upon a number of amendments to

improve the bill. These will ensure clarity and a more effective approach to protection and promotion of the Inuit language.

The committee review of Bill 6 resulted in many helpful adjustments to Bill 6, including amendments designed to:

- Clarify in the preamble that both individual and collective rights are recognized and affirmed, and affirm the independence of the Legislative Assembly and the courts;
- Clarify further the privileges and independence of the Legislative Assembly, the manner in which various reports will be handled, and allow the Assembly to initiate a review of the legislation and implementation of Bill 6 earlier than six years after it comes into force if they so choose;
- Clarify the obligation of the courts to provide translations of decisions where a participant is substantially affected;
- Ensure a consistent approach to the Inuit language requirements for the records and journals of the Legislative Assembly, Acts and regulations;
- Clarify that every bill will be introduced in Inuktitut to the Legislative Assembly, and that an Inuit language version of a bill can be declared authoritative;
- Express the requirement that municipalities be consulted during the development of implementation plans, and provide more detailed guidance about the services a municipality is required to provide in an official language, when Bill 6 applies;
- Clarify the appointment and certain obligations of the Languages Commissioner, how the principles of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* will guide that work, and ensure that the office has stable and appropriate support staff;
- Establish an *Official Languages Promotion Fund* where fines, donations, appropriations or court order damages can be received - in the longer-term future, the proceeds of this fund will be available to be disbursed for purposes consistent with the objectives set out in Bill 6 and Bill 7;
- Provide for a mandatory and publicly available consultation register and ensure that the minister consults with every person or organization on the list, including Inuit and francophone organizations, English-speaking individuals, municipalities, and others likely to be impacted;
- At a further notice requirement so that notices of proposed regulations to the *Official Languages Act* will be published in the regular news media; and

- Require that the consultation report relating to a regulation is tabled in the House with the notice of the proposed regulation.

It is important to remember that, as required by the *Nunavut Act*, Bill 6 requires parliamentary concurrence before it can come into force. This process may take time. There are concerns that, even with the best of intentions, the issue of federal concurrence may not be resolved before territorial elections are called. For this reason, I will be making one motion to amend clause 49 regarding the coming into force of Bill 6 which will respond to a number of concerns, including the need to prevent it from lapsing or failing to come into effect only as the result of federal delay.

Mr. Chairman, the consultation has been carried out and the time to act is now upon us. We are at a critical time in the life of Inuit language. Bill 6 is a timely and significant stride in our journey to realize the dream of a Nunavut where the Inuit language is at the centre of work, education, and daily life. It does that while continuing the promotion and protection of the other official languages, English and French.

With that, I conclude my remarks and look forward to the discussions today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairman (Mr. Kattuk)(interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the witness table? Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, of course.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Minister Tapardjuk, please introduce your officials. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. To my left is Stéphane Cloutier, Qupanuaq in Inuktitut. He is a Special Advisor for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and he has also been instrumental in the development of Bill 6. To my right is Susan Hardy from the Department of Justice. She is their Legal Counsel and she has assisted us greatly in drafting Bill 6 and Bill 7. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Welcome. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* have any opening comments? Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to see people who are listening to the proceedings in the Gallery. Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, as Chair of the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit*, I am very pleased to make some opening comments regarding the standing committee's review of Bill 6, Nunavut's proposed new *Official Languages Act*.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee has undertaken a careful and comprehensive review of Bill 6, the proposed *Official Languages Act*, since its introduction in this House in June of last year.

As members will recall from my interim report of last year, the standing committee has held two sets of public hearings on Bills 6 and 7. In October of last year, the standing committee heard directly from a number of organizations and individuals. The Minister of CLEY subsequently appeared in public before the standing committee in December to discuss issues of concern.

I would like to again take this opportunity to formally and publicly thank everyone who took the time to make submissions to the standing committee. Their input into this process was very valuable.

The standing committee recently met in Sanikiluaq to undertake a comprehensive clause-by-clause review of the bill. In recent days, the committee has worked closely with the minister and his officials in order to ensure that Bill 6 could be dealt with during the current sitting of the House.

Mr. Chairman, I can say today that this hard work has paid off. Also, Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank our staff for the time that they committed themselves to help us keep up with all the work that needed to be worked on.

Mr. Chairman, all members recognize the importance of this legislation to the people of Nunavut. Members of the standing committee worked hard to ensure that it reviewed the bill with care. During our scrutiny, the standing committee was able to make a number of recommendations for amendments to clauses in Bill 6. As a result, a number of motions were adopted during the minister's appearance for the clause-by-clause review of Bill 6.

I would like to say for the record that the standing committee and the minister enjoyed a respectful dialogue throughout this process. The standing committee has always recognized that no legislation will completely satisfy all parties. The standing committee is of the view that this new legislation will provide a basis upon which to build in the future, especially as our capacity to provide language and translation services expand.

Mr. Chairman, some of the amendments that have been made to Bill 6 since its introduction address the following matters:

- The addition of new wording to refer to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

- The addition of a new requirement to ensure that Inuktitut versions of bills must be made available at the time a bill is introduced in the Legislative Assembly;
- The creation of a new Official Languages Promotion Fund. This fund may be used for reversing language loss and strengthening the vitality of the Inuit and francophone language communities;
- The addition of new wording to affirm the independence of the Legislative Assembly and the courts;
- The addition of new wording to ensure that municipalities are consulted in the development of the government's implementation plans and regulations;
- The addition of new wording to enhance the ability of the Languages Commissioner to manage his or her office in an independent manner;
- The addition of new wording to define the application of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*; and
- The addition of new wording to allow a comprehensive review of the Act by the Legislative Assembly to take place at an earlier time than was originally proposed in Bill 6.

Mr. Chairman, as all members are aware, section 38 of the federal *Nunavut Act* contains provisions with respect to the need for the concurrence of Parliament for changes to Nunavut's current *Official Languages Act*. The standing committee understands that the government will be bringing forward a motion today in relation to this matter.

I would also like to take this opportunity to state for the record that the standing committee looks forward to continuing its work on Bill 7, the proposed *Inuit Language Protection Act*, prior to the reconvening of the House in September. While the standing committee appreciates the enthusiasm with which the prospect of made-in-Nunavut language legislation has been greeted, it is essential that these important initiatives be given the full consideration and scrutiny that they deserve.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening remarks. The committee recommends the passage of Bill 6, the *Official Languages Act*, to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to the matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken. Are there any general comments? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and the Chairman of *Ajauqtiit*, Mr. Mapsalak. We have been dealing with this for quite some

time and it has been very difficult to deal with. We didn't want it to fall off the Order Paper but it has to be carefully reworded and provide real protection for Inuktitut.

I think we all know the main purpose of the bill. In Canada, English and French enjoy equal status and recognition. Inuktitut does not enjoy the same status. That is what we are trying to do through this bill - to give Inuktitut an equal footing with the other languages. However, if we are going to make sure Bill 6 is effective, we felt its wording has to be reworked.

We wanted to get some comments from people, NTI, and the francophone community to find out what they think of the legislation. We asked them how we can make Inuktitut gain equal status and recognition.

We had a meeting in Sanikiluaq for a week as a committee and dealt with every clause of this bill. Someone said earlier we had approved 28 motions to make changes to some of the sections of the Act. I am pleased that they were agreed to by Minister Tapardjuk. The main thing that we were working hard on was that as Inuit, we knew a long time ago that our language was not equal to English and French in legislation.

There was a court case in Pond Inlet quite some time ago, the court proceedings were done in a tent. There was this hunter who was before the courts and in the middle of his trial, whales had been sighted. The trial was interrupted when the accused hunter joined other local hunters in a mad chase of the whales by *Qajaq*.

>>*Laughter*

At that time, the federal government used to have control over us. It was just like we were taken away from our communities and our families and put into residential schools. It's unfortunate that that had to happen, but it is over and done with now. Some people who were sent to residential schools were very badly affected.

In the legislation, it mentions that Inuit language rights are to be guided by *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. It says that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* has to be included in this legislation. We debated and produced some motions for the government to consider. Inuit have a value whereby you have to be within the family unit and help each other. Instead of Inuit just trying to use Inuit values, we wanted the government to be able to put it in legislation so that we can have the same right as English and French.

So in the years to come, we will finally find out that when I go into a government office, I will be able to speak my own language, or when I go in to get a driver's licence for example. So as an Inuk, I will be able to communicate with the government and get a response in my own language.

We used to be told that, especially when the government was in the Western Arctic, some of the languages have been lost because they went to school in Aklavik at the age of six and then they finally went home when they were 12 years old. That's why they lost their

language. They also lost their traditional values and their traditional way of living. The traditional way of living is very important. The language is also very important because it goes along with that.

Mr. Chairman, lastly, it seemed we worked on this legislation for a long time and we would like to thank NTI, the Francophone Association of Nunavut, Inuit organizations, the public, and the elders because they have helped us a great deal in order for us to make a good piece of legislation and make 28 motions to change some of the clauses and some of the sections of this Act.

I would like to say that I think we asked many questions in quite a few months, and I will be in support of this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Are there any other general comments? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am happy to say that this legislation brought by the minister is very good. I know the people out there watching our debates today have a reason to be very proud because this is making history. On June 4, 2008, the Inuit language will be protected for the first time in Canada. I thank the minister very much in memory of our ancestors. It was our ancestors and elders who ensured the survival of our language to this day. It makes me very proud and I will be in support of this bill. I wanted to mention that first of all.

I'm not a member of the committee, but when I went to go see the elders in my community before I came here, they kept on saying that as long as Bill 6 is passed, that would be a great deal for us. This elder told me that as long as the legislation is passed in the House, they will be very happy about that.

I would also like to say, as James stated, it was very hard standing before the court if you didn't know how to speak English, with no interpreters. It was very difficult for elders to go through the courts. Some of them became very depressed because they didn't understand what was going on in court. However, it's not like that anymore.

I would like thank all the people who assisted the standing committees, who worked very hard for this legislation to go through, and individuals from the public who made submissions to have the Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut languages protected. I would also like to thank the officials of the ministers in helping to draft the legislation. Even though we can speak Inuktitut, if we cannot speak English, it is very difficult.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that 36 years ago, when I was in Ottawa, I was invited to speak to Carleton University students studying law. I was very shocked during the time when Inuit organizations were just being formed. After I did my presentation, one of them stood up and said, "Tagak, you are no longer an Inuk." I was very shocked at that

time. He said that since I had assimilated into the Canadian society, I was no longer an Inuk. I was very shocked at that time and I didn't know what else to say.

Before I responded, I thought, for instance, if I was to tell Ed. Picco, "You're no longer a *Qallunaaq* because you have been here for many years and you can speak Inuktitut and you can hunt like an Inuk," would he say, "Yes," if I told him that he was no longer a *Qallunaaq*? I told him, "I will show you how to hunt and do things just like Inuit." When I responded like that, he had no other comments. That incident at Carleton University woke me up. Two weeks later, the individual who had told me that came and apologized to me. He realized that he was ill-informed and did not wish those particular studies.

The reason why I am mentioning this is because we will no longer experience those kinds of comments anymore. We may not be able to understand elders when they speak Inuktitut which we no longer understand, but they will be able to teach us.

So with that, Mr. Chairman, those are my comments and I am very happy to be able to support this legislation because Inuktitut is not just a language. Inuktitut forms an integral part of the Inuit identity. When we are no longer able to speak Inuktitut, we see consequences, such as young people who are less grounded. They are less capable to survive out on the land. When they don't know how to speak Inuktitut, know less about their environment, and are less grounded, they are most likely to get into crimes.

I'm happy to say that this legislation will help them regain their identity and I would like to thank the minister and my colleagues for supporting this legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This bill is an example of how we ought to draft bills, and when the minister made a statement on it, it was information we needed to hear and it was legislation that Nunavummiut wanted passed. I believe that this bill will be passed today and I completely support the bill.

We have continued to support this bill due to our wish to strengthen the enforcement provisions so that we could present the bill in its entirety, as well as to incorporate the submissions from organizations or individuals who wrote to us expressing their concerns or recommendations for changes.

We reviewed the submissions, comments and recommendations for quite some time, quite a long time, and we reviewed all of the details with the minister in a hearing. Prior to its completion, as my colleague mentioned, while we were in Sanikiluaq, we reviewed all of the clauses in their entirety and the three days rushed by and we almost ran out of time. All concerns, submissions and recommendations for change were also reviewed and

quite a number of clauses were amended due to the suggested changes in order to strengthen Bill 6 prior to its submission to the federal government for royal assent.

This bill serves to protect the languages in Nunavut and primarily the Inuktitut languages and this is the sole purpose of the bill. We would like to see this bill passed and approved. We did not want to be late for submission for royal assent and boy, did we ever come close to missing the date for royal assent. However, due to the encouragement and advocacy of our residents regarding the contents of the bill, plus all of the submissions of Inuit, we heeded their request to deal with the bill and submit it to the House.

We were rushing to complete the review, and I would like to express my immense gratitude to the minister, his officials and their staff for the hard work resulting in the completion of this bill. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the commitment of our Legislative Assembly staff, who worked hard to keep the focus of the standing committee on the completion on the bill. I am really appreciative of their efforts and were it not for their efforts, this bill would not be in front of you for the final review.

We completely support this bill and I am quite exhilarated to see this bill pass the final review in the House. This bill will protect our Inuit, especially the unilingual Inuit, who will be able to be served in Inuktitut without requiring the assistance of interpreter/translators. I fully support this bill and I would like to see it passed today in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Hold your horses, James. We all know that everybody here is in a rush and that the committee would like to report progress.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the beginning, I was not a Member of the *Ajauqtiit* Standing Committee, but I was an alternate member who could partake only upon the inability of one of the committee members to participate.

However, I am extremely pleased that I was able to attend the standing committee hearings in Sanikiluaq to review the contents of the proposed bill and this entailed a lot of hard work, which led me to understand more fully the work that goes into the review of bills by the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit*. This opened my eyes to the level of work required within that process. With the introduction of this bill, I, too, support this bill which has been long awaited by Nunavummiut.

I was extremely happy to note that the minister made the following statement, (interpretation ends) "That is an essential part of the dream that resulted in the creation of Nunavut." (interpretation) Thinking about that statement makes me elated and proud to be from Nunavut, but I would like to add a small clause. I noted from the submissions and which was said to be missing in the bill that is needed by the elders, by our parents,

or the older ones is that Nunavut's dream still has not materialized. The bill is just the beginning and I fully support it.

Exactly which language are they going to protect - the old Inuit language or the modern Inuit language? Those are the concerns I had and I still have that concern. There's the old Inuit language, whereas nowadays, we modernize it by inventing new words that we come across in our daily lives. A lot of the time, we have to come up with new words because there are a lot of new things that keep coming up. For example, quite often, we have to think in *Qallunaatitut* and try and say it in Inuktitut.

In this House, when we ask the ministers, even when we're talking in Inuktitut, sometimes they can't understand. If I were to ask questions in my own dialect, I'm pretty sure no one would understand. That is an example of how we should protect our language.

The concerns that I have, Mr. Chairman, are the businesses. They will be affected in the future. How are we going to support them financially, especially when they have to produce material in Inuktitut, not now but in the future?

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, I am very happy about this bill and I fully support it. We don't speak Inuktitut all the time, even in our homes. For example, my wife and I have an adopted child who is three and he has a hard time understanding Inuktitut, so we have to talk to him in English. Those are the things that cause us to lose our language. For example, how can we start thinking in the Inuit way and not thinking in the *Qallunaat* way?

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, Minister Tapardjuk, I am very proud of you to have worked really hard on this for four years and now it's becoming a reality. The job you did had big responsibilities and I am sure that people will not forget your name because of this bill, so I'm very proud of you and I am happy for you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been reviewing this bill for about a year since the minister introduced it. The Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* and our legal counsel have worked hard on this bill and that is how we have this final product.

Sometimes we didn't seem to support it because we wanted it to be made-in-Nunavut. We wanted to produce a bill that was solid and I am very happy that we are able to discuss this now. As the minister mentioned, he explained why we should have to bring in a bill like that, what the purpose is.

At this time, they say the population is 85 percent Inuit, but I don't think the Inuit language is at 85 percent. I would like to encourage Inuit to talk to their fellow Inuit in

Inuktitut and Inuit can talk to their children in Inuktitut and their grandchildren so that we will not lose our language. We often hear that when people went to residential schools, they started losing their language. Unfortunately, we are slowly losing our language, so we have to strengthen the usage of Inuktitut.

The bill is not protecting just one language - there are Inuktitut, French, and English. One language will not be stronger than the others; we're trying to balance all of the languages. Today, the English language is used in the workplace and I believe the year 2020 was the target date for all of government to have Inuktitut as a working language.

When we were in Sanikiluaq for three days dealing with this bill, three days was not enough. When we got to Iqaluit, we had to do more work and we have been meeting because of this bill up until yesterday, and it's the staff who worked hard. We have worked very closely with the minister's office and I wish to thank them very much, as well as the staff of the Legislative Assembly, researchers and our legal counsel, who worked very hard.

We often see businesses or organizations where the names of buildings or what they do, a lot of times, they are just in English and a lot of times, people who would go in won't go in because they're not sure. And in restaurants, people who want to go out to a restaurant end up just leaving without eating because they can't read English. Once this bill is passed, it wouldn't be like that because it will apply to everyone, especially the service industry.

I support this bill and I urge the members to agree with the bill, but I don't think it will come into effect right away even if it's passed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Are there any more general comments? I don't have any more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Bill 6 on page 1. Bill 6, *Official Languages Act*. Reprint. Page 2. Clause 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 4. Clause 3? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his officials to the House today. I would like for the minister to clarify the Inuinnaqtun subsection (3) is the application to Inuinnaqtun. This Act shall be interpreted and implemented in a manner that is consistent with the need to give priority to (a) the revitalization of Inuinnaqtun and

(b) improve access to services under sections 8 to 12 in the communities where Inuinnaqtun is indigenous.

As the minister knows, I come from the Kitikmeot and my riding is predominantly made up of residents who speak Inuinnaqtun, so I would like to, in terms of how this Act will be applied in that part of the Kitikmeot, in Nunavut, how it would be applied. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to Inuinnaqtun, it's been an ongoing concern and we have been working very hard to find out how we can improve or enhance the Inuinnaqtun language and how we can revitalize the Inuinnaqtun language. We wanted to find out what should be placed as a priority because this language is of concern.

There are very few individuals who can speak and who can translate documents from Inuinnaqtun to English or from English to Inuinnaqtun and because of that, we wanted to prioritize what was needed and what should be placed as a priority by the government. That is the main reason why we have it under subclause 3, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Can the minister tell me if the folks in my riding and also in Kugluktuk, when they're receiving correspondence or information from the Government of Nunavut, will it be in Inuinnaqtun? For example, quite often, I get correspondence from government offices in Iqaluit and it's all in Inuktitut, and I can't distribute or forward that to any of my constituents because, of course, they don't understand that writing but they do understand Inuinnaqtun. Of course, we don't get very much information in Inuinnaqtun when it comes from the government.

So could you clarify, if there's implementation of this Act, will the people in Kitikmeot, in the west, receive their correspondence in Inuinnaqtun from the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there is a request to the government, or government departments, or government agencies, or service providers, if there is a request to have documents written in Inuinnaqtun for certain communities or hamlets, there will be a requirement to have it written in Inuinnaqtun if they're going to certain areas. You could use that avenue and we have identified which communities should be receiving documents that are written in Inuinnaqtun, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Could the minister, for the record, tell the committee which communities have been identified as those communities that should receive information and letters in Innuinaqtun? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): From what we understand, Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Bay Chimo, and Bathurst Inlet are the communities that are identified to receive Innuinaqtun correspondence, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Are you done? (interpretation ends) Bill 6 on page 4. Clause 3?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 5. Clause 5? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister, under clause 5 (2), it says, "Inuktitut version of the bill must be made available at the time the bill is introduced." Could the minister just clarify for the record why the bill wouldn't be made available in Innuinaqtun as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. As I stated, we have very limited resources. For example, individuals who can translate from English to Innuinaqtun or Innuinaqtun to English because of these limited resources. The reason why we only have Inuktitut here is because the bills have to move forward. Once there is an increase in our capacity in Innuinaqtun, then again, we would be able to provide Innuinaqtun versions of a bill, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Could the minister indicate when he thinks that the capacity to provide Innuinaqtun versions of the bills will be achieved? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): At this time, I cannot even give you an estimate, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Are you done? (interpretation ends) Page 5. Clause 5?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 8?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 7. Clause 9?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 8. Clause 10?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 11?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 12? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister if he could just clarify a bit what the head or central service office is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I will have Stéphane Cloutier respond to that question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Cloutier.

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The head of an office is where the main function of the service is being provided. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Cloutier. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Cloutier for that information. Just to clarify further, if it's a head office, all head offices are here in Iqaluit. Is that what you mean, the head offices here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I will have Mr. Cloutier answer that question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Cloutier.

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Head or central service office, it's not only the offices here in Iqaluit but also in other communities where the service provided is the main function and is of benefit for all Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Cloutier. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Cloutier. So if I give you an example, I think the Motor Vehicles Branch has an office in Gjoa Haven, would that be a head or central service agency as you were describing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Cloutier.

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) To use your example, the Liquor Board office in Gjoa Haven, in *Uqhuqtuuq*, if that's the head office that provides the services for all Nunavummiut, then the official language requirement applies to that office. So they have to provide their services in the official languages of Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Cloutier. Are you done? (interpretation ends) Page 8. Clause 12?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 10. Clause 13?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 13. Clause 14?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 15?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sorry, we skipped a number on page 12. Clause 13.1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 13. Clause 14?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 15?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 14. Clause 16?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Agreed. Page 15. Clause 17?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 18?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 16. Clause 19?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 20?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 21?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 16. Clause 20.1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 21?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 17. Clause 22?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): On the same page. Clause 22.1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 18. Clause 23?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 24?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 25?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Page 19. Clause 25.1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 20. Clause 26?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 20. Clause 27?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 21. Clause 28?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 21. Clause 29?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 22. Clause 30?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 31?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 23. Clause 32?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 24. Clause 32.1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 33?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 34?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 25. Clause 35?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 26. Clause 36. There is a motion on that clause. Mr. Arvaluk.

Committee Motion 018 – 2(4): Bill 6 – Amend Subclause 36(1)(a)(i) Strike Out Subsection 32(4) and Substitute 32.1(1)

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I move that subclause 36(1)(a)(i) be amended by striking out “under subsection 32(4)” and substituting “under subsection 32.1(1).” Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. The motion is in order. Before we proceed with debate on the motion, I have a few more comments to make as to procedures. Every member has a right to speak once to the motion for a total of 20 minutes. The mover of the motion speaks first. The mover of the motion has the right to the last reply which closes the debate. To the motion. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the committee meetings, we made a number of motions and we had forgotten.... well, we didn't make a motion on this clause, we just set up the numbers without including the subclause numbers and we would like it to be approved by the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Does the committee agree to clause 36 as amended?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 26. Clause 37? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague for Cambridge Bay was asking questions in regard to clause 3 and 5, and when the Inuinnaqtun language will be implemented. Why do they only state Inuktitut? He was asking why Inuinnaqtun is not included.

I would like to ask the minister in clause 37, it states here that the review of the position shall be after five years, but perhaps at that time, the Inuinnaqtun language can be implemented or where there is enough capacity built for clause 3 and 5 in Inuinnaqtun, perhaps they could make that amendment to those clauses at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Stéphane will respond to that question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Cloutier.

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This clause dealing with the review of the legislation after five years or earlier, as the Legislative Assembly sees fit, they can include in that review period that they would also look at the status of Inuinnaqtun and ask the appropriate bodies that will have the information, the stats, and so on, and also work with the communities on what the status is, like where are we at in terms of human resources development, in terms of translators, availability, also in terms of revitalization of Inuinnaqtun at the community level.

When we consulted with Inuinnaît in the western Kitikmeot, they indicated that they wanted to focus on the revitalization in the schools with the children at the community level so that they could increase the numbers of Inuinnaqtun speakers and during this five year review period, under this clause, then the Legislative Assembly or committee of the Legislative Assembly could look into the status of Inuinnaqtun at that time during the review. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Cloutier. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you.

Chairman: Page 26. Clause 37?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 38?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 29. Clause 39?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 40?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 41?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 42?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 30. Clause 43?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 44?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 45?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 46?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 47?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 48?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 49? Mr. Arvaluk.

Committee Motion 019 – 2(4): Bill 6 – Amend Clause 49 - Coming into Force Provision

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion to delete the current wording of clause 49 and replaced with the following instead: the provision for implementation refers to a fixed date which should be deleted and replaced by stating on the day affirmed by the commissioner or fixed by the order of commissioner. That's my motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. As I stated before, this will have to be amended and the motion is in order. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. There is a motion on the floor. Question has been called. (interpretation ends) Clause 49 as amended?

I'm sorry, I'm ahead of myself. To the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. Abstained. The motion is carried. Clause 49 as amended?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We're on page 31. Is the committee agreed to Bill 6 as amended?

Some Members: Agreed.

>>*Applause*

Chairman: Thank you very much. Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 6 can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. (interpretation) Minister Tapardjuk, do you have any closing remarks? Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I would like to thank Nunavummiut for being patient for the past eight years. I would also like to thank the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* for reviewing the bill thoroughly and I know it's going to be beneficial. I especially would like to thank NTI, the former Languages Commissioner, and our current Languages Commissioner for providing their support and working hard to pass this bill. I would like to thank the Francophone Association of Nunavut. I would also like to thank

the Canadian Languages Commissioner, the Government of Nunavut, and private businesses and various entities, especially our elders and our young people.

Bill 6 is a step forward for the Inuit language and also to the government recognizing the official languages in Nunavut. That will be utilized and they will all be at the same level with each other.

I am also grateful that we will now be able to work on Bill 7, the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, and it will just solely be applying to Inuit language protection. I know that the Inuit language is valued very much by Nunavummiut, so we will be dealing with that in Bill 7. Inuit language will start being used in schools and in the workplaces in all of Nunavut.

I would like to work closely with the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* on Bill 7 during the fall. I believe that we will pass the bill and I look forward to holding meetings with the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* because I know that they will be supporting me.

I would also like to thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk, Ms. Hardy, and Mr. Cloutier. (interpretation ends) What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Not me.

>>*Laughter*

Chairman: Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All in favour of the motion. Opposed. Abstained. The motion is carried. Now, I will report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Members. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 6 and would like to report that Bill 6 is immediately ready for third reading as amended and that two committee motions were adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you, Members.

Members, I have a ruling.

Speaker's Ruling

(interpretation ends) On Monday, May 26, 2008, the Member for Nattilik raised a point of order in relation to the issue of quoting from the *Hansard* Blues.

(interpretation) On Monday, June 2, 2008, the member again made reference to this issue during the proceedings of the House.

I would first like to note that although our Rules clearly contemplate the ability of members to refer to *Hansard* during our proceedings, they do not specifically address the issue of whether or not it is permissible to quote from the Blues.

As members will recall, detailed *Hansard* Guidelines were recently added to our Rules as an appendix.

Members will also recall that the timelines within which members may submit edits to their Blues have been significantly relaxed since the initial timelines that were in place when the Assembly was first created. All members were advised of these new timelines by way of correspondence from me in June of 2007.

(interpretation ends) Provision number five provides that:

“The final deadline for the submission of edits to the Blues is 5:00 p.m. on the third calendar day following the commencement of a period of prorogation or extended adjournment. No edits will be accepted after that time.”

The new timelines were implemented in order to provide adequate time for members to review their Blues during sittings of the House.

As the Legislative Assembly is aware, members on both sides of this House refer to, and quote from, the *Hansard* Blues with frequency during our proceedings. We have been doing so for a number of years.

As Speaker, I am frequently called on to review the Blues in order to render rulings on points of order and other matters. I am not inclined to prohibit myself from quoting aloud from the document in this House.

As members are aware, the turn-around time for final *Hansards* to be produced is not a matter of hours. This is a reflection of both the desire of members to have adequate time

during which they may review the Blues and submit corrections, as well as the logistical challenges inherent to producing one of this nation's only bilingual *Hansards*.

As members will appreciate, a prohibition on quoting from the unedited *Hansard* during our sittings would have the effect of significantly reducing the ability of all members on both sides of the House from continuing to use the document as the primary tool which we all use to refer to what has transpired in this place.

I do not believe that this would be a reasonable approach or fair to the House as a whole.

Another approach would be to implement a much more restrictive deadline during which members may submit edits to their Blues.

(interpretation) For example, it would be possible to go back to a deadline of 10:00 a.m. on the morning following receipt of the Blues for members to submit edits. However, this would be a matter for all members to consider.

I would also remind members that our *Hansard* guidelines provide that:

“A Member may not make material changes in the meaning of what was said in the House. (interpretation ends) A Member is not permitted to make any insertion as an afterthought nor to strike out a passage which he or she regrets having spoken. Revisions shall be limited to correcting errors in grammar, spelling and punctuation; ensuring that the correct parliamentary forms are observed; and minimizing repetition and redundancies.”

Members, my point is that your edits to the *Hansard* Blues are only permitted to address such matters as grammar and correct Parliamentary form.

If a minister wishes to clarify or supplement something that he or she has said in the House, he or she has a number of options during our Orders of the Day in which to do so, including returns to oral questions.

Given that the House has clearly decided that it wishes to provide all members with a significant period of time during which they may submit edits, it would not be reasonable to enforce a new prohibition on the use of the *Hansard* Blues.

Accordingly, I will not rule any member on either side of the House as being out of order simply because they refer to the unedited *Hansard* Blues.

I certainly recognize that the unedited *Hansard* Blues may, from time to time, contain errors. All members are cautioned accordingly. If any member feels that his or her words have not accurately been rendered in the *Hansard* Blues, they may avail themselves of their ability to request a review of the transcript.

(interpretation) I would also remind all members that recent improvements in the Assembly's audio-visual technology allows us to review the video and audio record of what was said in the House a relatively short period of time after a sitting day.

In this case, I would note that the Member for Nattilik's own edits to her *Hansard Blues* did not request any changes with respect to the passage in question that was in the *Hansard* of March 5, 2008. I have verified the accuracy of the transcription myself, based on a review of the video and audio record.

(interpretation ends) I would conclude by noting that the language on the cover page of the *Hansard Blues* has not been updated to reflect the recent changes in deadlines for the submission of edits. This will be addressed. (interpretation) Thank you.

Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 26 – Securities Act – Third Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 26, *Securities Act*, be read for the third time.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour. Thank you. The motion is carried and Bill 26 has had its third reading.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Land Titles Act – Third Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nanulik, that Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Land Titles Act*, be read for the third time.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 27 has had its third reading.

Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

Bill 33 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act – Third Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 33, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act*, be read for the third time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 33 has had its third reading.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Tapardjuk.

Bill 06 – Official Languages Act – Third Reading

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West, that Bill 6, the *Official Languages Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 6 has had its third reading.

>>Applause

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. If there are no more, before we continue on with our Orders of the Day, I would like to ask the Clerk if the Senior Judge of the Nunavut Court is ready to give assent to bills. Mr. Clerk.

Assent to Bills

Bill 06 – Official Languages Act – Assent

Bill 26 – Securities Act – Assent

Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Land Titles Act – Assent

Bill 28 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 3 – Assent

Bill 29 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2008-2009 – Assent

Bill 30 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2008-2009 – Assent

Bill 31 – Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act, 2008 – Assent

Bill 32 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act, No. 2 – Assent

Bill 33 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act – Assent

Bill 34 – Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund Act – Assent

Justice Beverley Browne: As members are aware, section 10 of the *Nunavut Act* provides that if both the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner of Nunavut are

absent, ill or unable to act, the senior judge of the Nunavut Court of Justice has and may exercise and perform all of the powers, duties and functions of the commissioner.

Therefore, this afternoon, I am here with you on behalf of the commissioner to give assent to the following bills:

- Bill 6, *Official Languages Act*;
- Bill 26, *Securities Act*;
- Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Land Titles Act*;
- Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 3*;
- Bill 29, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2008-2009*;
- Bill 30, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2008-2009*;
- Bill 31, *Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act, 2008*;
- Bill 32, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act, No. 2*;
- Bill 33, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act*; and finally
- Bill 34, *Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund Act*.

I believe that indicates the work that's been completed in the sitting. As you conclude your work here and return to your home communities and to your families, I wish you all a safe journey and I guess we will see you again in the fall. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Clerk, Mr. Quirke.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for September 9, 2008:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 42 – 2(4)
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Members, I would like to thank the pages that were serving us, our staff, and our interpreters. We wish to thank them. Before you start heading home, it's clear that we all want to go home, but I wish you a safe journey.

If you're going out camping, please keep in mind those who are disabled and our elders. For those physically or mentally disabled people, let's try and assist them, especially at this time of the year so that they can have a better life wherever they go. Have a safe trip. Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *Session recessed at 15:25*

