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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Pangnirtung)

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(South Baffin)

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(Arviat)

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(Uqqummiut)

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(Quttiktuq)

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Deputy Premier; Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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David Simailak

(Baker Lake)

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Members Present:

Honourable Olayuk Akasuk, Mr. David Alagalak, Mr. James Arreak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Honourable Levi Barnabas, Honourable Levinia Brown, Mr. Tagak Curley, 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, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, and Members. Thank you for coming back. I wish to advise all members that I have received a communication from Ms. Leona Aglukkaq. Ms. Aglukkaq has advised me that she has resigned from the Legislative Assembly effective 1:00 p.m. on September 15, 2008. Thank you.

My colleagues, before we proceed with the Orders of the Day, on behalf of all my relatives, I would like to thank all those who supported us during the recent loss of one of my family members. On behalf of my brother-in-law, I also would like to thank everyone for their tremendous assistance and for their words of comfort. I also thank all those who are listening to the proceedings.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Tapardjuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 217 – 2(4): Youth Funding Resources Calendar

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and welcome. I am happy to see you back here again, I missed you. I also give my condolences to Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Speaker, during the Youth Strategy update meeting held in Iqaluit in March 2008 representatives from Nunavut's youth committees made it clear to the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth that in order to undertake the activities they plan, Nunavut youth need "increased funding opportunities for local youth committees."

In community-based committees across Nunavut, youth work tirelessly to volunteer, work with their peers, and fundraise for on-the-land events and social activities. It is evident by their commitment to the 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 Youth Funding Resources Calendar, which I will be tabling later today, to encourage Nunavut's youth committees to look wide and apply for funding from the many sources available to them. In this document, many organizations and foundations are listed as well as programs and useful websites from both Nunavut and across Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to emphasize that the Youth Funding Resources Calendar was produced with the values and ideas of Nunavut's youth in mind as they were brought forward during the youth meeting. I would also like to voice my appreciation to the Alianait Arts Festival for allowing CLEY to reproduce its bright, whimsical mural for this calendar. I think it speaks to the energy of youth in Nunavut, for whom we hope this calendar will be useful. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment and Health and Social Services, Minister Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 218 – 2(4): Appointments to Elders Advisory Committee on Environment

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues and the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to advise the members that the Elders Advisory Committee on Environment is not only a legislated requirement under Nunavut's new *Wildlife Act*, but also a vital source of knowledge for the Department of Environment and the GN. The role of the committee is to provide advice and recommendations to the Minister of Environment on the administration of the *Wildlife Act*, especially as it relates to incorporating the principles and concepts of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* into wildlife management, conservation, and environmental protection in Nunavut.

Each member must be a person recognised by the minister as a *Qaujimanilik/Ihumatuyuk* with appropriate wildlife expertise. Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise the House that I have appointed the following *Qaujimanilik* to the first Elders Advisory Committee on Wildlife: Guy Kakkiarniun of Kugaaruk, Bob Konana of Gjoa Haven, Tommy Pigalaak of Kugluktuk, Laisa Ningiuk of Grise Fiord, Paniloo Sanguya of Pond Inlet, Quvianatuliak Tapaungai of Cape Dorset, Peter Alageak of Arviat, Jacob Ikinilik of Baker Lake, and John Kaunak of Repulse Bay.

I am very pleased with the calibre of this committee. I believe their background, years of experience and intelligence will help guide the department into making wise decisions regarding Nunavut's environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and Finance, Minister Tapardjuk.

Minister's Statement 219 – 2(4): Inuit Sign Language

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform my colleagues of a very important project aimed at documenting for the first time ever the development and use of Inuit Sign Language in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* provides a high standard to accommodate the use of sign languages in government services. Through policies, programs and services we can promote the use and culturally appropriate development of Inuit Sign Language in Nunavut.

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth also recognizes the uniqueness and importance of Inuit Sign Language. It is different from any other known sign language, and virtually no resources exist for it.

With thanks to the Department of Justice for initiating this project, I would like to especially thank the minister on my left for that, for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth provided funding to the *Canadian Deafness Research and Training Institute* to promote the use of Inuit Sign Language, by way of its 2007-08 and 2008-09 Grants and Contributions Program.

Mr. Speaker, I would like my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Project Lead, Jamie MacDougall, and his colleagues as well as key Nunavummiut who participated in this project:

Bobby Suwarak	Baker Lake
Yvo Samgushak	Rankin Inlet
Philip Ugjuk	Rankin Inlet
Louisa Ugjuk	Rankin Inlet
Kawtysie Kakee	Pangnirtung
Johnny Umingmak	Taloyoak
Clayton Ungungai	Baker Lake
Rhoda Idlout	Taloyoak

Mr. Speaker, this is also a historic day for this Legislative Assembly as we are providing for the first time interpretation of our proceeding in sign languages.

>>Applause

Deaf Nunavummiut will gather in Iqaluit from September 15 to 19, 2008 to launch and learn how to use the new CD-ROM, glossary and story book. These resources will be

used for teaching and training. Once again, I congratulate them for their achievements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister and your staff. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and Finance, Minister Tapardjuk.

Minister's Statement 220 – 2(4): Congratulations to CGA Students

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, two of my staff at the Department of Finance graduated from the Certified General Accountants Program of studies. Not only is this a very proud moment for them, it is a proud moment for the government.

Accountants perform many important functions in our government, including financial planning, risk and financial management as well as budget and tax planning among many other things. It is very important to have trained accountants working for the Government of Nunavut.

The Certified General Accountants Program, or CGA, is very demanding and requires dedication and sacrifice. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing my warmest congratulations to Ling Yang and Grace Wilk...

>>Applause

... on their recent graduation from the CGA program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. If there are no more, Item 3. Members' Statements.

Members, before we proceed with Members' Statements, I would like to thank Mr. Arreak, who acted in my stead during my absence and he did a masterful job, so I would like to start with Mr. Arreak.

>>Applause

Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 535 – 2(4): Baffinland not Hiring Workers from Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you as well, along with my colleagues. Further, while undertaking the Speaker's role, I no longer covet that position as I became envious of the members who rose to speak while I acted as the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we were notified on Friday, I believe, by the Minister of Education that Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation, which is currently developing their mineral deposit in the interior of Baffin Island, close to Pond Inlet and within reach of Clyde River, have come to a training agreement.

I am appreciative of any and all efforts to train Inuit in the outlying communities for jobs in the mining sector. However, the one aspect which I am not so proud of today is that there are hardly any employees hired from Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq for the positions at Mary River.

Although the positions at this mining exploration camp are gearing up, they still have not hired anyone from the communities and I urge them, especially with the assistance from the Government of Nunavut, that they hire more people from the outlying communities. Many of my constituents in both communities are actively looking for jobs and more of them want to become self-sufficient and not depend on handouts from the government. They would like to hold down a steady job to enable them to stand on their own two feet.

The reasons are not necessarily due to the complexity of the travel requirements, at least in my opinion, because all of this spring and summer, many flights have gone back and forth to Mary River. As well, there is a daily flight that goes to Pond Inlet as well as a daily flight from Iqaluit to Mary River. It is definitely not due to the travel complications, so it behoves me as to why they are not hiring more people from other communities and further, why are they only hiring from specific communities during this start-up stage?

Additionally, I would like them to understand that in Nunavut, all employers are not to discriminate against unilingual Inuit when they are canvassing communities for potential employees. The Inuit language is one of the official languages of Nunavut and we are working on making it a requirement and we are working to protect our language. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

Member's Statement 536 – 2(4): Thanks to People Who Offered Help and Kindness during Hardship

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to express my gratitude and immense thanks to this House and to my colleagues who submitted gifts, especially those people who called us at our home to express their condolences, to offer their sympathy, and to let us know that we were in their thoughts and prayers.

We are beholden to all the people who assisted us, and if we had been alone, it would have been nigh impossible for my wife and I to properly care for our loved one. When this happens in a family, it is extremely difficult.

I would personally like to thank the previous Minister of Health, Ms. Leona Aglukkaq, who called to let us know that whatever assistance we required, where she could assist us, to let her know how she could help us. This touched my heart, along with the professionalism of her departmental staff, especially the nurses and the doctors, who supported and assisted us during this difficult time and they did everything they could to accommodate us. I especially wish to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of them.

We underwent a stressful period this summer and although I would have liked to be here at the start of the session, including our work on the subcommittees, I could not leave my family during this time of hardship. I had to be with my family and it was extremely hard to experience this.

I also would like to express our immense gratefulness to the people of Arviat. At times, it seemed that the entire populace of Arviat was either at our house, visiting, calling, or looking after our daily chores. There were people who would drop off supplies for the visiting people and those that cooked meals for us and generally did most of the work.

When one is experiencing this firsthand, it is difficult to express the gratitude that wells up inside oneself because of all the assistance offered and given. Sometimes people do not want to be thanked and it feels strange to be in that situation. That is what we have experienced and I wanted to rise and make my statement to that effect.

Further, I would like to thank the Premier personally for his assistance, as well as those of his staff who also sent their condolences and I thank each and every one of them. I also thank our Speaker for his assistance. Be it as it may, when one undergoes a difficult hardship, it seems that the whole world is looking out for you.

Further, we also got calls from outlying communities and even overseas and this makes you feel humbled and you become beholden to everyone for their support. Our family is extremely indebted to all of the people who offered their support and assistance during our time of hardship and on behalf of all our relatives in Arviat, I wish to extend a heartfelt thanks.

Further, the nurses would come in the evening and this included some nurses who had graduated from the Nursing Program here in Iqaluit. They assisted us greatly with their work and it proved to myself the tangible benefits of these programs, and I further encourage the youth to take these courses. Sometimes young people seem to be

ineffective prior to our needing them, but these young people were able to assist us in their chosen field since they had graduated from the Nursing Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Member's Statement 537 – 2(4): Problems with Canada Post in Baker Lake

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to state my happiness of your return as well as that of our colleague, and I am happy that you are both back in the House. I am pleased that both of you were able to attend to personal issues.

Firstly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my delight for a past event which we were apprised of. First, Jacob Ikinilik, from Baker Lake, who will now be a member of the Elders Committee, which the Environment Minister spoke to, and I am happy and proud of his choice for that position.

Secondly, these two individuals, Bobby Sivuarag and Clayton Angangai, who unfortunately cannot listen in due to their responsibilities, were able to provide assistance and I am proud of their hard work and assistance. The mother was here earlier, but she apparently left. She is Clayton Angangai's mother and she was just here.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to make a statement on this issue that is causing some consternation for Baker Lake residents. This revolves around the post office issue in Baker Lake. For many years, the post office resided in the Co-op building. However, this spring, they lost the contract as there was an RFP for a new post office to be located in Baker Lake. This contract was lost by the local Co-op, and it was let to the Northern Stores where it is situated at present.

The current post office, in this case, the post office boxes are located right in the entrance of the building. They are right in the doorway, adjacent to the Quickstop eatery. It is a crowded and tiny space for people to try and get their mail from, especially when people come and go.

To top this off, the general office for the post office opens at ten o'clock in the morning and closes at 5 p.m. It is adjacent to the Northern office and the current setup is not in the best interests of Baker Lake residents, especially with the growth of our community and all of the developments in our vicinity. When we have to undergo the difficulties in getting our mail, it causes residents to question the choice that was picked. We know that this may have to be revisited in the future, especially by Canada Post as they were the ones who made that choice.

I don't place the blame on the local Northern Store nor their staff, but on the headquarters situated in Winnipeg, who make all of the decisions. They were the ones that responded to the RFP and when they offered only a small space for our post office, which was approved, it didn't meet our needs and this issue will have to be revisited in other communities down the road. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 538 – 2(4): Benefits for Nurses

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on behalf of a small group of highly qualified and experienced nurses who seem to have been left out of the recent benefit negotiations between the Nunavut Employees Union and the government.

Mr. Speaker, a number of nurses who began their northern careers on the front lines have been recruited to administrative and managerial positions within the Department of Health and Social Services.

These nurses now use their expertise, knowledge and experience of working in Nunavut to provide support and guidance to their fellow nurses working on the frontlines. Unfortunately, however, their role has not been recognized in the latest union negotiations. They will not receive the new benefits that have been hard won and very much deserved by all other nurses working in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, it may, I hope, have been an oversight on the part of the negotiation bodies, however I feel that Nunavut's nurses who have demonstrated their competence through work on the frontlines here in Nunavut should be guaranteed inclusion in the benefits package.

As in many professions, but especially in education and health care, it is of great benefit to have individuals who have seen, experienced and developed an understanding of the issues faced by their colleagues on the frontlines, to be the ones who provide administrative and managerial support.

Organizations themselves benefit from the retention of corporate memory and experience. The individuals providing that experience should receive benefits as a recognition of their long-term commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the government to reconsider the criteria for nursing personnel in the negotiations for nursing benefits. If that doesn't happen, we risk seeing those knowledgeable and experienced managers move on. Without the relevant benefits, other Nunavut nurses will be less likely to take up positions in the administrative sectors

and, once again, staff will be recruited from the South with no real knowledge or experience of working in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the government to work with the union to resolve the status of which Nunavut nurses will receive benefits under the most recent negotiations. I am confident that this will not represent a huge change and expense as it is only a few individuals who have slipped through the cracks.

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

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. I'm almost done.

Mr. Speaker, these committed and dedicated staff deserve the same recognition and incentives that are provided to all other Nunavut nurses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 539 – 2(4): Farewell to John Jamieson

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin, I would like to send happy birthday wishes to my son. It's his birthday today.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to touch up on an issue regarding a long time serving teacher in our community who left recently. The ministers know him very well. John Jamieson has been in Sanikiluaq for a very long time, he was the principal for a long time, and he was very helpful to our community and to the teachers and students.

We regret him leaving but it's up to each individual to move on whenever they wish. We didn't want to see him leave but he has now moved to the south. We wish him the very best in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin North, Mr. Curley.

Member's Statement 540 – 2(4): Importance of Aeroplan to Nunavut Travellers

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the importance of access to the Aeroplan program for Nunavut travellers.

Mr. Speaker, all Members of the House are well aware of the high cost of flying for northern residents. Let me illustrate this with an example. I went online at lunchtime today and looked at the prices for various routes.

It is shocking to me that while it cost over \$1,400 for a round trip ticket between Iqaluit and Ottawa, a round trip ticket from Vancouver to Tokyo, Japan, leaving on exactly the same day, can be purchased for approximately \$1,100. Mr. Speaker, the fact that it costs less to fly halfway around the world than it does to take a three-hour trip tells us all that we need to know about the financial challenges facing Nunavut travellers.

Mr. Speaker, the Aeroplan program has become an important part of the lives of northerners. Access to the program has helped Nunavummiut come together for family reunions, bereavement travel, special occasions, such as weddings and the birth of a grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, a few years ago, an attempt was made to arbitrarily increase the number of points required to travel between certain Kivalliq communities and the south. A public outcry resulted and the decision was withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker, concerns are again being raised about access to Aeroplan travel in the Keewatin based on news we heard this summer. Apparently, Calm Air no longer wishes to allow Aeroplan points travel on their flights. I urge Calm Air to address this issue immediately.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that when the government issues its contract award for medical travel and other business, it should take into consideration the extent to which the airlines provide benefits such as Aeroplan to the travelling public. Mr. Speaker, due to this reason, our constituents are in a difficult situation and they require our assistance today. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 541 – 2(4): Walk to End Breast Cancer

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and welcome back to the House. We missed you while Mr. Arreak did a fine job sitting in your chair.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very proud to rise today to inform the House about the latest inspirational activity of my constituent, Ms. Angela Phillips, whom I spoke about last fall.

Mr. Speaker, last year, I informed the House that Ms. Phillips and her friend participated in the Edmonton "Walk to End Breast Cancer." They raised over \$13,000 to fund cancer research and provide resources to help breast cancer patients.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to tell you that Ms. Phillips is doing very well in her post-diagnosis of breast cancer and ongoing treatment. Although the first year after diagnosis was difficult, she persevered with the love and support of her husband, Rudi, and the encouragement of her many friends in Cambridge Bay. She refused to let breast cancer keep her down.

Mr. Speaker, being diagnosed with breast cancer must be a frightening prospect, as is any type of serious disease. However, early diagnosis and treatment offers the hope of beating cancer and living a normal life.

Mr. Speaker, in the 2008 Walk to End Breast Cancer, Ms. Phillips joined over 1,000 other participants to walk 60 kilometres over two days. That might seem like a short distance but it isn't when you consider the 35 degree Celsius temperatures and that the walkers must walk on concrete and asphalt. I understand that the first day was very hard for Angie.

The walkers are a highly motivated group and supported each other along the way. Hot temperatures and hard surfaces are easy obstacles to overcome when you're walking for a worthy cause.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to inform the House that Ms. Phillips, cheered on by the crowds and her friends, completed the walk and was the number one fund-raiser, raising over \$20,000 to help fight breast cancer. Our community and her many friends who supported her with donations and words of encouragement are very proud of her.

Mr. Speaker, I support programs and initiatives that are designed to help early detection of breast cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the House to join me in congratulating Ms. Phillips in doing so much to raise awareness about breast cancer and being an inspirational leader in the annual Walk to End Breast Cancer. Together, we can beat cancer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 542 – 2(4): Happy Anniversary to Bobby and Sandy Oolooyuk, Happy Birthday Rose Tootoo

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad that you are back in your usual spot, and further, I am grateful to see my brother, Alagalak, here as well and this makes me joyful.

Today, I rise to speak to two matters. In my constituency of Rankin Inlet, today marks a special day for Sandy and Bobby Oolooyuk, I am extremely proud of your joyous occasion, and as well, today is someone's birthday, and both of these dates coincide.

My very best friend, Rose Tootoo, is celebrating her birthday, and I cannot recall her exact age, but apparently that will be known once all the candles have been placed on her birthday cake.

She has told me previously that she would be turning 48 but she was coy about it. I cannot recall whether it was 48 or 68, or was it 58? Actually, I do know her age. A note to my friend, please do not over-celebrate and please wait for my return so that I can partake in the celebrations.

So please hold off on the celebrations until my return, and that is to both Sandy and Bobby, as well as to my best friend, Rose Tootoo. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Members' Statements. If there are no more, we will return to the Orders of the Day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Brown.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 631 – 2(4): Use of Foreign Vessels in Nunavut Waters

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)
Asked by: Mr. Tagak Curley on September 11, 2008.

Currently, there is no Government of Nunavut official policy on the use of foreign vessels. As this is a federal jurisdiction, the decision to allow or not allow foreign flagged vessels is the jurisdiction of Transport Canada.

The Government of Nunavut does not have carrier contracts for sealift services. I'll rephrase that, Mr. Speaker; I think I made a mistake here. The Government of Nunavut does have carrier contracts for sealift services. The contracts do not disallow the use of foreign flagged vessels. The carriers must own or charter the vessels at the time of loading and they must operate under a "Coastal Trading License" administered by the federal government. 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 Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am so happy to be here with the Mayor of Baker Lake, David Aksawnee. Please welcome him, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit East, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, let me say a very strong and warm welcome to yourself as well as Mr. Alagalak in the Assembly over the last few days.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to introduce to the Gallery a man, first of all, who has worked with our hospital patients for over 30 years in Edmonton, Winnipeg, and now in Ottawa. He has been probably the number one person not only in the Eastern Arctic but in the Western Arctic who has stepped up to the plate and has provided care and after hour contributions to our patients. It gives me great pleasure to welcome to the Gallery Mr. Bill Davids.

>>Applause

Also, Mr. Speaker, next to Bill I believe is our old friend. She's running the Larga Baffin and many of the members here would recognize her. She is really from Labrador, Trudy Metcalf. Trudy, welcome to the Gallery.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. If there are no more, I would like to welcome everyone here in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 664 – 2(4): Inuit Representation on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I wasn't going to go first. My question is for the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year during springtime, I raised the issue of the lack of Inuit representation on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that was appointed by the federal government.

The Premier has recently spent a lot of time in the Prime Minister's company most recently in Inuvik and I'm sure he will have had ample opportunity to raise this issue and seek a response. Can the Premier tell me, yes or no, whether he has raised the issue of Inuit representation on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission with the Prime Minister, and if not, why not? (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 also welcome you and Mr. Alagalak. I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister asking why there's no Inuit representation on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. I have not heard anything back from the Prime Minister, but we are concerned about why there's no Inuit representation on the commission. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of people that went to residential school from the Kivalliq and Baffin regions, especially the people from Igloolik. They would like to get some help but have not asked the officials why there's no Inuit representation.

Can the Premier try to make sure that there's Inuit representation in the commission? There has to be Inuit representation, especially during the Truth and Reconciliation Commission meetings. Can the Premier please make sure that he talks with the federal government to have Inuit representation in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission? (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 far as I know, regarding the people who went to residential school, we don't want their experience to be lost and buried and not talked about. For some of them, it really helped them to gain an apology, as well as to have a reconciliation commission brought forward.

We would like to help them and I would like to work with the Prime Minister to make sure that there's something concrete to help those residential school survivors. I would like to carry out some preparatory work on that because we just can't look at what we have experienced; we have to really try to resolve it.

I would like to work with the Prime Minister to resolve the residential school survivors because I cannot deal with it by myself. The federal government put together that commission and I would like to encourage candidates in the upcoming federal election to help push to have a representative from the Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I thank the Premier because we have to make progress. These people are from Nunavut and they have some things to resolve because this is a healing process. Inuit want to start healing and they would like to be involved in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission because that's the beginning of their healing process to move forward.

So I would like to ask the Premier if there are residential school survivors to be able to email you and ask you for representation in that commission. Can the Premier please find out if there could be Inuit representation with that commission? (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'm sure this will all be resolved and ITK also has the list. We will not be working alone; we will be working with ITK to get Inuit representative on that commission.

Although that is the way it is, I feel that the healing process is very important and they have to have their problems resolved as well. I would like to be able to plan with the federal government as to how we can move forward and provide concrete measures to improve the lives of the residential school victims. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

Question 665 – 2(4): Medical Travel Office in Pangnirtung

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

This has been an issue ever since the transportation office was moved from Iqaluit to Pangnirtung and it continues to be a cause of concern for Baffin Island residents. Further, the government is incurring greater expenses as a result of this fiasco. We were informed that this situation would be resolved. However, nothing has changed to date.

Again, today, I was informed of further difficulties experienced by medical patients who are trying to call the office from Iqaluit since it is a long distance call from here. If this office had been situated here, those medical patients would have already travelled home

but they are stuck once again here in Iqaluit. This issue of the medical travel office, has this matter been reviewed by the department and will this issue be resolved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I had a meeting with my staff to find what the problems are with having a transportation office in Pangnirtung. My staff are reviewing the problems encountered by the people of Nunavut and it is being reviewed right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the reason why this position is in Pangnirtung due to the lack of office space here in Iqaluit? This position is causing numerous issues for our constituents when it's located in Pangnirtung. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. This has been one of the parts of decentralization to the communities. Like I said, what we are trying to do now is to keep the office in Pangnirtung and to have a staff member here as well in Iqaluit. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Yes, the government has identified their course of action, but it seems that even when there's a backlash against that course of action, the government proceeds with it anyway, on top of furor by its residents. I don't condone this, especially when this government is supposed to be representing its people and when its bureaucracy unilaterally acts in opposition to the people.

Further, there was the one territory, one standard time debacle that the government ought to have learned from as it showed what happens when people revolt against a government measure. This issue is as controversial as that particular issue was.

Enough concerns and issues have been forwarded to effect the change of that position from Pangnirtung to the Baffin Regional Hospital. So can the position be moved to be more conducive to medical patients' travel requirements? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said, we are reviewing at this time. I also represent two communities and it has been a concern of theirs as well. What we are doing is reviewing it at this time to see what kinds of problems are being encountered in regard to the transportation office for medical travellers. Like I said, we are trying to review this to make sure that there are no more problems on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Question 666 – 2(4): Additional Benefits Package for Nurses

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I will direct my question to the Minister responsible for Human Resources and it relates to my Member's Statement I made earlier.

I'm just wondering if he could inform me, the Members of this House, and the public out there if it was the intent of the government to exclude those individual nurses that I mentioned about in my Member's Statement from the additional benefits package that frontline nurses get or was it something that was just overlooked. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Barnabas.

Hon. Levi Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker (interpretation ends) and welcome back. (interpretation) And Mr. Alagalak, (interpretation ends) welcome back.

(interpretation) The Nunavut government is trying to proceed with its mandate of an effective and efficient public service to be provided to its residents through a review of the departmental services and selection of the best practices.

The Nunavut Employees Union, or NEU, is involved in the inclusion of the nurses as well as correctional staff, including the teachers and staff at the schools here in Iqaluit, not just here though. We know that there are approximately 12 positions in Nunavut. The NEU is its own body and runs its own affairs.

As well, the employees in question are pretty much at the same levels. In Iqaluit in particular, the staff represent themselves at the union meetings. They have meetings to deal with the mandate of the union and further, they have an ombudsman that deals with employee concerns and grievances. But these employees in this category were omitted from inclusion into the union and that is regrettable.

However, we, as the Department of Human Resources, have to deal with the Nunavut Employees Union to deal with and resolve employee concerns and grievances. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I know that it's recently been argued. For example, I know during our public hearings on the proposed *Education Act*, that I think is going to get introduced maybe tomorrow or maybe Friday... I'm just kidding. I'm just pulling the leg of the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, in those hearings, it was argued that anyone in a position that requires a teaching certificate should be considered a teacher and therefore a member of the Nunavut Teachers Union and even if their actual position is an administrative one.

In this case, we have nurses that have done their time on the frontlines, have stayed, and have moved on in other capacities to help the new ones coming in and help the department provide that badly needed service to the communities, are not being treated the same. I'm just wondering if the minister is of the view that similar criteria should be applied to the nursing personnel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Barnabas.

Hon. Levi Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The nurses have an association such as that of the Teachers' Association. We could meet with their association to deal with this issue. They have to make their concerns known to their association. We will deal with this issue with their association. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to go back to my first question I guess and I'm just realizing that I'm not sure if I caught the minister in his response is: was it the position of the government, in collective bargaining, to exclude those positions out of those bonuses or was it something that was overlooked, or something, like I had mentioned in my statement, that just fell through the cracks and wasn't thought of? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Barnabas.

Hon. Levi Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you. I will have to look into this issue more closely before I can respond. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister committing to looking into it and getting back to us. Will he also commit to looking into this issue of giving

consideration to allowing nursing managers, who have moved into their jobs from frontline positions here in Nunavut, the same benefits as frontline nursing personnel?

You can almost guarantee that there's just a handful, if that, of these positions, of these people there. Would he commit to working with the union to come to a way to resolve that issue so that we don't lose the corporate knowledge and that dedication from those individuals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Barnabas.

Hon. Levi Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're all aware that the long-time employees are very well-known by Inuit in their respective communities, and we know and feel their commitment to the people. As I stated earlier, I will look into this issue, Mr. Speaker. I will also look at what the union is doing about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Question 667 – 2(4): Who Owns the Dock in Baker Lake?

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to pass along my greetings to my youngest son, whom I believe is home at this time. Apparently, he is experiencing stomach problems and he is only three years old, and he was returned from the day care centre where he went to this morning.

I will be posing my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. It started last year, but primarily this spring, the issue of the barges that arrive to offload supplies became a bit too numerous. When developments occur, the corresponding increase in barges reflects that change.

The matter of the numerous barges became an issue to the boat owners of my community in Baker Lake. Since the barges were in the ramp area, they had difficulty launching their boats into Baker Lake since there was no room on the dock. It became rather difficult to try and launch a boat at times and I personally experienced this when I tried to launch my boat, so this issue is familiar to me.

Whose property or responsibility is the dock in Baker Lake, especially when we are talking about the need to expand the dock to accommodate our needs? Can this question be answered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the existing docks, we have some funds for their repair and maintenance in our annual budgets. I cannot state with certainty but I believe that our department deals with docks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister for that response. I'm very pleased that there's money available. There's a requirement for expansion with the large number of transportation vessels because of the large number of barges coming in and with the small docking facilities.

Last year, a very huge barge came in and it got stuck, it was in the lake for months. After the winds came, it blew and it is now stuck close to the airport. It has been like that for about a month. They tried to tow it out twice but weren't successful.

In such cases, what does the Department of Transportation do to help those types of communities? I talked to the hamlets and the NTCL, but my question is: in such cases or incidents, what can the Department of Transportation do to help those communities in need? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I understand and what kind of support our department can do in regard to scows or barges, was that the question? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Simailak, please clarify your question. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that was my question: what can the government do or what kind of assistance does the government provide when transport vessels get stuck outside of their community? There's not much we can do right now, so what can your department do to help our community or those communities in these situations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are concerned about the safety procedures of the barges that go to the communities. That's basically all we do or what we provide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Question 668 – 2(4): New Nunavut Arctic College Campus for Kitikmeot

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, in the last four years, I have been raising the urgent need that we have in the Kitikmeot to acquire or construct a post-secondary education facility to train and educate our residents in the Kitikmeot, in particular for careers in the mining industry.

A few years ago, I proposed that the Government of Nunavut acquire the Lupin mining assets and in the last few years, I have been urging the Government of Nunavut to construct a new Nunavut Arctic College Campus and make it a priority to get that done. The minister told me on February 21 of this year that it is a priority in his department.

I wonder if the minister could update the House today on the status of the Government of Nunavut's priority planning for a new Nunavut Arctic College Campus in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we tried to do a few years ago, when we were looking at process for planning a new trade school for Nunavut, was to look at having auxiliary facilities in Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay, and indeed, we did spend a few hundred thousand dollars upgrading the shop program at the new high school in Cambridge Bay to facilitate that. But at the end of the day, we didn't think that was conducive.

The good news, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that we have moved aggressively as a government and indeed have allocated monies toward the design and build of a new facility to be available in the community of Cambridge Bay. 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 information. The minister wasn't clear when I asked a question about a new Nunavut Arctic College Campus. Yesterday, the minister had mentioned, in the question I asked, that he's looking at opportunities to put a mine training facility in Cambridge Bay.

My question for the minister: would the minister provide some clarification about the type of facility that he's proposing in Cambridge Bay and timeframes for construction? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The program that we had scheduled to run in Cambridge Bay includes several mine-related training programs. One of them, and probably the major one, was to do the Millwright Training Program in Cambridge Bay. As I said earlier, initially, we thought we would be able to facilitate that through the high school by enlarging the shop class and doing some work there. However, the second look at that proceeded with some problems, including ventilation issues and so on, and so we had to look at an alternative.

That alternative is to move forward on an RFP program to put a facility in Cambridge Bay, about 5,000 square feet, that will facilitate not only the Millwright Training Program but some of the other training programs for mine and mine developments specifically for the Kitikmeot region. And this will be in partnership with some of the other programs that we will be running out of the trade school in Rankin as well as in Iqaluit at the smaller facility here.

At the same time, the project would look like receiving the tendered documents early in 2009, with the sealift and barge bringing the material in, in the summer of 2009, for construction, and to look at opening in late 2010. So hopefully that helps clarify the timeline as well as the infrastructure that we're talking about. 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 clarifying that information. I'm sure the people of Cambridge Bay and Kitikmeot look forward to a new facility in 2010.

Mr. Speaker, two and one half years ago, the minister and I met with several mining companies in Cambridge Bay during the Nunavut Mining Symposium. We talked about the types of jobs and careers that the Nunavut Arctic College could train people for to help them find careers in the mining industry.

My question for the minister: can the minister update the House today on what specific training programs the Nunavut Arctic College currently offers to people who are interested careers in mining in the Kitikmeot? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a variety of programs being run specifically in the Kitikmeot region and indeed, in the House, where we have talked about the MOU that we recently signed off with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association as well as KDC, and some of the mining companies, Miramar for example, in the region.

What that is going to do and in conjunction with some of the programs that we're doing, we're doing pre-trade programs in the region, some pre-mines training programs in the

region, and we have also introduced some associated programs at the high school level, for example, in Kugluktuk. 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 answer. Mr. Speaker, we have been advocating in the Kitikmeot for many years that training is important and that we have to get it going. Some people are ready for the jobs.

The Newmont mine will be opening next year and there's a possibility that some more mines will be opening within the next five to eight years, so we have to put a lot of emphasis on training people for those careers. I'm not talking about pick and shovel type jobs; I'm talking about jobs as engineers, geologists, and computer engineers.

Mr. Speaker, income support is decreasing in the Kitikmeot, clearly indicating that the people are finding meaningful employment within their communities. This could be due to a number of factors, including employment at the mine, as I mentioned.

Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister: I'm wondering if the minister could tell the House if his department conducts community surveys that determines the type of sector-by-sector employment opportunities, including mining, that are available in each community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the members know, I think we're quite proud of the fact that our Nunavut Community Skills Inventory program, or NCSIS, which has won national awards, is in place and indeed in the Kitikmeot.

What that system does is probably brings in line a lot of the information that the member is asking for. It gives us the job skill inventory of people on the ground but also tries to match that with employers and indeed what are the opportunities for different programs in the community. When I say programs, Mr. Speaker, I don't just mean academics but also vocational programs and indeed job opportunities at a given community level. We don't do some of the detail that the member talks about and indeed that would be done in most provincial jurisdictions by our federal government through usually HRDC.

What we have tried to do, through the NCSIS program, is do a better inventory at the local level so that we can match employers and indeed employees with the opportunities and available job opportunities, but also vocational and other opportunities for upgrading and OJT, which is on-the-job training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 669 – 2(4): Help for Homeowners with Home Heating

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, I'm unsure as to who to direct this question towards, the Minister responsible for the Petroleum Products Division or perhaps the Minister of Energy, so I will leave it to them to respond to my question. This is in respect to an issue which I believe is under the mandate of the Minister of Energy, especially since he is the one most affected by the increased cost of oil.

Back a short while ago, prior to the increase in the price of gasoline and heating fuel, two private homeowners have come forward expressing their inability to meet these increased costs and who, as a result of the rising costs, have sold their homes. These two homeowners in Sanikiluaq, due to the rising costs of heating fuel and further, I also know that there may be more people in that situation, due to these issues surfacing, this causes stress to many homeowners and it is harder during the winter months when it is extremely cold.

However, I feel that the unilateral price increase was too high and perhaps if I can ask this question: did the government fully take into consideration all of the parameters of government operations and see where they could conserve costs? If the government had given more foresight into the price increase and how to cut costs, then perhaps it was not necessary to increase the price of gasoline. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. I will have the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs respond to your question. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a very relevant question. We did indeed take our time to take into consideration all of the factors because we, too, were concerned about the impacts of the rising costs. We also had some of the same concerns expressed by the member.

With respect to the matter of our private homeowners, we have to provide more assistance to ensure that they are able to make ends meet. We took quite a while to determine our course of action. However, most of the government operations depend on fuel, as well as private homeowners and our harvesters. We can only find out the price when the bill is submitted to us for payment.

So with respect to his comments, I completely understand where the member is coming from and we are aware of these issues. As well, we have come to an agreement within the Executive Council that once we know of the final price of our fuel purchase for all the communities in Nunavut, we will look into the matter further, especially the impacts on private homeowners and harvesters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Premier, but perhaps if I were to rephrase this or add more details. It was a spectacular month in

Sanikiluaq, I believe that most of July's weather was calm, the water was quite calm, but I didn't see too many hunters out, even though the conditions were perfect for hunting. This was primarily due to the increased costs of gasoline. It is now out of reach for most hunters since it is too expensive.

To cite an example, a five-gallon purchase will set you back \$15 or more, and if you buy ten gallons... hold on, I made an error, so let me correct it. A single jerry can holding five gallons is now over \$20. Due to the cost of the fuel being so high, many hunters are no longer hunting. In that entire month, I only saw two boats out there, even though the weather was perfect for weeks on end.

Because of this situation, with respect to his response, did he say that the government's operational requirements for the purchase of fuel required that the cost of gasoline be increased for the summer? Was that the only option the government had? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. I would like to remind members that they should keep their supplementary questions short. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, the free market sets the price of oil, outside of our purview as a government. We really have no options to decrease the cost of oil as a government, but the price which we banded about then is higher than it is today. We do have subsidies to provide assistance but if you look at other markets, their costs have been higher than in Nunavut.

We will know for certain of the actual costs once the fuel has been delivered to all of the communities and into their tank farms. We will definitely know that actual landed costs at that time and if we have room to move at that time, we will attempt to work within the parameters that we are given. Our winter weather is coming and we are aware that any price increase in fuel will affect all of our constituents.

With respect to the issue of the harvesters, we are looking into the Gas Tax Rebate Program. We made this available for our harvesters so that they can access this assistance. We know that with the increase in the gasoline price, even this minor assistance is providing some benefits. However, should the price increase, the rebate will also increase for our harvesters whom we represent in our ridings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Premier stated, outside forces set the price of fuel and if I understood it properly, the price of oil per barrel has fallen below \$100 a barrel. If that's the case, then this event will occur prior to the formation of the new government. So can this government pass along their recommendation to lower the cost of gasoline and heating fuel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I confirmed, this will occur shortly around November, when the last fuel tanker has offloaded their fuel to the communities. That is when we will know the true cost of our bulk fuel purchases.

To date, we have paid out approximately half of the costs with several communities yet to be visited. We will know the total amount once all of the fuel has been delivered. Prior to that time, if we are informed of the total costs, then we can deal with the matter.

However, I believe that this may have to be one of the first actions of the new government after the territorial elections. We don't have any control over it at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 670 – 2(4): Update on New Health Centre for Repulse Bay

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, during the session in June, I asked the minister at that time whether the health centre will be built in Repulse Bay and the then minister said yes, so we expected that health centre to be built. I just want to make sure that this is the case today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I will have to find out whether the materials for the health centres in Repulse Bay and Arctic Bay have been shipped. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I remember when the Minister of Finance made a statement on the finances to go with those health centres. Is the minister saying that the health centre will continue? Is the design complete or is the design not complete yet? Is that what the minister is saying? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. The design of three health centres is being done at this time, including Repulse Bay. They are being worked on right now for those three community health centres. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We heard from the government that they will continue on with the construction of the health centre and I just heard that the designs will be done. I think there are three health centres that we are talking about. Does the minister know when they will be built? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) The design phase will be completed in 2008-09 and they should be in use by 2011. Thank you.

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

Question 671 – 2(4): Update on Broken Power Generator in Pond Inlet

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Energy, and I would like to thank him for his response yesterday. What is the state of the Pond Inlet Power Plant? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Mr. Speaker, we had an issue arise yesterday in the power plant in Pond Inlet and indeed the power was off in the community. Immediately, the operations command centre here in Iqaluit chartered a plane and had mechanics and several technicians go to Pond Inlet and within a matter of a few hours, we had the power back on in the community.

There was a concern with one of the generators and indeed it seemed that some of the batteries that are associated with the generators themselves had failed. It is my understanding now that that has been rectified.

So it is my understanding that the power is back on. We do have an extra person on the ground in Pond Inlet that we had brought in from Iqaluit to ensure the continuity and continuous operation of the plant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister saying that everything has been rectified and there will be no more power outages in Pond Inlet? Can you inform the people of Pond Inlet on that? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Energy, Minister Picco. I know you want to respond to the question but you have to wait for your microphone to be turned on. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Well, that's a first, Mr. Speaker. Thank you and thank you to the member, Mr. Speaker. And I said earlier, the power was restored to the community last night around nine o'clock.

It's my understanding right now that we have four engines in the community of Pond Inlet. Two of them are actually up and running right now, they're fine. The third will have a camshaft on it replaced this week and that will give us the three engines in the community, so there won't be any more issues.

My understanding is that, by the end of this week, everything will be back to normal and indeed be in place for the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Question 672 – 2(4): Was Premier Invited to Greenland Meeting of Arctic Nations?

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, Canada and other Arctic Council members met to discuss issues that have some relevance to Nunavummiut. I would like to direct my question to our Government House Leader.

In particular, it seems that the international community is gearing up for meetings over the undersea mapping issues. We heard that there was a meeting in Greenland in May where the agenda items included ownership of the undersea resources around the North Pole, especially in relation to the undersea mapping of the continental shelves.

My question to the Premier is: was the Premier invited to Greenland to ascertain whether countries such as Denmark and Russia have their sovereignty claims affirmed over their arctic waters? I also know that Norway also was included in the meetings.

I would like to ask the Premier if he was informed about these meetings. First of all, was he invited to Greenland to attend the meetings revolving around the undersea mapping and Arctic sovereignty? (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 recall any particular invitation either to my office or to the government to attend this meeting.

However, we continue to support our federal government in their endeavour to claim these waters. We, as Nunavummiut, have the biggest concerns with respect to these issues, which is why we work with our federal counterparts on this and other issues. We continue to explore our options as it relates to this and other issues affecting us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is a matter of utmost importance, so we must stop listening to the discussions and demand that we be part of any talks debating this issue when Canada is defending its ownership of the rich Arctic resources, especially in the High Arctic.

The world, including Canada, raised the question of the ownership of the Arctic. In reference to the Northwest Passage, it may be a navigable waterway. However, many outsiders feel that this is an international shipping route and therefore, not part of Canada. When issues in our backyard such as this are being debated, perhaps the Premier ought to stop listening to the debate and voice our position on the matter.

Can the Premier inform the Prime Minister that with respect to matters pertaining to Nunavut, Nunavummiut ought to be involved, especially when maps are being drawn out? As we saw, Russia has made her declaration of ownership of the undersea resources surrounding the North Pole. The ocean bottom is being annexed all over the world.

We urge and support the Premier to speak on behalf of Nunavummiut at these meetings and not just listen to the proceedings. At a minimum, the Premier ought to task someone to attend the meetings. Can the Premier voice the concerns of Nunavummiut by requesting that he be added to the delegation? If the Premier is unwilling or unable to undertake this, perhaps he can report to this House on the reasons why he is unable to do so. (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. This meeting was an international forum and as such, under the purview of the Foreign Affairs under the federal government. However, we will continue to support them in their efforts to deal with the challenges from the international community.

However, with respect to our internal waters, we view this as a very important issue and we continue to encourage the federal government to devolve the waters to Nunavut because we can show the outside world that these waters belong to Canada. If we are responsible for the resources in our backyard, we are better able to argue that these are

our lands. We have never wavered from this position and we will harden our position as it relates to our historical lands and waters.

As Inuit and Canadians, we view these waters as our own and we will reiterate our position to the federal government, and I doubt that will ever change here in Nunavut. We will continue to maintain our position and we also support the federal government in their efforts to repel the international ignorance of the fact that all waters within Nunavut belong to the sovereign nation of Canada.

I have continued to express our position on this matter to the ambassador and leaders of the United States that if they are going to open up our internal waters as an international waterway, then the entire territory will be open to whomever can afford to take this route. The Americans are worried of their borders and homeland security, but if they open this up, they are opening up a whole new frontier that will exacerbate their challenges. That does not make much sense.

I have continued to press our point at every opportunity and that we will continue to maintain that these waters are our own. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Mr, Speaker, as per your position that argument would only work if the federal government fulfills their fiduciary obligations. However, many in the international community question that leadership. In a Toronto Star article on August 7, 2008, there was an article regarding the ownership of the undersea resources near the North Pole.

If we glance at any map, it shows the Nunavut boundaries extending all the way to the top of the world. Therefore, we assume that we own those areas. However, several countries don't accept our argument. Countries such as Russia, Norway, and Denmark do not accept our claims and although we maintain our ownership due to the sea ice usage by our people, once the sea ice melts, then their position is that it is not ours just because it freezes all the way.

Due to these reasons, I pose this question to the Premier about this issue. I urge the Premier to no longer just take note of these discussions and to insert himself into the discussion before we find that our territorial boundaries have been changed without our participation.

This is my reason, Mr. Speaker, apparently 13 percent of the world's remaining undiscovered oil deposits are underneath ice currently stopping developers from exploring those areas. The figures included an estimate that upwards of 30 percent of the undiscovered gas fields in the world may be held in the continental shelf. That is why the whole world is now asking, "Whose resources are these?"

That is the reason why I urge the Premier with utmost urgency that if we want the responsibility for our resources to be devolved, then you have to be included in any talks to discuss the changes in our territorial integrity. That has to be undertaken on behalf of Nunavummiut to raise questions and issues to the committee responsible for the underwater mapping project in the Arctic because we may find ourselves in an entirely different world overnight. Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is our land, we use the land, and we will keep using the land. It is also included that Inuit have full utility of those areas and we will have to make sure that the countries out there are aware of that.

So the waters and the islands are a part of Nunavut and therefore, a part of Canada. They have to be treated exactly the same as that and as Canadians, that is our tool. We have urged the federal government to make sure they follow through with the agreement and I'm glad that our personal government recognizes what Inuit need. It was something that I was able to bring up during this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. We think along that same vein and we wholeheartedly support those types of initiatives as we assume that we own these areas.

However, with respect to the petroleum resources in the High Arctic, along with those areas with permanent ice today, that is not necessarily the case. A number of academia, especially one from London, England stated that they sympathize with the Inuit on a personal level.

As the Premier stated though, ice acts like a bridge, but based on the legal arguments, there are no legal claims to this area immediately offshore of the High Arctic islands, which is outside of both Nunavut's and Canada's sphere of influence. That is the reason why I am pushing for Nunavut to be included in any and all talks pertaining to the ownership of the areas in the High Arctic.

According to the report, all areas within the Arctic Circle are being focused on for future development. I would request that the Premier raise questions to the parties involved in the May meeting as to what transpired and the conclusions reached by the participants. I would ask that you investigate this and report on the matter to Nunavummiut. Can you do that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is completely out of our mandate, but we offer our unqualified support to the federal government with respect to this matter. It is their fiduciary responsibility and they represent us as Canadians. We, as a government, cannot, however, just insert ourselves into the discussions.

However, we will continue to urge the federal government to relate our historic and current land usage on these lands and waters, and to relay our current goals along with our future aspirations as a self-governing entity and if all of this is included, it makes the land and seas come alive.

We also want them to complete the presentation of Inuit and their historic usage and future aspirations as a new territory so that the entire global community may know of our rich history, culture and utilization of all lands, inland waters, and marine areas, both between the islands and our internal seas, are indeed a part of Canada.

Further, for the long-term inhabitants, those who have the longest history and land use, once they are given the ownership of these resources, then this will showcase the Inuit and their ownership, and clarify that to the outside world. This is how strong our claim to these lands is and it is a very strong case when you can prove that the High Arctic has been in Inuit hands for millennia. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 673 – 2(4): Polar Bear Management

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment.

As many here are aware, many Nunavummiut have concerns about the animals we depend on, especially in relation to polar bears. Most, if not all, communities in Nunavut have concerns about polar bears in their adjacent hunting areas.

I'm unsure if the minister has been briefed about this incident, but perhaps his staff are already aware. I know his local workers and I know that he told me that this incident would be reported. In any event, there was a polar bear found dead close to Sanikiluaq. Can the minister inform me as to what exactly will be done by his staff with respect to the dead bear? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the dead polar bear, the investigation has begun but apparently, the carcass was missing some body parts.

They have tried to do a complete investigation as to what the cause of death was, but to date, we still don't even have a preliminary assessment as to the cause of death. This is due to the advanced decomposition stages that bear was in when it was found and that's the reason why it's taking some time to determine the cause of death. That's where it stands. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

Question 674 – 2(4): Bridge Closure in Arviat

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to finish up this matter. Although I believe it to be under this department, I may be wrong. I would like to direct my question for an issue being handled by our hamlet to the Minister of Community Government and Services. Perhaps it also applies to her colleague sitting next to her, the Minister of Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to know if the minister is being briefed appropriately in regard to the bridge issue in Arviat by the inspectors that look after bridges over creeks and rivers, as the case may be. In any event, the bridge in Arviat was closed to the public, pretty much upon ice break up, and it has not been reopened to date. Could the minister give us an update on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm looking for the information from my briefing notes. With regards to the bridge in Arviat, I wasn't made aware that there was a closure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Can you hear me? This bridge is the only route that we can take and in case of fires, it's the only way to access the lake to get the water. It's now fall and the bridge is still closed, so that's unacceptable.

There was to be a study done last year or the year before, and they probably had to make the plans last year. Now, what they did is they closed it down, it hasn't been reopened yet, and the hamlet wasn't even informed or given advance notice that they were going to be closing the bridge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. I apologize about your microphone. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't made aware of the closure of the bridge and I don't even recall it, but it will have to be included in the capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you and I'm sorry you weren't informed. That shows you the very low priority they have on that bridge. Is it possible for you to find out about this situation and to rectify it?

The hamlet is responsible. If it's too late to work on the bridge, could you indicate whether they're going to start working on it in the spring? It has been closed for heavier equipment but it's still accessible with lighter vehicles. I'm urging the minister to look into this issue and to speak with her staff so that they can start working on it immediately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will definitely look into it. My staff are listening as they have TVs in their offices and they are well aware of the discussions happening here. So heads-up, I urge you to look into this issue right away to find out what the situation is and inform me as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Members, Question Period is now over. Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. If there are none, Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Committee Report on Bills 021 – 2(4): Bill 41, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2008-2009

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 41, *Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2008-2009*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability, and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 41 immediately moved into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. The member is seeking unanimous consent to have Bill 41 moved into Committee of the Whole. The members agree, so therefore, Bill 41 will be referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. If there are no more, Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Premier Okalik.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 284 – 2(4): Ministerial Meeting Report – F/T Northern Premiers’ Meeting with the Prime Minister, August 28, 2008 from the Dept. of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the following document:

- Northern Premiers’ Meeting with the Prime Minister, August 28, 2008.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Can we have that document brought forward to the table, please.

Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and Finance, Minister Tapardjuk.

Tabled Document 285 – 2(4): Nunavut Youth Committees Funding Resources Calendar 2008-2009

Tabled Document 286 – 2(4): Public Accounts Non-Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited) and Consolidated Financial Statements March 31, 2007

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table. The first one is the Youth Funding Resources Calendar.

This is a tool for Nunavut’s youth committees to apply for funding from organizations and foundations across Canada and Nunavut. This document was created with youth in mind based on the information provided to CLEY during the 2008 Youth Strategy Update Meeting.

This calendar is currently being distributed to youth committee members in each community.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to table the Public Accounts for 2006-07 and I am pleased to relate that we are now up to date with our financial reporting. We are now making good progress with 2007-08 Public Accounts and we are working hard to provide timelier reporting in the future, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Can we have those documents brought forward to the table, please.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents.

Tabled Document 287 – 2(4): Youth Parliament 2008 - Hansard

Members, I am very pleased to table today the 2008 Nunavut Youth Parliament *Hansard*. I would ask all members to join me in congratulating the students who took part in this year's Youth Parliament. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Item 13. Tabling of Documents. If there are no more, Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 7, 20, 21, 40, and 41 with Mr. Arreak in the Chair.

Prior to commencing with the Committee of the Whole, I would like to inform the members that in the foyer or great hall, there are several displays showcasing the cultural practices of Inuit and I urge those members who have some time during their break to go and check these displays out.

Before we proceed with Committee of the Whole, we will take a 30-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:30 and Committee resumed at 16:05*

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

Chairman (Mr. Arreak)(interpretation): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 7, 20, 21, 40, and 41. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence our review of Bill 7, the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, followed by Bill 40 and Bill 41. If time permits, we would then proceed to reviewing Bill 20. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Are we in agreement that we will deal with Bill 7?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 07 – Inuit Language Protection Act – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for agreeing. I would now like to ask the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Tapardjuk, to make his opening remarks. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, my *Annuraaqatik*. I think I'm going to keep saying Mr. Speaker instead of Mr. Chairman as you were the Speaker for a while.

Thank you and I am honoured to stand before you at this time. Today a milestone has been reached that will further enable Inuit to develop their communities and public government in a way that truly responds to their aspiration and dream as a distinct society, with its own unique linguistic foundation. Our deliberations will complete the work required to ensure that we have a well crafted legislative package to protect and promote the Inuit language. Adopting Bill 7 is the final step required to fully support the dream of an Inuit language that is at the centre of work, education and daily life in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, before we start our detailed discussions, I would like to take a moment to review why Bill 7 is so important. What I have said before bears repeating – for too long Inuit have been denied basic services in their language. There is an absence in Canadian society of understanding, respect, basic rights and the means that are necessary to achieve substantive equality between speakers of the Inuit language and those that speak the other two official languages. Our unilingual elders are being disadvantaged in their homeland. With the dominance of English in many aspects of our society, youth are concerned about losing their ability to speak the Inuit language, and even more so when they become young parents struggling to pass this important part of their ancestral heritage to their children.

Our language is endangered. We cannot take this lightly for language is at the heart of Inuit culture. It reflects the generations who came before and their relationship to our Arctic world. It speaks of who we are, how we view our surroundings, and how we wish our children to know their world. To lose one's language is to lose an essential part of one's identity. In fact, the survival of our language is crucial to the survival of Inuit as a distinctive people and to our dream for what Nunavut is and will become.

We urgently need to reverse the language shift among our young people and strengthen their use of the Inuit language. We must not forget our elders and unilingual Inuit language speakers and the support they need to ask for services in their language. We need to ensure the growth and adaptation of the Inuit language so that it functions well in all aspects of our daily life and in the government and private sectors. These issues require us to take action now, before it is too late.

Mr. Chairman, the *Inuit Language Protection Act* has three main objectives which focus on language use in daily life, education and the workplace. The bill contains provisions to ensure that the Inuit language is:

- A language used daily in services and communication with the public throughout all sectors of Nunavut society;
- A language of instruction in a school system that prepares children to enter adult life having a rich knowledge of the Inuit language and full ability to use it; and
- A language of work in territorial institutions thus supporting a representative public service and the full participation of Inuit in it.

To assist in realizing those objectives, Bill 7 also:

- Supports the importance of the use of the Inuit language in early childhood and adult education;
- Addresses the need for language revitalization, particularly in communities and age groups at risk;
- Ensures language standards and the development of new terms by establishing the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*; and
- Supports the roles of the Minister of Languages and the Languages Commissioner.

Mr. Chairman, the review of Bill 7 with *Ajauqtiit* resulted in a number of helpful adjustments, including amendments designed to:

- enhance the Preamble by stressing the past actions that have hurt the Inuit language, clarify definitions of some Inuit language terms,
- clarify issues related to private sector bodies,
- provide for regulatory powers concerning compliance,
- clarify issues related to *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*,
- clarify the powers of the Minister of Languages,
- ensure consistency between Bills 6 and 7, and
- affirm parliamentary privilege and related regulatory powers.

Mr. Chairman, a compelling aspect of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* is that it is entirely within the power of this legislature to enact. Unlike Bill 6, which requires approval from Parliament and Senate, Bill 7 can go into effect as soon as it is passed and proclaimed. The *Inuit Language Protection Act* will have quasi-constitutional status which offers the highest level of legal authority within the power of the Nunavut Legislative Assembly.

As a result of this, one significant amendment I will be proposing today reflects the need to take action immediately to protect and promote our Inuit language. Bill 7 must be able to stand alone if there is a delay in getting approval of Bill 6 from Parliament, as now is inevitable given the federal election. While parliamentary concurrence to Bill 6 is beyond the control of the Government of Nunavut, we can have complete control over Bill 7. I have therefore prepared a detailed amendment to make it clear that Bill 7 stands on its

own. I will be seeking your support for that amendment so that we avoid unnecessary delay in our work to protect and promote the Inuit language.

Mr. Chairman, I will conclude by emphasizing that through Bill 7, we will be taking direct and comprehensive action to fulfill our obligation under *Article 32* of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement to respond to the linguistic goals and objectives of Inuit and their land claim rights. The *Inuit Language Protection Act* affirms the inherent right to the use of the Inuit language in Nunavut and outlines the actions government is required to take to protect and promote it. At the same time, it affirms the commitment of the Government of Nunavut to uphold the English and French language rights of our citizens.

As the life of this government approaches its end, we are at a critical point in realizing the dream of a Nunavut where the Inuit language is at the centre of daily life for all our people. After extensive consultation, substantial debate, and much collaboration, we have before us the final piece of the legislative puzzle. I can't emphasize enough that it is critical to the very existence of the Inuit language that we take the steps necessary to bring this legislative process to completion.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to the discussion today and the ultimate approval of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much, Minister. Minister, would you like to bring officials to the witness table? Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, please.

Chairman (interpretation): The minister says yes. Do members agree to have the minister's officials at the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Welcome, Minister and your officials. Please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Stéphane Cloutier, Director of Official Languages with the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, and on my right is Susan Hardy from the Department of Justice, who is our Legal Advisor, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Chambers. Does the Chairman of the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* have opening comments? Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit*, I am very pleased to make some opening comments concerning the standing committee's review of Bill 7, Nunavut's proposed new *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

As members may recall from my opening comments in June of this year during the Committee of the Whole's consideration of Bill 6, Nunavut's new *Official Languages Act*, the standing committee 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 Culture, Language, Elders and Youth 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 those organizations and individuals who took the time to make submissions to the standing committee. Their input into this process was very valuable.

I am pleased to state 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 legislation, along with the new *Official Languages Act*, will provide a solid foundation upon which to build in the future.

(interpretation ends) I would note that it is important to be mindful that both the new *Official Languages Act* and the new *Inuit Language Protection Act* include provisions that require the Legislative Assembly to undertake comprehensive reviews of both pieces of legislation every five years. This requirement will help to ensure that future legislatures have the opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of both Acts and make amendments as necessary.

I would also note that one of the priorities of the next government will be to appoint the members of the new *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*. The work of this body will be vital in the years ahead with respect to Inuit language use, development and standardization.

A number of amendments have been made to Bill 7 since its introduction. These ensure consistency with Nunavut's new *Official Languages Act*, provide for an expansion of the statute's preamble, add new language in relation to *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and clarify a number of provisions in relation to the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*.

Mr. Chairman, as 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 minister will be bringing forward a motion during these proceedings in relation to this matter.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening remarks. The committee recommends the passage of Bill 7 to all members. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairman (interpretation): 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 a 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. As we have been debating this bill for a very long time, I am sure many of us don't have any more long-winded comments at this time. The reason for the length of the review is due to the complexity of the proposed bill.

I recall in 1968 when Tagak and I used to argue about these issues. We debated the issue of Inuktitut and that we needed to repatriate our language into the circle of decision-making. As we argued, I stated that if we aren't educated well enough, we may never progress anywhere. To which he replied, only if there is no notwithstanding clause will this ever proceed, the reclamation of the Inuktitut language. So that is when we started reviewing the notwithstanding clause and we stopped using it.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank Tagak as well for his foresight in those days. He had the foresight, going back 40 years ago, where he envisioned the government or the federal government, as our minister and chairman alluded to briefly, the federal government in those days had the policy that all Inuit had to be assimilated and that all vestiges of their culture and language should be obliterated and banned.

As a matter of fact, during our early schooling years, whenever we would inadvertently blurt something out in Inuktitut, the teacher would slap the back of our hands with a yardstick. During those times, it was almost impossible to imagine that the Inuit culture and language could be preserved or maintained, especially as we underwent these experiences.

This is also when the seeds of self-sufficiency were borne, as we suffered through these barbaric assimilation attempts, that only when the day came where Inuit had Nunavut, our homelands and our own government, that the scars from those days could be dealt with and resolved.

The federal government treated the Inuit culture and language as a foreign and alien one, and the federal government has never once understood the Inuit ways and practices. Why, you ask, doesn't the federal government understand the Inuit? Because they had no intention of ever recognizing Inuit.

Their policies were those of colonizing peoples, whomever they ran into, the peoples of the land, would be assimilated into their culture and completely eradicate their rich history, culture, and language. They also would put them in schools where Inuktitut would be forgotten since they were to be schooled in their new language.

Those Inuit, who had the vision of this day, our leaders who formed to fight this practice included many present day leaders, including Tagak, who helped found the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and many of whom sat as board members of that founding organization. I wish to offer my heartfelt thanks because I became an employee of this body. This was in the beginning of the 1970s.

From the time that we started working towards the protection of Inuit rights, which is a while back since some of us are getting quite advanced in our age, we were gratified at the Prime Minister's apology to the aboriginal people and his commitment that the government would discontinue the eradication of the aboriginal cultures and languages. Those of us who experienced the days of residential schools accepted that apology made by the federal government.

Following the traditional Inuit cultural and societal knowledge, when someone offers a heartfelt and sincere apology from the bottom of their heart, one has to accept that apology. One cannot keep one's anger at that person once the apology has been given as this has consequences.

I am trying to keep this brief, Mr. Chairman. We are aware of Inuit being known worldwide as patient and tireless people, and further, that Inuit never give up on their goals. There is a saying about Inuit, the lands upon which Inuit live is a harsh, unforgiving, and brutal climate. Inuit also say that they are the only ones to live in these climates.

I'm also thankful to the committee membership that, once they started scrutinizing this bill, immediately set about to fix dates and times for public hearings to consult the public. I thank every single Nunavummiuq who participated. We had Inuit who came up at every opportunity to voice their concerns, even if the member was by themselves and we thank them for that. They gave us many ideas, thoughts, and issues to mull over.

This bill, as the minister indicated earlier, is setting a precedent. The door was closed in the past whereby our Inuit culture and language would be recognized. Previously Inuktitut was only taught in schools and spoken at home, and attempts to protect the language fell by the wayside due to the fact there was no legislative foundation and no one wanted to voluntarily follow those initiatives.

Our culture and language was set out by the school educational institutions and other means, there was no law protecting the Inuit language. As that's the case, this bill, once it's concurred, will not work if it's gathering dust on a shelf somewhere. The government will have to keep it alive and keep it as a living document to protect the Inuit

language, to have this issue studied in the schools, to keep the debate alive, and to provide the funding for its programming.

One doesn't develop legislation to let it gather dust. To draft this bill and just throw it away would be shameful, so we can't let this legislation fall into that category. For that reason, I want this as a living document. I will be supporting Bill 7 once we are going to be taking a vote on it. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are many people out there in Nunavut listening in and watching these proceedings today, so I wish all of them to be happy.

The fact that we had a person translating it into sign language, for the benefit of our deaf Nunavummiut, shows us that not all people can follow the proceedings. As the sign language specialist showed, this makes our proceedings comprehensible to our deaf constituents and I am grateful that they have an opportunity to follow along.

As well, prior to my commencement of my general comments, we have many people to thank here for the completion of Bill 7. First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the minister. Thank you very much for working on Bill 6, which was passed, along with Bill 7, and the elders were in attendance when it was discussed earlier. I thank you from the bottom of my heart and please pass along my thanks to your staff and all the ministers, I'm sure they had their own meetings.

It was extremely difficult and complex. Even though I didn't attend to all the meetings, I know that the committee members worked extremely hard to deal with this. They had many long hours holding public meetings and committee meetings. The issue of dealing with the Inuktitut language, when it's not fully recognized, is very complicated and very hard to deal with.

I would also like to congratulate all the individuals that James named earlier. The Minister of Education, via the legislation contained in Bill 7, will also provide stepping stones for the students. I wanted to thank all those individuals who assisted in this endeavour.

First of all, it was a few years ago, though it seems like it was only yesterday, some of us were born a long time ago, when the Legislative Assembly was first formed.

I met up with Mark Kalluak from Arviat at the airport and he was quite concerned. If he's not listening, please inform him that I thank him. At that time, I wasn't even considering a return to territorial politics. He stated at the airport with an earnest voice, "Tagak, you have to be involved in the Nunavut government!" At that time, I was heavily into the business sector and I wasn't even thinking about it. There were no territorial elections looming either, so I wasn't even considering it.

However, I know that I have to thank Mark Kalluak for making that suggestion. I know that I have to thank him. When the time ripened and I did indeed return to the Legislative Assembly, I kept recalling Mark Kalluak's suggestion and that I had to thank him. He understood Inuit and he stated that I had been fighting for Inuit rights for a long time and that I had to be involved. Looking back, I started understanding why he suggested that I go back to the government.

Our ancestors have brought us today through their perseverance and struggle for survival, and their persistence has brought us to this day. So I would be bereft if I were not to thank all our ancestors. Although our culture and language have undergone several dangerous passages, we have managed to reach this day and age without losing it entirely, so thank you to all of our elders.

We have learned a lot from the other communities from the other countries - Alaska and Greenland. Alaskans especially went through extreme hardship and almost lost their language under the American government. We know a little bit more now about the Americans and their policies. They go through some extremely tough times with the American government.

First of all, I would like to mention that when we started negotiations, when James Arvaluk and I first started talking about the land claims agreement, we founded an entity that would work solely on those discussions and we're still working on that now. Once that entity was founded, I used to try to tell the board of directors about looking at how we can further our goals. We said that because the territory is large, we will have to divide. If we divide up the territory, it would make us stronger.

At that time, the lawyers used to tell us that this is not part of our aboriginal right. So we said never mind, look at Quebec. They work very hard to exercise their rights and when James understood that, he became my supporter and things became a lot easier. It's like making a snowball. First, you scrunch it in your palms, then you roll it on the snow and it gets bigger and heavier as you go along. In that context, when we started getting concurrence or agreement, we started to move beyond just a land for cash deal and the idea of our own government was inserted into the land claims negotiations.

Older people used to say that Tagak Curley was going crazy and those people now regret that they blamed me as they have stated that they now understand what we were trying to do there at the beginning. So I would like to thank everyone here for taking us to this pivotal point and in the beginning, the minister also knows that there were a lot of young people who didn't want to speak Inuktitut and those of us who were proud of our language kept working at it so that the elders would understand. As ministers, this is one thing that I'm very proud of.

When we started working on this bill, I wanted to make sure that the Inuit out there were listening and participating. I used to start getting emails during the Bill 6 discussions. Some people started emailing me and sending me documents. It showed that this was

something that they would bring up again. They were educated and they are going to be very proud that even though they are a unilingual Inuktitut-speaking person, it's not going to keep them away from going into an office and exercising the right to be served in the Inuktitut language.

In regard to the Inuit Language Authority, I think they're going to work very hard. They're going to have a foundation and it will be this bill.

So these are things that I'm grateful for. Starting from our ancestors, our elders that are listening in the communities and Bill 7 will finally start concurrence, and I will be supporting this bill. I believe I still have two minutes but I'll stop here. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also would like to make a very brief comment regarding Bill 7. I'm very pleased that we're able to come to this stage and I will fully like to see it enacted because the Inuktitut language is the main or the dominant language in Nunavut.

I would like to thank the committee members, the minister and his staff, who, I'm sure, had to scramble around because of the standing committee's demands and amendments that they wanted to see. As chair of this committee, there were times when I almost gave up hope that there was no light at the end of the tunnel, but we came to an agreement along the way. I would like to thank them all, the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* Members who worked very hard during the discussions on Bill 7.

It's very obvious that the minister is very supportive and he only speaks Inuktitut in the House during proceedings, or Committee of the Whole, or any kind of meeting, which is very visible and we can tell that he is fully supportive of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. The Inuit authority, or when we were dealing with these two bills, Bill 6 and 7, the Inuit who had concerns made submissions to the committee, made suggestions, and we thank them all for their input.

Another issue is there are a lot of Nunavummiut that speak Inuktitut that don't apply for job opportunities because their English is not good enough. When this bill passes and it's enacted, what I visualize is to see those people, even if they're unilingual Inuit, have the opportunity to be able to apply for those jobs within the government and in other entities.

Mr. Chairman, as I said that I wanted to make a very brief comment, I am very pleased with this bill and I will support it because it will be very beneficial to the Inuit language. I will definitely support it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The people of Baker Lake are happy about this legislation, too, the protection of Inuit languages, which has been a topic in Baker Lake.

Not too long ago, at the beginning of the 1970s, the elders would be trying to teach me how to speak Inuktitut properly, speaking on the local radio station. I had my sister-in-law, who was on the local radio station, for the people to speak a proper Inuktitut language. We were very happy because some of us didn't even understand the old Inuit languages that we heard over the radio and we were told the meanings of those words. We were very grateful for that.

They started our cultural centre in Baker Lake, so I know that they would be involved in the legislation as well. A lot of the elders would correct our language when we spoke Inuktitut just to correct us and this was very helpful for us younger people from Baker Lake.

There are starting to be more people in Baker Lake that are elders and they're trying to speak to their grandchildren in English. English is a lot more prevalent in Baker Lake by the younger people, so we know that English is prevalent. It would be a lot better for the people of Baker Lake if we could speak more Inuktitut.

For those reasons, Mr. Chairman, we are very happy as residents of Baker Lake and we will be in support of the bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. At this time, I have no more names on my list for general comments. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister indicated in his opening comments, he indicated that he is honoured to be here today with this bill and I think not only should he be honoured but we all should be honoured to be here dealing with the legislation before the House that we're seeing today. I think it's a testament to the fact that in Nunavut, we're masters of our destiny, rulers of our own House, or however you want to put it, we're looking after our affairs the way we think they should be looked after, and I think this piece of legislation is a good step in that direction.

As a couple of my other colleagues mentioned, I, too, would want to take this opportunity to express gratitude and thanks, I'm sure, for a lot of sleepless nights and rushing around by not only the minister and the staff, I know Ms. Hainnu, sitting over there, was always at the meetings, and Stéphane and Ms. Hardy, for all the work that they have put into this. And also, my other committee members had indicated that there was a lot of work put in by the committee, as well from our staff, and that includes our Clerk for the committee for this bill, John Quirke, and also Sue Cooper, our Law Clerk.

There was a lot of work by everybody and I think there was a lot of time to sit down and listen and hear out each other's concerns respectfully and think about what each other's

concerns were that were raised. I think, as the minister also pointed out in his comments, that some of those concerns had been taken into consideration and helped.

I think that almost everything that the committee brought up were good issues and in some way or another, helped all of us understand the legislation and helped provide more clarity in the legislation for people that it's going to be there to serve. I think that's a very important process, especially with, you could call it, a historic piece of legislation like this. We want to and I believe that everybody involved wanted to make sure we did it as best as we could right now, right off the bat.

I think we all recognize again that nobody is perfect and as things move along and implementation happens, there will be situations and circumstances that weren't taken into consideration and they can be addressed at that time. And as the chairman said, the review process will allow a mechanism to adapt if necessary and that's one of the reasons, I could say that none of us Inuit would be here today if we weren't able to adapt. It says it has been incorporated law now and I think that's another important thing to point out.

One of the other issues that was brought up in the committee, and I think it ties into the review process, is the committee felt very strongly that they wanted to ensure that the legislation achieved its goals and objectives. I think a lot of those issues have been addressed and with the review process and things like that, too, ensure that there are ways that the government monitors and evaluates to make sure that the legislation is achieving what we want it to achieve.

There's another area of concern that just needs clarification. I will forewarn you right now that I'm going to have a bunch of questions because I know that once this legislation is in place, we're all going to get bombarded with questions from people in our communities of what does it mean to me, what does this mean for me. And I think it's important, as much as possible, in a public forum like this, to have those questions and answers put out there so that people have a better understanding of what this legislation means and what it means to them, and I think that will help. The more people understand something, the more comfortable they are with it.

There are also some questions I know that will come up in regard to who is bound by this legislation. I know that there have been comments made in the media by the government in the past on this legislation and its authority to... or it's the federal government and public federal bodies and agencies. I think we need to have those comments clarified on the record, in the air, so that everybody knows where things are at in that aspect. I think it's important that all of those things get out there so that people don't have false expectations.

The whole principle and the concept behind this bill, I don't think anybody in this room or anyone in Nunavut disagrees with it, I think we all support it. In order to make sure that people aren't disappointed with it, that they have a clear understanding of what this does and I think that's important, that people actually understand what it will do and what

it will do for them as it relates to the federal government and everyone else. There are no surprises for anybody if they all know.

There are a lot of other things that could be mentioned, but I think the biggest thing is, as our Chairman said, there were times when we thought, "Okay, this isn't going to work," I think the determination of everybody involved to want to make it work made it work and got it to where we are today.

I will be first one to admit that I had the issues earlier on with the previous drafts, I mean there are have been a number of amendments to clarify and change things. For the most part, out of those issues, concerns have been addressed and again, I want to commend the minister for listening and understanding, and taking the time to do that in a respectful way. I think, from everybody's viewpoint, that that type of approach to accomplishing something goes a long ways in making sure it gets accomplished. I think that's what we have done here.

Like I said, I look forward to going through the bill clause-by-clause and getting information out there for everyone to hear, for Nunavut to understand some of what's in here and I also look forward to supporting and I will be supporting this piece of legislation.

Again, just thanks to everyone involved for doing, I think, something that, as far as I know, this is a pretty historic piece of legislation. Like you said, you're honoured, I'm honoured and I'm proud to have been included in the process of getting it established and getting it to where it is today, and being here and proving it in this Assembly and actually making it law. With that, I'll stop there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. At this time, I have no more names on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to Bill 7 in your legislation binders. If you have found the page, we will begin. Bill 7. Reprint. *Inuit Language Protection Act*. Clause 1. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just in clause 1, it's the definitions and under Definitions, I guess they're not page-numbered, but under the first page is "'private sector body means,' except as otherwise stated in or prescribed in accordance with this Act, a corporation, partnership, sole-proprietorship, society, association, cooperative, union or other non-government entity..." operating in Nunavut.

I'm just wondering if that means church groups, AA, Soccer Associations in each community, the Minor Hockey Association, all those types of bodies and organizations, if that's what's captured in that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It states all the agencies or co-ops, unions, churches. Other organizations that are not directly involved with the government are not written in here, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess a good example this weekend is they had the mass registration here in Iqaluit. I'm just wondering if all those organizations and groups that do things in the community would be covered under this definition. I'm just wondering if the minister can clarify that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): The ones that would be under that definition are the ones that the member just mentioned, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next definition I want to get on the record is the public sector body. In here it says, "... means a department of the Government of Nunavut or public agency, or a federal department, agency or institution." Would that include the Canada Post Corporation, or any federal government office or department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): All the bodies that work in the federal government and federal government departments are the ones that would be impacted by this legislation, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Do you agree? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, just to get things on the record, clause 3 talks about "Duties of every organization" and here it says, "Every organization shall," in accordance with this section and the regulations, if any, which I'm sure there will be, "(d) provide, in the Inuit Language, its reception services and any customer or client services that are available to the general public."

I guess under the definition of organization that's in here, it means all of the public sector bodies. Does that include the private sector bodies as well that were asked about earlier? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. It's directed at all private sectors working with the departments and the government, and all the people that are working in Nunavut, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I just want to get it on the record because I know the people are going to be asking us these questions after today. So any business or any organization that has an office or a claim line, or anything like that, that is dealing with the public will be required to provide its reception services if they don't already, but most of them do, they will be required to provide those services in the Inuit language. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are the things that we would like to do, but we have to know that there's going to be some problems when this legislation is enacted. We gave the Languages Commissioner the power if he/she has a problem and if the legislation is not followed. They will be able to have the power to direct those bodies to follow through with the legislation, or to give them training, or to tell them what they have to do, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for the response. The next question I have deals with, I think it's on the next page in clause 3, it says, "Particular services to be delivered in the Inuit Language," and, "An organization shall communicate with the public in the Inuit Language when delivering the following particular services:" (b) indicates, "household, residential or hospitality services, including," it goes on to, "restaurant, hotel, lodging, ... housing services." I just want to get a clear definition again on what is meant or intended in (b) there by "housing services." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. Things such as when we rent houses and some people from the Housing Corporation rents houses, the people who provide that housing, such as fire extinguishers, they're all in English. What we meant if the Housing Corporation leases a house to an individual, they have to have those equipment written in

Inuktitut. That's housing service, things such as emergency stuff like that, will have to be written in Inuktitut.

If someone had an emergency or someone's place is on fire, that's what they will have to do. Housing services, such as fire extinguishers and all the services that are provided by those houses, that people who rent houses will have to provide in Inuktitut, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next part of that clause is (ii). It talks about "basic services to a household, including the supply of electricity, fuel, water and telecommunications." I assume they do it already but for example, if NorthwesTel sent out their phone bills to everybody, everything that's on there in English would have to be in the Inuit language as well. Would that be correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, those are the services that are provided. As long as the people that provide those services are living in Nunavut, they will have to have their services written in Inuktitut. Telephone, water, and electricity bills will have to be in Inuktitut because some people can't speak or read in English. Those are the services that have to be provided in Inuktitut, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank the minister for that response and I agree with him. But I'll just say NorthwesTel, for example, that that service here and everyone that gets their phone bills here, if their bills are sent out of their Whitehorse office, would there be a requirement for them to comply with this legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for asking the question. In regard to the telephone company, they have operators that answer the phone. For example, if anyone had a question or an issue about their phone bill or are requesting to have their phone service cut, there would be a requirement to have an Inuktitut speaker.

In regard to bills or something that would affect the people of Nunavut, there would be a requirement to have the documents in Inuktitut and of course, it's going to have an affect on the telephone company because they are providing a service to the people of Nunavut, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the minister but I know that they're providing a service to the people of Nunavut. If I'm interpreting this correctly, if they send their bills out of their Whitehorse office or their office out of Yellowknife, NWT, which is not in Nunavut, because it's being sent in from outside the jurisdiction, would they be required to comply with this legislation?

If that, in fact, was the case where any billings, for example, are coming from an office outside of Nunavut to come into Nunavut, would they be required to comply with the legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to this question, there's a difference in the companies. Using the telephone company as an example, they operate and provide services within the boundaries of Nunavut. They do have a head office in Whitehorse but if you want to work within Nunavut, whether commercially or other means, and are providing a service, Bill 7 would have to be adhered to by those companies operating and providing a service within the Territory of Nunavut.

Even though the telephone company, NorthwTel, has a head office in Whitehorse, they do operate and maintain a service within Nunavut and would be bound by legislation from Nunavut, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for clarifying that for the public record. The next question I have deals with Communications, and I know I have raised it in standing committee as well, and it's with the subclause (3)(a), where it says, "all notices, warnings or instructions directed to users or consumers of the service."

Mr. Chairman, I know the minister mentioned fire extinguishers earlier and I have raised that example in standing committee. All the fire extinguishers usually come from manufacturers with all of the instructions right on them. Some of them are actually stencilled or imprinted right into the side of the tank.

Also, on the fire extinguishers and other things as well where they have inspection certificates and things like that, will there be a requirement that all those things be in the Inuit language as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Service providers will have to follow Bill 7 once it's enacted. We are not going to tell the people who make the fire extinguishers to have it written in Inuktitut. The entities that bought those fire extinguishers in bulk form and will

be distributing them to the houses or the service providers will be required to have the warning labels and/or instructions, and so on, made available in Inuktitut.

I'm sure that the Housing Corporation buys fire extinguishers in bulk so that they can provide their tenants with fire extinguishers. It would be up to the Housing Corporation to provide those Inuktitut warning signs, not the company that makes the fire extinguishers.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not just the Housing Corporation but the government, whether it be a territorial government, or a federal government, or a municipal government, if they have fire extinguishers or any other kind of equipment like that in their facilities, would be responsible for ensuring that the Inuit language version of the instructions and copies of the certificates of inspection and things like that that are on there would be in one of the Inuit languages. Would that be correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, the member is correct.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another example I used in the standing committee was the warning labels on liquor. I know right now, in some cases, you see them go out, "Don't drink these if you are pregnant," or things like that and I think it's in French and English I have seen them out there now.

But I guess right now, the sale of liquor in Nunavut is just done by the government that the government would have to ensure that, because the potential is from any warehouse that it could be sold to any community in Nunavut that allows it, those labels would have to be in all four or at least the two Inuit languages, as well as any other requirements under the *Official Languages Act*, French and English as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would urge the warehouses or the Liquor Licensing Board, which is under the Department of Finance, or direct them to make sure that all warning labels on liquor containers will be provided in Inuktitut. The responsible department or minister would ensure that all is written in Inuktitut, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just get another issue out there that I know would come up is: what about on cigarette packages that have those warning things right on the packages? Would there be a requirement for those things to be in the Inuit language as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): It's a very good question that I haven't thought about, but we will look into the issue of warnings on cigarette packages and we will have to review it to see if there would be a requirement, Mr. Chairman.

That is the only response I can give you at this time. We will have to look into the cigarette packages and if there should be a requirement for the warning labels to be in Inuktitut.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, I can't believe there's something we never thought of and talked about already after all that we have been through in our meetings.

I guess the other issue, and I know members will get approached about it, is when you go into a store and they have propane bottles and anything that has some type of warning label already on it, I guess the retailers I'm sure will come to us and say, "Okay, does that mean that we have to do that as well?" So I would just like to get that out there for the public record.

If anything retail has warning labels on it, like you go into a store and there are toys that say, "Warning: Choking hazard for kids under three," and things like that, these are the first things you see that people are quick to point out and to question, so if we can get a clarification there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Again, this is a little different. We were talking about consumable products. What we're trying to do here under this bill is, for example, if we're going to be sending out documents, or warnings, or instructions to users or consumers, it will have to be in Inuktitut. We haven't talked about consumable products that are sold in retail outlets, which are different and will have to be handled a little differently, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his officials to the Committee of the Whole. First of all, I would like to express my appreciation to the committee for their tremendous work on developing this bill.

I would particularly like to thank my colleague, Mr. Tootoo, for asking a number of questions on this. He has asked a lot of questions that I had planned to ask and I'm sure a lot of my constituents back in my riding will ask when I get back to the community.

One of the questions I have just off the top of my head here, I was reading further ahead in document where it says "Commencement, Coming into force," it was unclear from reading section 49. It says, "Sections 3 and 5 come into force..." Could the minister indicate when this particular section is going to come into force? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Again, we will have to look into this to find out if we're going to be creating any problems. After reviewing the matter, then we would look into the implementation stages of this bill. I would like to inform the member that the affected entities, we will have to find out from them and then see when it's going to be implemented, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I can certainly see from reading this section and also from listening to questions thus far, there's going to be a fairly important transition period, a transition from what people are used to now to what's going to be expected of them.

I know under section 3(1)(d), "provide, in the Inuit Language, its reception services," I know in my riding, and it alludes to it back in clause 1, "the revitalization of Inuinnaqtun," we have problems with our communities where Inuinnaqtun isn't strong. We don't have a lot of Inuinnaqtun-speaking people there who can work in jobs where they are required to speak in that language.

If you're requiring any organization to provide reception service in Inuinnaqtun, it could be difficult for them until there's enough qualified Inuinnaqtun speakers in the community who may be interested in working for that particular organization or company. I'm wondering if the minister could explain to me how an organization would overcome that potential problem. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have a slight problem there. There are individuals who speak Inuinnaqtun very well but we do have a severe shortage of Inuinnaqtun speakers and it's a concern to our department.

There are very limited Inuinnaqtun speakers who can provide the services and because of that and one thing that we're working very hard on is how we can revitalize the

Inuinnaqtun language or to revive the Inuinnaqtun language. This is something that we will have to take into consideration to increase the number of Inuinnaqtun speakers and to see Inuinnaqtun being taught from kindergarten on up.

We do have a slight problem in regard to your question. There's a shortage Inuinnaqtun speakers and it's something that we will definitely have to work hard on in order to increase the numbers.

Once this bill is enacted, the Minister of Languages will have to make a report on the implementation stages of this bill and if the Inuinnaqtun language will also be included in there and what type of plan we will have to revive the Inuinnaqtun language, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that explanation. Perhaps the minister could explain section 5 to me. It says under "Accommodation for private sector body," they may apply to the Languages Commissioner and the Languages Commissioner "may relieve a private sector body of an obligation" if it causes undue hardship to the business.

Could the minister explain: could an organization apply under that section and say, "We can't provide reception services at this time," and then the Languages Commissioner would review and make decision to provide, like it says here, "a less onerous requirement"? Is that something that would be considered under that section? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, it's very true. For example, if there's an individual who has a small business and they can't provide the Inuktitut service, they would be able to approach the Languages Commissioner and make an application under this part and be exempted. There would be an agreement between the business that's making the application and the Languages Commissioner. They would negotiate and come to an agreement when it results in undue hardship, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I have a question under clause 3 with regards to the public and private sector organizations and other entities. It's very good providing communication for the public, which is good for business.

If they want to be used by consumers, then they will have to provide the information in Inuktitut. I think there are some Inuit out there who don't speak Inuktitut. Under clause 3(a), it says, "display its public signs... in the Inuit Language together with any other

language used.” It could be in either French, or English, or Inuinnaqtun, or Inuktitut. It could be in four languages

For that reason and under clause 3(c), it says, “ensure that the Inuit language text of its public signs, posters and commercial advertising is at least equally prominent....” But it doesn’t say what sign. Could this be tightened up under the regulations? If some businesses don’t like putting up Inuktitut signs, they might make it less prominent than the other language that is used. Could you tighten it up under the regulations?

If we use Quebec as an example, English used to be very small when you’re driving on the roads and you could hardly read the signs when you were driving down the highway. Are we going to have the same problems here where there is less prominence in the Inuktitut text? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Under this section, all public signs in any language will have to be equally prominent. The Inuktitut language will have to be equally prominent and not one language is smaller than the other, whether it’s Inuktitut, French, or English, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I would also like to thank Mr. Curley. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a quick one on the signs, is that commercial advertising? If a company has their name and phone number on the side of a vehicle in English, would it be considered that it would have to be there in the Inuit language as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. When this Act is enacted, the regulations will have to be written and that’s where the regulations will tell you whether that has to be done that way or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other one in 2(b) where it talks about restaurants, does that mean that menus would have to be in the Inuit language, too? So my dad would be able to go in and see it in Syllabics, and not just tell us, “I want the one with this, this, and this,” where we would have to look for it on there for him, but menus would have to be in the Inuit language as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The people that have restaurants, if they want to work in Nunavut or if they're working in Nunavut, their menus will have to be written in Inuktitut. I'm sure that we will have to get the expertise of Inuit people that know the... it would be better if they could have a picture of the food that you're ordering in the menu. To answer the member's question, I would say yes, the menus have to be written in Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think Iqaluit might be unique. I think it's the only place in Nunavut with a Chinese restaurant and some of those terms and things on the menu, I don't know if there are Inuktitut or Inuit language words for them.

So I guess in any cases where there isn't a word for something that's on a menu, I think I used the example and it was one of my favourite dishes in one restaurant in Yellowknife was Hun Yung Gai Ding, mixed vegetables with almonds. I know there's no terminology for that in Inuktitut, even something like Bok Choy, or things like that that there are no terminologies.

What would be the process say if the restaurant here wanted to comply but no one knows what this means, so how do you translate that or how would he go about getting help to be able to do that so he could be compliant with the legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's true. There won't be any Inuktitut versions of those things in the menu, but this would be done by people that do terminology because there's a terminology committee here called the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the minister's response in that these are the kind of things that are going to come out when it's out there, and I don't think it's a laughing matter but some people seem to think it is. I'm sure that Simon at the Navigator, if you're listening, "How am I supposed to do this?" He probably wants to but is saying, "Okay, how am I going to do it?" And these are the kind of things that need to get out there for people to hear.

The other question I have, Mr. Chairman, is in subclause 3(b) where it talks about "monthly bills, invoices and similar demands directed to persons," and it says, "... who may be Inuit Language speakers." How would a service provider determine if someone may or may not be if they're just doing it over the phone or they get a message in and it's someone saying, "I need someone to come and check this out." How is that determined? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I will have Susan Hardy respond to that question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Hardy.

Ms. Hardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Minister Tapardjuk. I'm not sure I heard the full question or understood it, but I think it's important to put on the public record that the bill offers help from the Languages Commissioner. Anyone who is having a difficulty to understand how they might individually apply it can voluntarily submit a language plan and part of the commissioner's role is to provide the help that person needs. The *Taiguusiliuqtiit* can be involved in helping an organization get its language plan together. So that responds to the piece of what you were discussing.

You also mentioned about bills and invoices, and those are things that Inuit speakers need to understand when they receive them in their homes. Again, if there's a company that needs assistance with that, part of what this Act provides is a helping response, not just a punitive response.

There are some layers of billing people like what your computer does in your store that you already own, that the Languages Commissioner may have to consider on an individual basis. So the computer may not be able to spit out in Inuktitut and we're not saying to a single business owner, "You have to go out and buy a new machine to calculate your invoices immediately." What we're saying is, "Let's get a reasonable plan together so that you're serving people in the Inuit language to a reasonable standard."

If there's another piece to your question, I'm going to have to apologize and ask for you to add that piece.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The part where it says, "who may be Inuit Language speakers," what mechanism do they have to use to determine that they could send it out?

If you look at just the demographics of the population, it's 85 percent Inuit and 15 percent non-Inuit. So if they just go through the list and say, "85 out of a 100 things are going to be done in Inuktitut and the other 15 are going to be in another language." How are they to determine whether someone is or not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I will have Ms. Hardy respond to that question as well, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Hardy.

Ms. Hardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Minister. The intention there is that the business should be able to determine, on first contact, by using the Inuit language whether that is the preference of the person receiving the service. This is not difficult to do; you can do it even with an automated phone in some cases. If it proves more difficult to do, then that's something that this Act provides assistance with and that was the piece of your question that I was answering.

So what you indicated in your question is correct, it's often going to be the case that one should assume that you're dealing with the 85 percent of the population and not the 15 at first contact, and then proceed in the language that the person prefers from that point on.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Hardy for clarifying that. Say, for example, you know someone does, on the first contact, asks the consumer or whoever it is, "In which language would you prefer to be served," and if that individual indicates the Inuit language, then they can provide it in the Inuit language.

But if they indicate that they would prefer to be served in English or any of the other languages that are out there, would they still be required to do that from then on? If the customer says, "I just want my bills in English or I just want my bills in Inuktitut," that they wouldn't have to ask again and that they would be able to do that once and have it set up so that they wouldn't have to keep doing that every month? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, your understanding is correct. It would be in that case, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going back to instruction and I know I brought this up in standing committee as well is if you go to any bank machine or ATM, they're just in English or French and there's actually, I think at RBC here, you can get it in Chinese, too. Will there be a requirement for the financial institutions or anyone, because some of them are private as well with banking or ATM machines, to provide an option for using the Inuit language as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, Bill 7 is the protection for Inuit languages. We have to follow through with that and we would like all Nunavut businesses to display

Inuktitut. Elders can't speak English and they can't get good service unless they are assisted by interpreters or whoever. That would have to be the case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So those machines would have to have an Inuit language service in order for you to be able to push the buttons and it will be in Syllabics, or Inuinnaqtun, or Roman Orthography, depending on where you are. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's what we're aiming for. When you go to the bank in Nunavut, they have to be written in Inuktitut. Those are the types of things that we would like to protect and to have Inuktitut in those things, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I couldn't agree. I think you get a lot of cases where you hear of elder abuse and scenarios where they can't use the machines because they don't understand it, so they give their card to someone and they take off with all their money or things like that, so I think it would be great.

I'm just not sure if I got a clear answer from you. Would they be required under the law to have those machines operate in an Inuit language as well? You indicated, "That's what we're striving towards, that's what we would like to see, and that's what we're trying protect." But would that be a requirement for anyone with an ATM or bank machine to have it so it can operate in an Inuit language as well as English, French, or even Chinese as we see here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, that's true. They have to be written in Inuktitut because they're going to have to follow Bill 7. Like we said earlier on, whoever is going to have a problem, they can negotiate with the Languages Commissioner if they cannot provide those services right away and if there's undue hardship. Yes, it's true that those ATM machines will have to be written in Inuktitut according to this legislation, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Is that it? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry, that's clause 3 we're on, my next question is on clause 4. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I think I'm beginning to understand that the businesses, if they want to receive more money, if they want to make more money, and if they want to be recognized by Inuit, they have to have their services in Inuktitut. Is that what it means in the bill? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, according to that legislation, that's what we want to be able to do, that the Inuit languages are recognized in Nunavut. They have to be able to provide services in the Inuktitut language according to Bill 7, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Under clause 3(2)(a), it says, "essential services, including (ii) health, medical and pharmaceutical services," and "(c) the other prescribed services," have to be in the Inuit language.

For that reason, I use telephone banking because I don't use the Internet as much. So if I'm going to be transferring money from one to the other, they provide English or French services. For instance, you press 1 for English. Are those telephone banking services be provided in Inuktitut? Will the banks have to provide those services once the Act comes into force? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, the services that are provided to public, once this legislation is enacted, then there's going to be a plan in place that will be putting together and that would be me as a minister. How about if you're going to be planning on telephone banking? For instance, if they want to, the Inuktitut language, those are part of the plans that we were going to be putting into place, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, I understand that. There are a lot of people from Nunavut that try to phone the hotel, whenever there's an answer that is, when they answer over here in the hotel, there are all kinds of languages. There's this individual that only spoke Inuktitut that couldn't get the language that he wanted. Under clause 3, hotels will have to provide the services in Inuktitut or Inuktitut as well as English and French. Is that true? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, that would be the case. Entities such as hotels, those are the types of things that they will have to do and they will be given the

opportunity to, if they want to provide services to the public, that's part of the what they have to do and they have to work with Languages Commissioner.

With this bill enacted, even if the hotel owner knows what services that they to, what language that they have to provide their services, then the Languages Commissioner will have to negotiate with them, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 8. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 9. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 10. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 11? Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 12. Do you agree? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one quick question under clause 12 and it's in regard to some of the bilingual Inuit staff and the fact that some of them don't receive the bilingual bonus.

Only some of the positions receive this bonus, in particular the frontline staff, which have to interact with the general public, but quite a number of staff who are bilingual don't receive this bonus. Some positions don't require Inuktitut to perform their duties. Although they are fully bilingual, they are not eligible for the bilingual bonus. So will this practice be reformed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): As a government, we have a policy whereby if you're a service provider, because they speak Inuktitut, they get a language bonus. That's the government's policy for those service providers working in the government institution and the government will keep this language bonus system, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Clause 12. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 12.1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 13. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 14. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 15. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 16. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 17. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 18. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 19. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 20. Do you agree? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have another question that I would like to get on the record, and I know it was raised in the committee, is that since the creation of Nunavut, we've gotten away from saying there are different regions. It was pointed out in 20(c) where it talks about more than one regional variant, it says, "... or dialect."

I would just like to get on record the difference of having to say a regional variant rather than just a different dialect. I would just like to get on the record a response for that. Since Nunavut, we got rid of the regions now, it's all one territory. That was a concern there, so I would just like to get a response on the record for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. I will have Stéphane respond to that question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Cloutier.

Mr. Cloutier (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will respond in English. (interpretation ends) Just to respond to your question, Mr. Tootoo, regarding the regional variants or dialects of the Inuit language, that definition of that approach brings flexibility.

What we want to ensure with that provision is that when members are appointed or when an individual wants to become a candidate and be appointed to the board of the *Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit*, we want to ensure that these individuals have a good knowledge about regional varieties of the Inuit language or dialects, but when we talked about regional varieties or dialects, it's to ensure we have flexibilities to be able to consider all variations of the Inuit language.

So it might be an individual that has a good understanding, his or her first language might be Inuinnaqtun but as well have knowledge of Inuktitut, let's say the dialect of Arctic Bay. It might be another individual that has a good understanding of Nattilingmiutitut because that's her or his first language, and then also no other variations of the Inuit language may be closer to Inuinnaqtun or closer to South Baffin dialects; it might also be in the case of Kalaallisut. We know individuals that have good understanding of Inuktitut as well as Kalaallisut.

So we want to go get the best resources of individuals that have lengthy knowledge and experience or the will to learn about regional variations or dialects. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Clause 20. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 21. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 22. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 23. Do you agree? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We finished Part 2, so I would just like to recognize the clock, our committee has another meeting to do after this, and report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour, please raise your hand. All those opposed, please raise your hand. The motion is carried. I would like to thank the minister, Ms. Hardy, and Mr. Cloutier for coming and we will see you again. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Members. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 7 and would like to report progress. Also, 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. Arreak. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Simailak. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I would like unanimous consent to return to Item 5. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. The member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Curley.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Curley (interpretation): This individual has been to Iqaluit a few times, but has been here for the first time. Don't mind his outfit too much.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I would like to welcome my constituent from Rankin Inlet North, John Saimaut, to the Gallery. I would also like to say that he is also a bowhead whale hunter. Thank you.

>>*Laughter*

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. If there are none, Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's a meeting of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability in the Tuktu Room immediately commencing after today's adjournment and for all members, the meetings for tomorrow are cancelled.

Orders of the Day for September 17:

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
 - Bill 7
 - Bill 20
 - Bill 21
 - Bill 40
 - Bill 41
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 42
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, September 17, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:12*

