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DAY 1

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable James Arreak, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Uqqummiut)

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(Iqaluit East)
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James Arvaluk
(Tununiq)

Moses Aupaluktuq
(Baker Lake)

Hon. Tagak Curley
(Rankin Inlet North)
Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

Ron Elliott
(Quttiktuq)

Adamee Komoartok
(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)
Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister of Energy

John Ningark
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Johnny Ningeongan
(Nanulik)
Deputy Speaker, Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit West)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Eruk Pauloosie
(Nattilik)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Keith Peterson
(Cambridge Bay)
Minister of Finance, Chair, Financial Management Board; Minister of Justice

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

Fred Schell
(South Baffin)

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk
(Arviat)
Minister of Environment; Minister of Human Resources; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk
(Amittuq)
Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Languages; Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)
Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation

Hon. Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)
Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation; Minister responsible for Homelessness

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Honourable Tagak Curley, Mr. Ron Elliott, Mr. Adamee Komoartok, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. John Ningark, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, Mr. Paul Okalik, Mr. Enuq Paulosie, Honourable Keith Peterson, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Fred Schell, Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. James Arreak)
(interpretation): I call upon Bishop Paul Idlout to lead us in prayer.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much, Bishop Paul Idlout. I will now call upon our Elder Enoapik Sageatok to light the *Qulliq*.

Lighting of Qulliq

Ms. Enoapik Sageatok (interpretation): The *Qulliq's* significance is highlighted every time it is lit. I am sometimes asked to light a ceremonial *Qulliq* and this is not my first time I have lit a *Qulliq* at the Legislative Assembly. It has been a while though, but I am honoured to light this *Qulliq* for the Second Session of the Third Assembly.

I have lit ceremonial lamps for quite some time and when I am asked to do so, I usually provide some background as to its cultural importance and quite a few

people now know why it was so important to Inuit. Quite a few Inuit, including some *Qallunaat*, have a better understanding of the cultural attachment Inuit have towards the *Qulliq*.

The *Qulliq* was central to our traditional lifestyles prior to Inuit being moved off the land when we, Inuit, were responsible for our own governance. During that era, *Qulliiit* required oil, which we had to render from the blubber as young girls. Due mainly to our parents' abilities, this enabled us to reach this day and age. If our parents didn't have superior survival skills, many of us would not have lived to reach our old age.

We didn't have any assistance from the outside world, other than what we were able to glean from the animals we harvested. The Europeans came later to trade and occasionally, our parents would get some tea and other staples. The *Qulliq* was used throughout an Inuk's life and it was used for every activity.

Whenever Inuit experienced a shortage of oil, the lamps would be shut down to conserve what oil we had until the hunters were able to catch more sea mammals to render into oil. This is exactly why Inuit oppose any activists that may impact the animals we subsist on. Those of us who recall the old days can never agree with these activists' theories simply because without these animals, Inuit would not have survived at all.

Those of us from the older generations relied completely on the light and heat of the *Qulliq* and without the animals to provide all of our necessities, our

ancestors couldn't have made us. Due to their abundant skills, our ancestors ensured that the following generations could reach today.

None of us know what's going to be happening in the future. As we are walking down this path, none of us can prognosticate future events. Even Members of the Legislative Assembly cannot foresee the future, although many mention the future and their plans to resolve the problems we face today, but none of us have the ability to forecast the future.

The people are the ones who elect members to sit at the Legislative Assembly. When we vote for a candidate, the winning candidate gets to sit as an MLA. If voters didn't vote them in, then the person was only a candidate. I urge the members not to forget their constituents. Make sure that your constituents are properly taken care of and that they have adequate shelter and all provisions, and also make sure that elders' homes are well-kept.

We have expectations of the government when they tell us that they will take care of us. They tell us what they plan to do during the campaigning stage, but I would like to urge the Members of the Legislative Assembly to think of their constituents first and foremost and to keep the information and communication going between the representatives and the people out there. Some voters get discouraged to vote in the future if they aren't kept up-to-date by their representatives. The voters are the ones who put you in your seat.

Long time ago, when marine mammals were not readily available, when the

seals were scarce, there was one incident I remember a person dying of starvation. We hardly had any animals nearby but it was because of the animals that we have survived to this day. We worked hard for our survival and that should be remembered by the younger generation.

Everything is readily available to us in this day and age. Even then we say that we are poor, we say that we are poor because we end up waiting for our pension. As elders, we need to be provided with some money to see us through to the next pension because of the high cost of living in Nunavut.

I just thought I'd make those comments so that they can be heard. Thank you very much for inviting me to light the *Qulliq*. I receive invitations which I sometimes feel I can't attend to, but there are other individuals who are capable because God has created us all equally. Thank you as I am running out of things to say. The *Qulliq* is getting too much draft now, so thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Enoapik Sageatok, our elder from Iqaluit. (interpretation ends) I will now call upon the Aqsarniit Middle School Choir to lead us in the singing of *O Canada*. Please stand.

>> *Singing of O Canada*

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much. The choir will entertain us with additional songs, throat singing, and drum dancing.

>>*Throat singing*

>>*Applause*

>>*Drum dancing and singing*

>>*Applause*

>>*Choir singing Happy Birthday Nunavut*

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much to the wonderful choir from Aqsarniit Middle School.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Members. I am very pleased to welcome our elders, guests, and visitors to the House this afternoon.

I would like to extend a special welcome to a number of dignitaries who have joined us today:

The Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, Member of Parliament for Nunavut and Minister of Health. Welcome.

>>*Applause*

The Hon. Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs; and

>>*Applause*

Mr. Paul Kaludjak, President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

>>*Applause*

(interpretation) Welcome to you all. Earlier today, I announced the winners of the *Nunavut at 10* essay competition. They were:

1. Charlotte Crow from Nuiyak School in Sanikiluaq;
2. Cassandra McDonald from Qarmartalik School in Resolute Bay;
3. Paula Piryuaq from Jonah Amitnaaq School in Baker Lake; and
4. Aloka Wijesooriya from Inuksuk High School in Iqaluit.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating these four students, all of whom submitted heartfelt and thoughtful essays. Please congratulate them.

>>*Applause*

(interpretation ends) Today marks the 10th anniversary of the first sitting of the Legislative Assembly. I would also note for the record that this is the 395th sitting held by this House since April 1, 1999.

I also wish to acknowledge the presence of today of Mr. Simon Nattaq. On April 1, 1999, Nunavut's Mace was carried into the Chamber for the first time. On that day, Simon served as our Sergeant-at-Arms. We are honoured that he has been able to perform the same duty today.

>>*Applause*

I am pleased to express my appreciation to the students at Inuksuk High School's *Pirurvik* jewelry program. Twenty-nine students are enrolled in this program which has encouraged many young people to stay in school.

(interpretation) For the past few weeks, these young people have been creating jewelry pieces in celebration of Nunavut's 10th birthday and were proud to have had the opportunity to present their work to the Legislative Assembly today in recognition of this occasion.

I am also pleased to take this opportunity to invite all of our guests today to take the time to view the Legislative Assembly's exhibition of photographs and other items from our first ten years.

We will now proceed to the Orders of the Day. At this time, I will ask the Clerk of the House to determine whether Her Honour the Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the Chamber to deliver the Opening Address. Mr. Quirke.

Commissioner's Address

Commissioner Ann Meekitjuk-Hanson (interpretation): Please be seated. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Premier Eva Aariak, (interpretation) Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Paul Kaludjak, President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, federal Minister Chuck Strahl as well as federal Minister of Health, who is from Nunavut, Leona Aglukkaq, elders and youth, honoured guests, and all of us.

Today, we join all of Nunavut's communities in celebrating our 10th anniversary as a territory. A great deal of hard work has taken place to get us to where we are now. This is a time to reflect on where we are and where we are heading. It is a time to recognize and celebrate what we have accomplished.

Nunavut, as a concept, started well before the territory was created, beginning with visionaries and numerous Inuit organizations that pursued the land claim for decades before it was eventually signed in 1993. In the years that followed, the Nunavut Implementation Commission and the Office of the Interim Commissioner helped to shape what the territory would look like when it was created. And then, on April 1, 1999, both our territory and our government were born.

When Nunavut was formed, we held a vision for ourselves, for our communities, and for Nunavut as a united whole. It was a vision that considered those who came before us as well as those yet to be born. It was a long-term vision based on Inuit values and traditional ways of looking at and being in our world.

We have witnessed developments on so many fronts that we sometimes forget what immense progress has already been made. The list is too large to name everything since so many new bodies and programs have been established since 1999. For example, in the past ten years, we witnessed the creation of the *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit Katimajit*, the Municipal Training Organization, the Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal, the Young Parents Stay Learning program, and I am sure everyone is aware of this program, the Akitsiraq Law School. Many new and renovated buildings, from houses to schools and health centres, now better serve Nunavummiut.

This Assembly has passed legislation which is crucial to this territory's social and political development, including the

Wildlife Act, the *Education Act*, the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, and one of the newest Acts, the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. All of this legislation is made for Nunavut and truly reflects the unique culture of our territory.

The number of NLCA beneficiaries employed by the government has almost doubled to over 1,500. Written communications in Inuktitut have now become almost commonplace and many more services are now available in our official languages. Huge progress has been made as we implemented the dream which has been realized in the creation of Nunavut.

For the past ten years, we have put our government in place with a focus on building the capacity and infrastructure we needed to govern ourselves. This has been done with a view of ensuring a better life for all Nunavummiut. Much of this has already been achieved and we have truly established our own government, one that is more reflective of our culture and our needs.

But, in building Nunavut, the challenges have sometimes been as daunting as the opportunities have been promising. Some people believe that we have lost track of our original vision. They believe that we have lost our sense of purpose and belonging – our cultural connection to the land and to our families and communities and our balanced way of living life. Some Nunavummiut have yet to realize significant improvement in the quality of their lives. We need to acknowledge these difficulties without losing sight of the positive.

During the First Session of this Third Assembly, a renewed long-term vision

has been crafted and new priorities have been set. Today, on the opening of this Second Session, the government will table “*Tamapta/Tamatta 2009-2013: Building our future together*”.

The vision and priorities in this document are centred on continuing with the things that are working well while addressing the issues of those most vulnerable in our communities. We want to build on the positive and the successes that we are experiencing without losing sight of those who remain most in need.

It is a vision about people, from children and youth to adults and elders. It focuses on the human side of our society without forgetting the need for infrastructure, strong economies, growth, and a position in the global market.

The title of the document was chosen with care. It is *Tamatta*, “all of us,” everyone working together to build a strong future. Building on our past ten years, *Tamatta* holds a strong long-term vision for the future, built by our people pursuing their dreams. It outlines clear priorities for action over the next four years.

The principles that have been in place for Inuit for centuries are still in place and will continue to guide our work today. As the world around us changes, these guiding principles will not.

Nunavut has often been seen as a model for indigenous peoples around the world – a decision by the Inuit of Nunavut at the time that they settled their land claim to be inclusive – by choosing a public government elected by all residents of this land.

Nunavut has emerged on the world stage in ten years. Some of that is because of things like the impacts of climate change and sometimes because of misguided concern for our wildlife. But it is also due to the talented people from Nunavut who are showing the world about our lives and our culture. Through the strength of our people, Nunavut has a voice on the national and global stage in the arts, in matters concerning aboriginal people, and in governance.

Our efforts in the next few years will be to build on these positive images. We also celebrate everyone in our families, from youth to elder, who, each day, do the best they can to look after themselves and each other. Many people in our communities continue to apply the principle of *Ilagiitsiarniq*, which is very useful in our community. They work hard for their families and their community and they deserve our recognition and gratitude.

Working with our land claims partner, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, we remain committed to the full implementation of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. Working with Canada and all provinces and territories, we will continue to strengthen our place in confederation and in the international community.

This government has outlined in the priorities document a commitment to four distinct areas of action that will make the biggest difference to our lives now and for the future.

Number 1. We will continue to implement existing priorities.

This means that we will continue to focus our work on improving health and education outcomes. We will make better connections between education, continuous learning, skills training, and employment. Government and business will continue working together on economic development and diversification strategies. And we will continue to strive for more effective collaboration with partners, with Inuit, with community governments, and between governments and departments because we cannot work alone. No matter who you are, you cannot work alone.

Number 2. We will initiate a review – the report card on government.

The mandate of this government is not yet complete. The vision and priorities, which will be tabled today, are just the first part of the mandate. The mandate will be completed later this year with an action plan – a plan for specific actions, developed by this entire Assembly, as a detailed guide for the activities of government.

But first, we need to assess government's capacity to undertake those activities, an analysis of expenditures of structure and of programs. The time is right for an understanding of what is working now, as our Premier stated, and what is not working well. That will allow us to build on our strengths and weaknesses.

We will look at where we have come from and where we are now. The review will be external to government, but with information and assistance provided by government staff. The review will

involve everyone and listen to what is being said.

Number 3. We will reinforce the use of Inuit societal values as guiding principles for government.

We do not need further study to realize that we will continue to be well served by better incorporating Inuit societal values into government. We have adopted the same guiding principles as those used by the first two Assemblies. We will expand the ways they are incorporated in government structures, programs, and services.

Inuit societal values are reflected in many of the top priorities in *Tamapta*:

- Government will be taking action to reduce poverty.
- We will be addressing the root causes of problems.
- We will ensure that our environment and wildlife are protected.
- Government will be promoting the Inuit language and Inuit culture, especially as we embark on the implementation of the powerful education and language legislation enacted by this Assembly last year.
- We will be promoting and providing opportunities and recognition for healthy lifestyles and placing more emphasis on personal responsibility as the foundation for healthy, happy families.

- Government will be using common-sense approaches to everything it does and it is.

Number 4. We will implement new initiatives to reach our vision.

Many of our new initiatives will require detailed analysis before rushing into them. As they return to their communities after this sitting, I am certain that all Members of this Assembly will see the views of their constituents on how they would like to see the priorities in *Tamatta* implemented. By the fall, after the report card, they will have that information to guide them as they develop an action plan with detailed strategies for government.

But the priorities in *Tamatta* already outline some of the new initiatives which we know we will be able to complete in the next four years.

For example,

- We will create a wider range of affordable housing options.
- We will encourage and support the building of strong, diversified community-based economies, including a more cohesive and viable culture and arts sector.
- With government's support, Nunavummiut will reduce alcohol and drug abuse and all forms of violence.
- Government will support opportunities for youth and elders in governance and leadership.

- We will increase our involvement in Canadian and global matters to ensure that we minimize and adapt to the impact of negative external factors. We will effect change through the positive contributions of Nunavut to the international, especially the circumpolar, community.
- We will create a Social Advocacy Office, which will recommend policies, programs, and services which would better represent the interests of groups of people who find themselves vulnerable, at a disadvantage, or in need of a strong voice.

This is a very full agenda for the next four years. Government cannot do this alone. It will take all of us working together (*Tamatta*) and it will take time.

We will not forget the goals that were set for Nunavut through the Bathurst Mandate and *Pinasuaqtavut* mandates of the first two Assemblies. But it is also time to form a long-term vision for our future based on what we have experienced over the past ten years and what we know to be realistic. Our vision is that by the year 2030:

- all Nunavummiut will continue to have a high quality of life
- those most in need will have a better standard of living
- families and individuals will be healthy and happy

- communities will be self-reliant, with reduced dependence on government
- and Nunavut will be recognized for our unique culture, our ability to help one another, and our contributions to the world.

As we move into this Third Legislative Assembly with our priorities straight and our vision clear, we are celebrating our accomplishments on many levels. And in that celebration, we recognize that as Nunavut, we are making progress. We are becoming our vision by working together as a territory, *Tamatta*.

The vision of this government stands as a declaration of confidence in our future.

I now declare open the Second Session of the Third Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much, Commissioner of Nunavut. Going back to the Orders of the Day. After Ministers' Statements, we will be taking a brief break. We will now go to Item 3. Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, (interpretation ends) Hon. Eva Aariak.

Item 3: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 001 – 3(2): Building Our Future

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to welcome everyone on the 10th anniversary of Nunavut. I will be speaking in both Inuktitut and English.

The 10th anniversary of Nunavut as a territory and the Government of Nunavut as a public government is truly a cause for celebration. In Iqaluit, on April 1, 1999, I can remember the scent of excitement in the air, the whole city was buzzing with activity, the events at the celebrations were profound, and the unveiling of the Nunavut flag was very moving. And for my son, who was just five years old at the time, his moment was watching the fireworks on the ice that evening. That day was truly historic for Nunavummiut, for Canadians, and for Inuit of the circumpolar regions.

(interpretation ends) The 10th anniversary of Nunavut as a territory and the Government of Nunavut as a public government is truly a cause for celebration.

>> *Applause*

In Iqaluit, on April 1, 1999, I can remember the sense of excitement in the air. The whole city was buzzing with activities, the events at the ceremonies were profound, and the unveiling of the Nunavut flag was very moving. And for my son, who was just five years old at this time, his moment was watching the fireworks on the ice that evening. That day was truly historic for Nunavummiut, for Canadians, and for Inuit of the circumpolar regions.

(interpretation) As Premier, I am very proud to be in this Chamber today to be with my colleagues, our federal ministers, our Inuit leaders, especially our elders, and through television, all Nunavummiut to celebrate our 10th anniversary.

(interpretation ends) As Premier, I am very proud to be in this Chamber today to be with my colleagues, our federal ministers, our Inuit leaders, especially our elders, and through television, all Nunavummiut to celebrate our 10th anniversary.

(interpretation) We celebrate today as a young territory, but like a young person, we have a family history as well. Nunavut carried over from the former territorial Government of the Northwest Territories in 1999. It emerged from decades of advocacy and negotiations, and then the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* in 1993, and our government carries forward into 2009 from the first two governments.

We celebrate that history and recognize with gratitude those who provided leadership through those prior years. And, Mr. Speaker, within this year, we will formally recognize the individuals that have made this movement possible, and I am very pleased that we will be able to do that with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

(interpretation ends) We celebrate today as a young territory, but like a young person, we have a family history as well. Nunavut carried over from the former territorial Government of the Northwest Territories in 1999. It emerged from decades of advocacy and negotiations, and then the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* in 1993, and our government carries forward into 2009 from the first two governments.

We celebrate that history and recognize with gratitude those who provided leadership through those prior years. And within this year, we will formally

recognize the individuals that have made this movement possible.

(interpretation) The governmental challenges in 1999 were far greater than those that we face today. We assume the administration of a functioning government with a bureaucracy of men and women who have chosen public service as their careers dedicated to Nunavut and Nunavummiut. We celebrate them today.

(interpretation ends) The governmental challenges in 1999 were far greater than those that we face today. We assume the administration of a functioning government with a bureaucracy of men and women who have chosen public service as their careers dedicated to Nunavut and Nunavummiut. We celebrate them today.

(interpretation) The structure of government is in place in 2009. We celebrate the work by all those that brought us to this day.

(interpretation ends) The structure of government is in place in 2009. We celebrate the work by all those that brought us here today.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to stress that we have been guided to our early work as a new government by Inuit societal values, including the principles outlined in *Pinasuaqtavut* by the previous government. We have adopted those guiding principles as the basis for building our future together.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to stress that we have been guided to our early work as a new

government by Inuit societal values, including the principles outlined in *Pinasuaqtavut* by the previous government. We have adopted those guiding principles as the basis for building our future together.

(interpretation) So this is not just about change as a new government assumes the governance of Nunavut as it completes its 10th year. There is a lot of work still ahead of us to do, there are still opportunities to seize, and there are still challenges to overcome. The work continues. We are first and foremost still building Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) So this is not just about change as a new government assumes the governance of Nunavut as it completes its 10th year. There is a lot of work still ahead of us to do, there are still opportunities to seize, and there are still challenges to overcome. The work continues, Mr. Speaker. We are first and foremost still building Nunavut.

(interpretation) Our agenda and our style may be different but our goal remains a stronger Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Our agenda and our style may be a little different but our goal remains a stronger Nunavut.

(interpretation) We need to work together as Nunavummiut, Inuit and non-Inuit; we need to work with our partners; and we need support from our federal partners and from our Inuit organizations. We need to engage our citizens in contributing to that work - elders, parents, and especially children and students. There are responsibilities for all of us today and in the years ahead.

(interpretation ends) We need to work together, Mr. Speaker, as Nunavummiut, Inuit and non-Inuit; we need to work with our partners; and we need the support from our federal partners and from our Inuit organizations. We need to engage our citizens in contributing to that work - elders, parents, and especially children and students. These are responsibilities for all of us today and in the years ahead.

(interpretation) The opportunity, the dream that Nunavut presented to Nunavummiut in 1999 is within our reach. We, as individuals and as communities, need to respond. In the years ahead, we need again to adopt a change, something that Inuit are very adept in doing. We need to work towards self-reliance and to reduce dependence as citizens, as communities, and as a territory. Our strength is in our history. The future is in our hands.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the opportunity, the dream that Nunavut presented to Nunavummiut in 1999 is within our reach. We, as individuals and as communities, need to respond. In the years ahead, we need again to adopt a change, something that Inuit are very adept in doing. We need to work towards self-reliance and to reduce dependence as citizens, as communities, and a territory. Our strength is in our history. The future is in our hands.

(interpretation) This is an exciting anniversary. The promise of the land claims agreement and the potential of the partnership of Inuit and non-Inuit remain as vibrant today as they were in 1999.

(interpretation ends) This is an exciting anniversary, Mr. Speaker. The promise

of the land claims agreement and the potential of the partnership of Inuit and non-Inuit remain as vibrant today as they were in 1999.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my fellow ministers, we are proud to be the new team that takes Nunavut into the next decade and we look forward to working with our colleagues in this Chamber in addressing the challenges and fulfilling the promise that is Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my fellow ministers, we are proud to be the new team that takes Nunavut into the next decade and we look forward to working with our colleagues in this Chamber in addressing the challenges and fulfilling the promise that is Nunavut.

(interpretation) We are building our future together, and we believe in Nunavut. Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we are building our future together and we believe in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Ministers' Statements. Minister Peterson.

Minister's Statement 002 – 3(2): Notice of Budget Address

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Government of Nunavut, I am pleased to notify my colleagues that on Thursday, June 4, 2009, I will introduce the 2009-2010

Budget. This budget will outline our government's financial priorities for the fiscal year 2009-2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. If there are no more, we will take a break at this time. I invite everyone to go to the foyer for the unveiling of the photo of the previous Speaker, Mr. Peter Kilabuk. We will come back once the bells ring.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:09 and resumed at 15:59

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to the Orders of the Day. Members' Statements. Mr. Okalik.

Item 4: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 001 – 3(2): Reflections on 10 Years in Government

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, and all Nunavummiut. We are celebrating ten years of Nunavut government and we can now reflect on what had happened in the past.

For that reason, I have two people to thank from my office. I was fortunate enough to work with these individuals. When I was going through many challenges, they supported me and I would like to extend my appreciation to them.

We can reflect on what we enjoyed and there are so many things to mention. I thank my fellow Inuit and I don't want to thank only some of them but all of them.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my two ministerial colleagues of the previous Cabinet and they should be acknowledged and not forgotten.

(interpretation ends) I shall start with the western corner of our territory and the first Minister for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and now a lifelong friend. Mr. Donald Haviyok was a stranger to me when he first joined the Cabinet, but his humble and friendly nature quickly made me do things for his community of Kugluktuk that are there today and will be there for some time.

If I had my way, Mr. Speaker, the healing facility that's in operation in the western part of our territory of Nunavut will be called the Donald Haviyok Centre. Minister of Justice, maybe you can take that as advice. *Koana*, Donald, to you and your family for sharing you with our territory.

In the neighbouring community of Cambridge Bay, we also had our first Minister of Finance and my first Deputy Premier. This little man looked a lot like us but had roots in another part of the world. Mr. Kelvin Ng, you brought much needed ministerial experience to my first Cabinet, which we really required for the first few years of governance. *Xie xie*, as you say in China, for your service to Nunavummiut.

(interpretation) Jack Anawak, who has been a Member of Parliament for many

years, used his experience at the Cabinet level and his beliefs that Nunavut needs a good government.

Speaker (interpretation): I'm sorry, Mr. Okalik. Your time is up. You must ask for unanimous consent of your colleagues to conclude your statement. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I almost forgot as I am very happy today, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent of my colleagues to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is asking for unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed, Mr. Okalik.

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

Jack Anawak is somebody who kept encouraging me and I would like to thank him for that because that helped me give our previous government strength, and he still provides his support to us. I am very pleased for that and thank him for that because he truly is helpful in his belief. As an Inuk, I would like to state my forgiveness to him.

Manitok Thompson was an experienced Cabinet Minister. Her experience was very beneficial to the first Cabinet. Her beliefs were very strong and she was able to encourage us. I learned a great deal from her about needing to encourage and push people with your whole belief. I would like to thank her because she was very beneficial to Nunavummiut.

James Arvaluk, who is now here with me on this side, had experience with the previous government and was very beneficial to the new government. He was the Minister of Education. Even though it was for a short time, we implemented all the things that he worked very hard on.

Sometimes when we are young, we tend to be followers when we face different challenges and difficulties. Having been the youngest member, I pay attention to him when he's facing challenges. James is a formidable opponent at any game. No matter where he lives, he is elected. Thank you, James.

I was able to work with Peter Kattuk here at the Legislative Assembly and I thank him profusely. I started working with Peter Kattuk during the land claims negotiations even before Nunavut was created. He was able to be a member of the first Cabinet. Although he came from a small community that continually faced challenges, he pushed hard for the incorporation of Inuit societal values into government. He would worry about us and he would advise us. Even though he was going through difficult times, he was always there to help. Thank you very much, *Katukutsuk*, as I would call him.

Olayuk Akesuk, who used to be called *Ulujuk* through the media, was our youngest Member of the First Legislative Assembly. I remember how he put his ministry aside and treated us like brothers and sisters. That's one thing that I enjoyed seeing because we are ministers but we also need to live our own lives. He came from a small community. As their representative, he

fought for the smaller communities to receive more. Thank you, Olayuk and your family.

Our previous Speaker, Peter Kilabuk, who is from my hometown and who I knew before Nunavut was created, was very approachable and I was able to work very closely with him for quite some time. He worked hard to make sure that our government worked well even though he was going through hardships with his family. Even though we now have Nunavut, we visit our families all the time. I would feel for him when he went through hard times. We love him very much and we wish him the best for the future.

I know him well as we go fishing whenever we're in Pangnirtung and we will do that again in the future. I'm letting Rosie know in advance that I would like to go south with Peter very soon to play golf.

(interpretation ends) To Mr. Edward Picco, you were the ultimate teflon man in our government; you would try and avoid any real controversy. And I even caught you trying to hide from your own public event when the sign for the Iqaluit hospital was not working properly. I wish that I had your gift so that one day, I could live without some bad press.

>> *Laughter*

We thank you for your two terms in Cabinet and the many accomplishments that we achieved during your tenure. During your second term, we were joined by a new group of ministers and each brought different gifts to the Cabinet table, and I would like to acknowledge them as well.

(interpretation) Also from the west, Leona Aglukkaq became a Member of the Legislative Assembly. She was young and brought in new ideas. As the youngest member, she worked hard in her beliefs. She is wise, intelligent, and works hard at her job. I thank her very much. I congratulate her for being a minister at the federal level. Keep up the good work.

(interpretation ends) Levinia Brown, you served with such grace and dignity that I envy how easy it was to deal with the issues of the day. You were my Deputy Premier and we had such great success as a team, and how well we worked together. I have never worked so closely with a minister and how wonderful the outcomes were. We were able to accomplish a whole lot for your community of Rankin Inlet and I feel for your successors for what they will have to endure for the coming months and years.

(interpretation) David Simailak wanted to be part of the Nunavut government to work diligently on economic development. However, he is being misremembered for something he worked very hard to accomplish, something we all experience as elected representatives. I would like to acknowledge his tremendous support to Nunavut's economy. He was able to bring our economy up to the point where it was higher than Alberta's economy. So therefore, I thank him for his contributions to us as a government. *Ma'naluavik*, David and all your family. I am very proud of you.

Patterk Netser was elected during a bi-election and became a member of

Cabinet. He was a very quick learner, very supportive, and encouraged us. We now have new driver's licences that Patterk Netser lobbied very hard for during his tenure. When offices weren't functioning properly, he was able to move them around. Even though he was elected from a small community, he was able to set up an office in Coral Harbour. We thank him for the hard work that was of great assistance to Nunavut.

Levi Barnabas was a minister very shortly as we were nearing the end of our term, but he managed to make a contribution. We were able to negotiate a new collective agreement for our employees near the end of our tenure with him as minister, and so our government can now start worrying about other things. He also taught me that even though he was going through difficult times, he was always willing to move forward and I would like to thank him for that. Nunavummiut thank you and your family for the many challenges and difficulties that you faced.

Tapardjuk, you are the only member from the first Cabinet. I thank you because you worked very hard and you were always willing to provide your support. You brought your ideas of what Inuit want and you were able to put that on the government's table. You kept encouraging and pushing us as a government. You brought in language legislation that the government was able to pass into law. The people of Nunavut are very proud and grateful that you were able to change legislation to better suit the Inuit. Thank you very much and I am certain that your work will continue in the new government.

(interpretation ends) I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge all the MLAs that did so much work with all of us as ministers during our two terms. As I have noticed in my more recent role here on this side, it can be very challenging at times.

As we turn a new page as a government, I wish our government more success than what I was able to offer to my fellow Nunavummiut. *Qujannamiik. Ma'na. Koana. Nakurmiik.* Thank you. *Merci Beaucoup. Monsieur le Président.*

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 002 – 3(2):
Reflections on the Creation of
Nunavut**

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on behalf of the Regular Members' Caucus to offer some reflection on this historic and momentous occasion.

It is with a tremendous sense of pride that I sit here today as a Member of the Legislative Assembly. It is hard to believe that a number of us who are present this afternoon, especially Mr. Okalik, who just spoke, along with Mr. Hunter Tootoo, were also together exactly ten years ago when this House sat for the first time. In those days, it was sometimes overwhelming as to how we would operate as a government.

(interpretation ends) I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the decade of service that has been

performed by my colleagues from Iqaluit West and Iqaluit Centre. It was not easy at the time; however, we survived through it.

Mr. Speaker, it is also appropriate that we take this opportunity to pay tribute to the numerous individuals and leaders who were responsible for turning the creation of Nunavut from a dream into a reality. I think my colleague, Mr. Tagak Curley, remembers very well how we were sometimes ridiculed for thinking something so bizarre.

>> *Laughter*

Some of them are in this Chamber today, I just mentioned, and he was also a president before me, so he had twice as hard a job as I did following in his footsteps.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, it is also appropriate that we remember those leaders and elders who have passed on since the creation of Nunavut in 1999. I wish to pay special tribute to the late Helen Maksagak, our first Commissioner of Nunavut, the late Goo Arlooktoo, who fought very hard for the creation of Nunavut when he was a member of the legislature in Yellowknife, and my immediate predecessor in the Legislative Assembly but only when he passed away, the late Jobie Nutarak. He is in our thoughts.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, when the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada first proposed the creation of...

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk, you must ask for unanimous consent of your colleagues to conclude your statement. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk is asking for unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank my colleagues for allowing me to finish my statement.

When the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada first proposed the creation of Nunavut in the 1970s, our world was, in many significant respects, a very different place than it is today. I think we could appreciate how insignificant we felt as leaders at the time and it was very overwhelming when we tried to convince the rest of Canada for all of their support.

The very concept of aboriginal title was in its infancy and many of us were told that Nunavut was an unrealistic and unachievable fantasy. We were told that our people would never be ready to take on the responsibilities of government. We were told that change was impossible.

Mr. Speaker, let us look back at how far we have come and let us also look forward to how far we have to go.

In the three decades since we began to seriously push for the creation of Nunavut, we have shown that determination and perseverance are qualities that lead to accomplishment and achievement.

(interpretation) Our elders and leaders never gave up on their dreams. They treated every setback as an opportunity to learn and move forward. They worked together with a shared sense of vision and purpose.

Their efforts have led us to where we are today and we must never forget the sacrifices of those in whose footsteps we walk.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, since the creation of Nunavut ten years ago, we have accomplished much together.

- Important legislation has been passed.
- New schools have been built as investments in our children's future.
- Actions have been taken to strengthen the vitality of the Inuit language, which was mentioned, while respecting the rights of those who speak our other official languages. That's also very important to us, to Nunavummiut.
- We are seeing more of our young people graduate from school and we are seeing more of them earning the post-secondary qualifications that will enable them to succeed in today's world.
- The aspirations of our constituents have been articulated at the national level and beyond our borders.

Mr. Speaker, as we look forward to Nunavut's next ten years and beyond,

we must draw on our strengths in order to build our future.

Although we have much to celebrate today, we cannot lose sight of the challenges that confront us in such areas as education and economic development.

All of us in this House were elected to serve our people and Nunavut as a whole. We must never lose sight of that accountability.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, if we work together in the spirit that led to the creation of this territory, we will accomplish much together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt. No? Okay, I'm sorry. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat, Mr. Shewchuk.

**Member's Statement 003 – 3(2):
Arviat, Nunavut's 2nd Largest
Community**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise before you today to give my best wishes to all of my constituents in Arviat, now the second largest community in Nunavut.

>> *Applause*

I wish them all a very happy 10th anniversary. I wish all of them the best on this day and hope they enjoy the planned fun and festivities that are taking place in Arviat today.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize all of the public service that

has contributed to the evolution and the wonderful territory of Nunavut to make it what it is today. I would also like to extend my best wishes to all the communities in Nunavut on this historic day.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to recognize and honour the previous governments and their accomplishments over the last ten years. I am very proud and honoured to be elected as MLA for Arviat and now to the Executive Council. I will assure all of Nunavummiut that I will try my hardest to move ahead. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 004 – 3(2):
Preparing Nunavut Youth for the
Challenges of Tomorrow**

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to join you in congratulating one of my constituents, Paula Piryuaq from Jonah Amitnaaq School in Baker Lake, who was one of the winners of the *Nunavut at 10* essay competition.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it is often said that the youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow.

As we reflect today on what this anniversary means to us, I want to emphasize the importance of preparing our youth for the challenges and responsibilities of the future.

Earlier today, I had the privilege of sending a message to the students at Jonah Amitnaaq School in Baker Lake to mark this occasion.

In my message to the students, I noted that education is the strongest tool and most powerful means by which our youth will succeed in the future and control their own destiny.

I encouraged all students at Jonah Amitnaaq School to finish their studies and look for opportunities to pursue further education and training.

Pride, accomplishment, and self-reliance are not qualities that will be handed to our youth – they must be earned with persistence, determination, and effort.

Mr. Speaker, as a former President of the National Inuit Youth Council, I am excited that the youth met recently to discuss the future of the organization.

I believe that it is important for youth to have the opportunity to organize and speak with a collective voice.

Mr. Speaker, today, we celebrate the accomplishments that brought us to this point in our history.

We have much work ahead of us and I look forward to being a part of this important journey.

I would also like to thank the interpreters and transcribers for your hard work, as well as the pages and the Sergeant-at-Arms. (interpretation) Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Member's Statement 005 – 3(2):
Quttiktuq Success Stories**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I should start my address by asking for unanimous consent.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I am humbled and honoured to rise today on the occasion of the opening of the Second Session of the Third Legislative Assembly and the 10th anniversary of the creation of Nunavut.

As we take this opportunity to reflect on this milestone, I would like to spend some time highlighting a number of positive initiatives and developments that are occurring in the three High Arctic communities which I represent.

I would first like to join you in congratulating one of my young constituents, Cassandra Macdonald from Qarmartalik School in Resolute Bay, who was one of the winners of the *Nunavut at 10* essay competition.

Mr. Speaker, as someone who first came to Nunavut a number of years before division in 1999, I can say that I have personally witnessed positive change.

In the community of Grise Fiord, I have observed a growing sense of confidence, an increasing willingness to speak out, and an impressive sense of pride in the community. Before the creation of Nunavut, I sensed a hesitancy to be vocal on issues of concern. That has

changed as the territory itself has grown and matured.

Mr. Speaker, I have also been very pleased to note a strengthening bond between the community and its school. Parents are becoming more involved in their children's education than ever before, attending special events, parent/teacher meetings, and graduation ceremonies. This trend is very positive.

>>*Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to pay a special tribute to Grise Fiord resident Larry Audlaluk, who received our nation's highest honour when he was appointed to the Order of Canada in 2007. Larry has been an outspoken and tireless advocate for the needs of his community and exemplifies the spirit of determination that helps to create this territory.

Mr. Speaker, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord are just ending their first year of an exciting and unique apprenticeship training partnership at the Alert Military Base on Ellesmere, dubbed the "Alert Model."

This past year saw seven youth from Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord working and training at the base in many disciplines. Most of them are expected to finish their first level 900 hours and head off to their first apprentice class training.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to request unanimous consent to continue with my Member's Statement. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude

his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Elliott, go ahead.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues.

Currently, there is a memorandum of understanding being created to include Arctic Bay in this project. This is an exclusive arrangement between communities and the operators of the base and promises to become a major employer of residents while emphasizing apprenticeship training and education in a professional military setting.

The program has been nicknamed the “Nunavut Sivuniksavut” of the North for apprentices and is experiencing a high level of support from everyone in the communities. This year, a GED module is being added along with a pre-trades exam primer to ensure that learning and training are the highest priority. Other companies in the North are looking very closely at the program’s progress to see if they can incorporate any of its successes in their training plans.

Mr. Speaker, in my home community of Arctic Bay, residents are proud to say that our first female Premier comes from the community.

As I have noted throughout our sitting, the three communities of Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord are working together like never before. The recent formation of the Arctic Fishing Alliance and the High Arctic Council are two illustrations of how the communities are striving to speak with a unified voice.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take time today to acknowledge the contributions

of elders in our communities. I am encouraged by the communities’ efforts to strengthen and revitalize their language and culture. Our elders continue to play a central role in the lives of our communities. Their wisdom and values guide us in our decision-making.

Mr. Speaker, I know that many of my constituents will be watching today’s proceedings, and I want to speak directly to them today and reiterate my commitment that I will listen closely to your concerns, articulate your aspirations, and work for you each and every day that I have the honour of representing you in your Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members’ Statement. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

**Member’s Statement 006 – 3(2):
Reflections on 10 Years of
Nunavut Territory**

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, as I rise today on our 10th anniversary, and I’m doing this today, right now, without any prepared notes and I’m not as nervous as I was ten years ago, I think back to when I first did this.

I think one of the things that I was thinking about, and everyone was in here earlier today, was that there was a lot of the pride, the hope, and the aspirations that all the Members of the First Assembly had for our territory that were there and I think those aspirations and that pride are still here and evident today

in this Third Assembly, they were there in the Second Assembly. And I wanted to acknowledge some of the members, some of my hon. colleagues that were here earlier.

My colleague Mr. Okalik mentioned, you know, in the Gallery here today, I saw Glen McLean, who was a former member in the First Assembly from Baker Lake, the “*Ma’na Man*,” as we use to refer to him all the time. Donald Havioyak was here also in the Gallery today. Our former Speaker in the Second Assembly, Mr. Peter Kilabuk from Pangnirtung, was here in the Gallery. And of course, Mr. Okalik, Mr. Arvaluk, and I are still here from that first proud day.

I’m sure it was a proud day for me and it was a proud day for all of us to be involved in and a part of, and as my colleague said, I still look at it as an honour and a privilege to represent the people in my constituency. They put their faith and their trust in me. They put their faith and their trust in each and every one of us here to represent them and make decisions on their behalf and in the best interest of all Nunavummiut, which is why we’re all here.

As the elder that lit the *Qulliq* earlier today, Enoapik, her words, I really listened to what she had to say. She is one of my constituents and I know she wasn’t just talking to me when she was saying that, but that’s always a message that I have heard from her over the last ten years is you have to listen to the people that put you there and represent their views.

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

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I think one of the things you look back on, and I won’t go over all of the accomplishments because there have been many over the last ten years that all Members of this Assembly contributed towards making and making happen, but I think if you look at it, in my view, like I was asked earlier today in an interview, “So what do you think on the 10th anniversary of Nunavut?” And I said, “Wow, time flies when you’re having fun!” And it doesn’t seem like ten years have gone by and that timeframe has gone by very quickly.

Like I said, if you look around the room, there are three current members that were there on April 1, 1999. There is also one member sitting at the table up there and that’s Mr. Clerk. Mr. John Quirke has been here since day one as well and there are not a lot of those individuals around. But I know that everybody worked hard and did their best to try and keep the dream that we have of Nunavut alive, and I think that that’s happened. We all believe in what we have done and where we’re going.

The other thing that I looked at was: in your view, what kinds of things or what has happened since then that have been crucial? The biggest thing to remember

is the fact that every single one of us that is sitting in here today is from Nunavut. We are the ones who are making our decisions for us. It's not someone else somewhere else making decisions affecting us for us. We're doing that on our own right now.

I think there have been many examples over the last ten years where we have been able to make decisions and make changes that clearly reflect the unique challenges and circumstances that we face here in Nunavut. In my view, that's one of the biggest benefits that we've had of the creation of Nunavut is that basically we are in control; Nunavut is in control of its own destiny.

One of the other things that I think have been accomplished over the last ten years has been a bit more of recognition of Nunavut, of those unique challenges and circumstances. The fact that if you look at our present government that's in Ottawa, over the last four years, through the work that we have done over the last ten years, they have recognized the need for additional resources for things like housing and other areas where we are getting substantially more funding allocations than were there in the past because of our unique challenges, so I think that that is important.

There is also, on a little bit of a lighter note, another recognition at the national level where the Canadian Curling Association has finally recognized us as well and I say that's another accomplishment. We are now able, as Nunavut, to participate at the Dominion Cup. It was on the news that there are two teams here from Iqaluit that will be representing Nunavut at that national event. This is again the first time ever

that Nunavut has had representation at a national event. There are two important pieces of recognition.

And I look back and reflect, I was at the musical that was held at the high school here a while back and I saw some of the actors and actresses that have been participating in those events over the years. I watched the one where my daughter first started when she was eight years old, she's 16, and was participating again. There was a lot of work by all of the people. There were over 400 hours of work that have gone into putting on an event like that.

And I know one of their dreams and aspirations for the drama club and that group at the school here is to have, and I'm hoping in the next ten years that they will see their dream come true, a Performing Arts Centre here in Nunavut in Iqaluit, not only for functions like that to happen but any other kinds of functions as well.

So there have been a lot of positive things happen. And I still believe in my heart that we are a consensus government, we are all committed to working together for the betterment of Nunavut as a whole and I continue to move forward with that always in mind. And I'm sure, from what I have heard and seen in this Assembly, that those same thoughts and feelings are shared by all members. With that, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Member's Statement 007 – 3(2):
Happy Birthday Nunavut and to
Niece Cynthia Alaralak**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the creation of Nunavut. Today, there is another birthday, Cynthia Alaralak is 16 years older than Nunavut but she is celebrating her birthday. If she is watching the proceedings, I wish her a happy birthday.

What I would like to say in the House is that if we didn't have the Legislative Assembly, I don't think Nunavut would have any power because Nunavut is the one that gives our Legislative Assembly power.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Speaker, I would also like to thank the people of Igloolik and Hall Beach. They are also celebrating the 10th anniversary of the creation of Nunavut. There are a lot of people that we have to be grateful for.

In 2004, when I was first elected, I had never worked for the government prior to 2004. In 2004, I got elected and I had mixed emotions. The government used to be always on the other side and they were always my enemies. Now, I can show my support to this government and be a part of it.

I would also like to thank former Premier Okalik. We have created a lot of things, but after my election in 2004 and then on the 10th year, my constituents again have shown their confidence and put me back as their representative in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. I'll make it very brief, I promise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

One thing that I am going to work hard on is fulfilling the expectations of the people in my riding as to where they would like to see Nunavut go. Some of the elders are still thinking that the government is over there and the people are over here. I think we have to let all the people of Nunavut know that this is their government, this is our government.

If I have to make a change with the way government is run, I could do so using the representatives sitting in the Assembly. I would like the people out there know that this government is their government. If we are going to incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, then we have to think about the people out there that we are representing.

We are aware that a lot of government employees out there are reluctant to incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* or to see a change because it's something they don't know. Even if that's the case, representing the people of Igloolik and Hall Beach, I will do my best to incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* into

government operations because I am more intimidated by them than I am by the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 008 – 3(2):
Reflections on 10 Years of
Nunavut**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to also celebrate this 10th anniversary. First of all, I would like to say "good afternoon" to the residents of Rankin Inlet. My colleague from Rankin Inlet and I have not forgotten the residents of Whale Cove. There are some people here from Rankin Inlet who are leaving the Gallery to go back home.

Mr. Speaker, many people, Inuit, past and present leaders, past MPs, all Nunavutmiut, and our guest MPs, girls and boys, our people are celebrating Nunavut's 10th anniversary. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be part of this celebration.

In the past, as James Arvaluk stated earlier, the idea of dividing the largest land mass in Canada came in 1975 and not many leaders at the time jumped on board. But Inuit, after a few years of disrupting the image of friendly Eskimos who never worried about tomorrow, so they thought, now had two proposed distinct separate public governments in

Canada's last frontier. The federal government was neither amused nor receptive of the idea of dividing the Northwest Territories. Mr. Arvaluk will probably be asked about that. It was a lonely crusade for a long while in convincing our people and government leaders to divide the Northwest Territories.

The dream of having an Inuit majority in public government would not die. The idea of having majority of our public services kept by Inuit would not die. Our education system would develop and improve, our language would not be lost, and we would stop feeling ashamed of our own culture. The dream became bigger and bigger, but some people thought we were crazy when we started saying that we have to run our own land in Nunavut.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is asking for unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed, Mr. Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Mr. Speaker, the dream became bigger and bigger and simply would not die. It would have been foolish to give up on the idea of the dream for a new territory called Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, many of my friends, including myself, would never have peace nor rest even in our graves if we had failed to achieve the creation of Nunavut at that time.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear.

So I take pride amongst leaders who have walked with us regardless of how tough it was at that particular time.

>> *Applause*

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, the bandwagon was empty. Today, I can say it is fully loaded and moving forward.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I say to our youth in Nunavut, to those that are going to school, that the ideas are important, the dreams are important. When a young person has a dream, it's difficult to shut that dream off. I want to encourage many of them to never give up because there is hope for them maybe for a career, maybe a business, maybe for higher education.

So I encourage many of our school kids to stay in school and they will have a future better than us, to those of us who did not have a chance to start from K-12 and beyond. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

**Member's Statement 009 – 3(2):
Celebrations in Pangnirtung**

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would also like to thank my colleagues. For myself, I would like to make a statement about Pangnirtung again because today is Hamlet Day. They will be doing celebrations activities all day long but I'm here and I think of the people of Pangnirtung.

Before this government was created and before the creation of Nunavut, they were years before where our culture and our language was considered foreign. We now have Nunavut for ten years and this was the dream of the people of Nunavut, it was also the rebound of the Inuit culture and language.

There are other cultures that have been forced upon us but our culture is something that we would like to protect. We are also using foreign laws and I think it's very important to have our culture and language put back in its proper place.

For those of us sitting here, and also some people out there, we were sent out to school to boarding homes or sent out to residential schools. It was hard on both the students and the parents because it was what broke the family circle.

We will look forward and we thank the people who worked so hard during those past ten years. It's always hard when you're starting from scratch but the first two governments have set out and made tracks for us to follow their footsteps. Today is a new day, especially for the people in our communities who understand that we will not be speaking only in Inuktitut. We have to think of those who come here to live.

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

Speaker (interpretation): The member is asking for unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed, Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a short comment.

As we had the *Qulliq* lighting ceremony, we heard our elder talk to us. They are elders who grew up in outpost camps. They were not in a wage economy even when they became adults. They worked extremely hard but since they weren't earning wages, they don't have something that they can draw out like from a bank and as the elder was saying, they don't have savings because they don't have any money to save.

Our elders don't have any savings. It was stated earlier, their monthly pension is supposed to last them the whole month but it's not enough. We have placed our elders in high regard and we still do, but they were silenced even though they were our leaders. Since European traditions came, they became silent. They were intimidated by foreign culture being forced upon them and they lost all confidence in themselves. We have to do something more as a government to protect our elders, provide them with assistance, and recognize them because they were the ones that took care of us.

The *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit* would like to see our language used more in the House. I thank the *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit*. If they would like to offer their support, I would like the government to welcome them.

A lot of us are new MLAs and we need to cooperate and work together so that the people of Nunavut can move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

**Member's Statement 010 – 3(2):
Reflections on Preparing for the
Creation of Nunavut**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 1989, when I was elected to the legislature in the Northwest Territories, I was very thrilled and in 2009, when I was elected to the Legislature in Nunavut, I was even more thrilled. I'll explain why.

When I was elected in the Northwest Territories, there was a Nunavut Caucus and there was also a Western Caucus. There were two caucuses - the Nunavut Caucus was comprised of Members of the Legislative Assembly from here and now, Mr. Speaker, I am elected to the Legislature of Nunavut and this is an all-Nunavut Caucus. That's the reason why I am very proud and pleased that we make decisions together.

The people who did the planning, like Mr. Arvaluk, Mr. Curley, John Amagoalik, there were a lot of people and I won't name them all, and obviously Mr. Okalik was there as well in Yellowknife. I thank you all for having a vision for the future. They wanted to have a public government to represent all the people of Nunavut. This is where the strength lies, unity, oneness, and full participation is strength.

We have people of all nations in Nunavut, who have different cultures and languages, and that is part of working together and we are pulling

together for Nunavut. As was stated earlier, we, as a government, cannot do it alone. If we try to run ourselves by ourselves, we wouldn't learn anything about the outside world even though we could.

Education is something that is very important.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is asking for unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed, Mr. Ningark.

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

Education in Nunavut is very important. It means, Mr. Speaker, that through the educational system, our children will participate in the job markets at the international level. It also means that we would like to see Inuit participate in international conferences such as the ones held by the United Nations. When my friend, Paul Okalik and the Premier go overseas, let's participate. Only through education and awareness can we fully participate at the international level.

I am very pleased that the first government blazed a trail for us to follow. The Second Assembly had it a little easier and now, I am part of it and a lot of the basic foundation has been set.

I thank the people of Kugaaruk, my children, my many grandchildren and I

can't keep count of them anymore, I thank them all and the people of Repulse Bay. And thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Member's Statement 011 – 3(2): Best Wishes to Constituents as They Celebrate Nunavut

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to send my best wishes for a happy 10th anniversary to my constituents in Umingmaktok, Bathurst Inlet, and Cambridge Bay. I haven't been home very much since I became a Cabinet Minister, I think I have been home less than three weeks in four or five months, but I want to assure my constituents out there that Cambridge Bay is still my home, Iqaluit is my second home.

I am very pleased that they sent me here to represent them and I am very pleased to work with my Cabinet colleagues and the Regular Members' Caucus to build a better territory for ourselves and future generations of Nunavummiut. And I'm not sure when I'll be home but I think I'll be home in April and I look forward to seeing them all then. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit East, Ms. Aariak.

Member's Statement 012 – 3(2):**Looking forward to the Future of Nunavut**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask my constituents to have a great celebration. After my long statement earlier, I will make a brief comment, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, this session is the very first time that we have actual full members ever since after the general election. I am very pleased that we are able to work very closely together and also for those of us new members, there are quite a few of us. So therefore, I would like to thank my colleagues who have previous experience in being Members of the Legislative Assembly for their great support. I would like to also thank the regular members and also the ministers.

We don't usually extend our appreciation to the staff, Mr. Speaker, in our offices and also in the departments because they work very hard. Sometimes they don't even get to see their family members because they are so busy for us, so I would like to thank them very much.

>>Applause

They work extremely hard and even though they are not elected, they leave their families behind for a long time.

Also, Mr. Speaker, in order to proceed and move forward, we have to work very closely together and I would like to say that I am very proud of all my colleagues, the ones from across and also my ministerial colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. If there are no more, (interpretation ends) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Peterson.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to recognize a constituent of mine from Cambridge Bay, Mr. Henry Ohokannoak, who has basically sat through the entire afternoon's proceedings. Henry is a good friend of mine from Cambridge Bay and I don't think he's any stranger to the House as he has done interpreting. So welcome to the House, Henry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also rise and I would like to recognize a constituent from Arviat that is in the House today too. He's in Iqaluit attending some mining symposium meetings. He's a friend, a fellow hunter and fisherman, and that's Mr. Paul Pemik sitting in the corner over there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize a member from my community who is a long-time friend. He has been a member of the HTO for many years, he has been on various boards in the community, and at present, I do believe he's the Chairman of NIRB, the Nunavut Impact Review Board. I would like to welcome Lucassie Aragutainak.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge the Sergeant-at-Arms, who is my constituent, and since today is Nunavut Day, I would like to acknowledge him and thank him for doing a great job. Thank you, Simanek Kilabuk.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since I'm from Kitikmeot, I would like to recognize Henry Ohokannoak as well because we play music together sometimes. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Petitions. Item 9. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 10. Tabling of Documents. Premier of Nunavut, Hon. Eva Aariak.

Item 10: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 001 – 3(2): “Tamatta” – Building our Future Together, Government of Nunavut Priorities

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today and I am very pleased to table “Tamapta” – Building our Future Together, Government of Nunavut Priorities. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Premier of Nunavut, Ms. Eva Aariak.

Tabled Document 002 – 3(2): Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Annual Report 2004-2006

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Implementation of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* Annual Report 2004-2006. Today's the appropriate day to table this document. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. I, too, have documents to table.

Tabled Document 003 – 3(2): Report of the Auditor General of Canada on the Follow-up of the 2005 Report to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Tabled Document 004 – 3(2): Report of the Auditor General of Canada on the Financial Management Practices of the Department of Health and Social Services

I wish to table today the Report of the Auditor General of Canada on the Follow-up of the 2005 Report to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Thank you.

The second document I wish to table today is the Report of Auditor General of Canada on the Financial Management Practices of the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you.

Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) If there are no more, (interpretation ends) Item 11. Notices of Motions. Mr. Elliott.

Item 11: Notices of Motions

Motion 001 – 3(2): Extended Adjournment – Notice

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, April 3, 2009, I will move the following motion:

I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member of Amittuq, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the House concludes its present sitting in Iqaluit, it shall be adjourned until June 4, 2009.

At the appropriate time, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Notices of Motions. Item 12. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 13. Motions. Mr. Elliott.

Item 13: Motions

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed, Mr. Elliott.

Motion 001 – 3(2): Extended Adjournment

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member of Amittuq, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the House concludes its present sitting in Iqaluit, it shall be adjourned until June 4, 2009.

FURTHER, that at any time prior to June 4, 2009, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. (interpretation ends) Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Motions. Item 14. First Reading of Bills. Item 15. Second Reading of Bills. Item 16. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 16: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for June 4, 2009:

1. Prayer
2. Budget Address
3. Ministers' Statements
4. Members' Statements
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Replies to Budget Address
12. Petitions

13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

14. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

15. Tabling of Documents

16. Notices of Motions

17. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

18. Motions

19. First Reading of Bills

20. Second Reading of Bills

21. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

22. Report of the Committee of the Whole

23. Third Reading of Bills

24. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until June 4, 2009, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:14*

