

Nunavut Canada LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

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1st Assembly

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Official Report

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Speaker: The Hon. Levi Barnabas, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker Hon. Levi Barnabas (Quttiktuq)

Ovide Alakannuark (Akulliq)

Enoki Irqittuq

(Amittuq) Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Kevin O'Brien

(Arviat) *Chair of Caucus*

Glenn McLean

(Baker Lake)

Hon. Kelvin Ng

(Cambridge Bay) Minister of Finance and Administration; Minister of Human Resources; Government House Leader

Peter Kattuk

(Hudson Bay)

Hunter Tootoo (Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Ed Picco

(Iqaluit East) Minister of Health and Social Services

Hon. Paul Okalik (Iqaluit West) Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Donald Havioyak (Kugluktuk) Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth

Hon. James Arvaluk (Nanulik) *Minister of Education*

Uriash Puqiqnak (Nattilik) Deputy Speaker

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (Pangnirtung) Minister of Sustainable Development

Hon. Jack Anawak

(Rankin Inlet North) Minister of Justice; Minister of Community Government and Transportation

Hon. Manitok Thompson

(Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove) Minister of Housing; Minister of Public Works, Telecommunications and Technical Services

Olayuk Akesuk

(South Baffin)

Jobie Nutarak (Tunnuniq)

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Commissioners Opening Address

B.

Iqaluit, Nunavut Wednesday October 20, 1999

Members Present

Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Mr. Olayuk Akesuk, Honourable Jack Anawak, Honourable James Arvaluk, Honourable Levi Barnabas, Honourable Donald Havioyak, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Irqittuq, Mr. Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Glen McLean, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Jobie Nutarak, Mr. Kevin O'Brien, Honourable Paul Okalik, Honourable Edward Picco, Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, Honourable Manitok Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Mr. Barnabas) (interpretation): Gideon Qitsualik is from the Deputy Speaker's riding and he will be saying the opening prayer.

>>Opening Prayer.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Qitsualik. At this time I would like to ask the members to stay standing, and we are going to invite the grade 6 students from Aqsarniit School to come up with their teacher. Mrs. Darlene Nuqingak is their teacher, please stay standing, we are going to sing 'O Canada.

>> Singing of 'O Canada

Speaker (interpretation): I would like to ask our Clerk to ascertain if the Honourable Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the chamber. The Commissioner is going to be making the Throne Speech.

>>Commissioner takes the Chair

Item 2: Throne Speech

Commissioner Maksagak: Please be seated.

Elders, Mr. Speaker, Speakers and Clerks from Chambers across Canada, Senator, Sivuliuqti, Maligaliuqtiit, and honoured guests. I am pleased to welcome you to the opening of the Third Session of the First Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

Our government has been in existence for just over 200 days. In that time much has been accomplished: staffing has increased, government departments are now staffed at 53% of strength; Ministers have taken up their assigned portfolios and Members their roles. The transition of existing programs has been astoundingly smooth, and credit must be given

for the hard work required to make this happen. The transition to government in Nunavut has been a success but there is much left to do to make this a government of and for Nunavut.

Our government has worked over the past six months to develop statements of priorities, and principles that will guide us, setting out a detailed five year action plan and looking to the future, creating a vision of Nunavut in the year 2020. Two thousand and twenty. This has not been done in isolation. It has been done with the help and inspiration of the people of the diverse Nunavut communities who have hosted this government over the past six months. The origins of the document are in the first cabinet retreat at Kimmirut in April of this year. Our mandate was still fresh and new and there was still snow on the ground, families were leaving by snowmobile for spring hunting on the sea ice during the three sunny days that Cabinet spent in Kimmirut.

The resulting document was shared with the MLA's here in Iqaluit and the issue of priorities was discussed at length by all members at the Full Caucus Retreat in Baker Lake. The retreat took place in a warm week in June. It was so sunny and hot that the children of Baker Lake were down swimming in the strip of open water between the sand and the flow edge. The hospitality of the people of Baker Lake was also warm. Members held their sessions outside on a high point of land on the road to Prince River. The sun and wind were strong and the land was showing its colours but still without insects. People from the community stopped by with dry meat and kettles of tea.

After Baker Lake a revised document was circulated to Members and their comments received an intensive review by Cabinet in August at Bathurst Inlet.

This document has been given the name the "Bathurst Mandate' with thanks for the support and inspiration received from this small, fiercely independent community in the central arctic. During the four days of the cabinet retreat the colours of the land were beginning to turn, the char were running and the berries were waiting to be picked. It was a perfect location to look to Nunavut's future. The community's spirit of independence and the beauty of the land there guided the decisions made.

The final drafts of the Mandate were reviewed with many of our partners in government, including the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and other representative groups.

This Bathurst Mandate has truly been developed in the spirit of consensus. It is a demonstration of the unity of spirit in Nunavut, that so many elements could be drawn together in a comprehensive and realistic statement of goals and dreams.

The vision the document presents of Nunavut is based on four main premises: inuuqatigiittiarniq – the healthy inter-connection of mind, body and spirit; pijarnirniqaqsat katujjiqatigiinnirlu – simplicity and unity; namminiq makitajunnarniq – self-reliance; and, ilippallianginnarniq – continuing learning.

Inuuqatigiittiarniq

Our government believes that the health of Nunavut depends on the health of its physical, social, economic and cultural communities and the ability of those communities to serve Nunavummiut in the spirit of Inuuqatigiittiarniq – the healthy inter-connection of mind, body, spirit and environment.

In our government, people will always come first. Our government's visions is that in the year 2 thousand 20, Nunavut will be a place where self assured, caring communities will respond to the needs of individuals and families. Nunavut will be a place where we respect the accumulated wisdom of our elders, examining and evaluating our actions based on the best of both modern knowledge and traditional ways.

Our government is committed to provide opportunities for individuals, families and communities to build upon their strengths. Over the coming months our government will open a public dialogue on housing issues at the same time as developing practical steps to address the need for social housing. In consultation with the Members of this Assembly, a Housing Task Force has been established to advise the Minister responsible on the development and implementation of immediate and long term plans to respond to the housing needs of Nunavummiut. Housing is one of our government's two major priorities.

Our government will also work with communities to create a Capacity Plan to build administrative strength and diversity in each community; Wellness Plans to develop and maintain our support network for individuals and families, and a community-based Economic Strategy for Nunavut. To do this we are committed to supporting Nunavummiut in each age group to participate in community life and in the development of Nunavut.

Pijarnirniqsat Katujjiqatigiinnirlu

Our government believes that simplicity in the processes of government encourages access, makes tasks more focused and more achievable and invites participation by all Nunavummiut. Our government will be looking to all Members in this Assembly to help ensure that the actions of all government departments and agencies meet our commitment to simplicity and unity.

Our government has established Maligarnit Qimirrujiit, a Nunavut Law Review Commission. We are looking for assistance from Members of this Assembly to help identify people in their communities who may be interested in serving as Commissioners in this important endeavour. Our government is committed to making the received laws of Nunavut reflect the values of Nunavummiut. With the advice and counsel of our Elders and communities we will achieve this goal during our government's mandate.

Our government will continue to demonstrate and act upon the commitment to the full implementation of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement, acknowledging the origins of Nunavut through Article 4 of that agreement. The government and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated each recognize that it will be beneficial to all residents for the government and NTI to pursue healthy and constructive working relations and our government plans to table for you a political accord setting out the practical elements of that commitment.

Our government is also committed to working with the Nunavut business community to simplify and enhance access to business development and support programs and to build local employment.

By working together with all our Nunavut partners, our government is confident that over the coming years Nunavummiut will take up an increasing number of economic opportunities and steadily reduce levels of dependency on government.

Namminiq Makitajunnarniq

Our government believes that as individuals we are responsible for our own lives, and through our own efforts and activities we can provide for the needs of our families and communities. As communities, and as a government, we are connected to and reliant on each other, to care for those in need, to establish common goals and to secure the resources required to achieve those goals. This is namminiq makitajunnarniq – self-reliance.

To build options and opportunities for Nunavummiut within our communities, our government will revise our income support program, putting in place incentives for individuals and families to achieve self-reliance. We will fulfil our commitment to deliver jobs to decentralized communities. And, we will build local employment and support local businesses and organizations while promoting effective competition.

Ilippallianginnarniq

To achieve the dreams of Nunavut, we all need to listen closely and learn well in order to acquire the skills we need to increase our independence and prosperity. Ilippallianginnarniq – continuous learning, is the second of this governments' major priorities.

Our government believes that respect for individuals is the basis of effective learning. It commits to put strategies into place to develop Nunavummiut in every profession as part of a resident work force and to view every element of the government budget as a potential training budget.

Financial Decisions

It is important that the financial decisions to be made for Nunavut are also arrived at in this same spirit of consensus. To gain from the knowledge of our people, the Government will consult with MLA's, community leaders, and the people of Nunavut in identifying budget priorities. During the month of November teams of MLA's and Ministers will visit communities to hold pre-budget consultations. These public meetings will give people an opportunity to learn about Nunavut's finances and give the government valuable input as the budget is developed.

A Vision For Nunavut

Elders, ladies and gentlemen, and honoured guests, our vision of Nunavut is far reaching but it is also achievable. I am confident of this because we all know that 20 years ago, Nunavut itself was a dream which some called impossible. Commitment, hard work and an unrelenting focus on our goals have brought us here today, sitting in the new Legislative Assembly building for Nunavut, planning for our own future.

As you look around you today at this beautiful new building, which incorporates so many symbols of Nunavut and our life here, as you look at the members whose workplace it will be, and at the people of Nunavut who have made so much possible, I am asking you to join in committing to a new dream, a dream this Assembly will build into a reality over the next 20 years.

The full text of the Bathurst Mandate, which I have highlighted some aspects of, will be tabled by the Premier during this legislative session.

The Departmental plans and initiatives which flow from that document will be brought forward by my Ministers during this session for the review of this House and its Committees. Initiatives which have already commenced to respond to the terms of the Mandate will be brought to this House by way of Ministerial Statement.

During this Session our government will be introducing a Supplementary Appropriations Act and the Loan Authorization Act. As well, there are three Bills to amend: the Workers' Compensation Act, the Legal Services Board Act, and the Interpretation Act. The supplementary budget and these amendments to legislation the Nunavut government inherited from GNWT will begin to deal with the administrative changes required for our body of legislation. I recommend timely passage of each of the Bills being brought before this Assembly.

I now declare open the third session of the First Nunavut Legislative Assembly.

With that I would like to invite you to join myself, and the Speaker and Members of this Assembly in the foyer for refreshments before the resumption of the Order paper.

Qujannamiik.

>>Applause

>>Short Recess

Speaker (interpretation): At this time I would like to welcome the Members of the Legislative Assembly and also our visitors, the elders, to the third session of the First Legislative Assembly. It is my honour to make some comments.

On April 1, the Commissioner gave us this Bible and it will have a place here in these chambers. This Bible will help us guide our deliberations into the future and to have good debates at the House because, of course, some of the things that we are going to be doing are going to be quite challenging.

At this time, before we go into the Orders of the Day, I would like to give you a little explanation of the Mace and also I would like to thank the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation and their mineral development department for providing the stones that are used on the pedestal. The pedestal is made from specially polished granite from Iqaluit and it is supported from granite and iron from Sanikiluaq, Gjoa Haven and Coral Harbour.

Thank you, we'll go into the Orders of the Day. Item number 3, Minister's Statements. Item 4, Member's Statements, Members Statements. Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the visitors and also the elders from the Nunavut communities. I would like to thank you very much for being participants on this day that we have been looking forward to.

It is a very important day and thank you very much for participating on this day.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleague for recognizing the elders and as people from Kitikmeot central area we rarely ever have people from the Central Arctic area here. I would like to recognize my wife, Elaine and also our elder representative, Gideon Qitsualik. If you would stand up please. He's our elder representative and they're both from Uqsuqtuq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak. I apologize, I would like to welcome the elders and the visitors and also I would like to welcome the delegation from Mr. Puqiqnak's riding. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the elders and also my wife Lao, and my daughter, sitting over there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. Welcome to our Legislative Assembly building. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize two distinguished elders from my community of Arviat. John Annujuak, Manual Akat, and also Mayor Mike Spence of Churchill.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the people of Sanikiluaq from my riding. At times people from Sanikiluaq come up here. Joanasie Arrugutainaq, Louie Ittukadlak.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. When there is a recognition in the House it is our tradition for the Members of our Assembly to applaud. Thank you. You're welcome. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Jack Anawak and I would like to recognize our elder representatives. My mom and Jack's moms half brother Jerome Tatuinnaq, if you would stand up please. I would like to give you a brief profile.

He is a good role model for young people and he is a Christian. He was known for, even if there's hardly any snow on the ground he can build an igloo. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a resident of Repulse Bay, he is one of the elder representatives and also my wife who is here, if you would stand up please. I am very glad that she is able to be here with me and I would also to thank everyone for having us here. Thank you.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would also like to recognize our elder representative, Aquapik, who I am sure you have heard of, but the English name is Naomi Panikpakoocho, if you would stand up please so you can be recognized. Thank you,. I am very pleased that she is here I didn't anticipate her being here for the opening of the House yesterday but I am very pleased.

Again I would also like to recognize another person from my community who will be opening the House every morning. Timothy Kamookak if you would stand up please, he'll be the Sargent-At-Arms.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. Welcome to our Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I too would like to acknowledge the presence of the elders from all over Nunavut and also the few that are here from Iqaluit. Also there are a number of residents from Iqaluit and I would like to welcome them.

In particular I would like to pay special attention to recognizing the Honourable Senator Willie Adams here as well as the Speakers from the other jurisdictions and His Worship the Mayor from Iqaluit, Jimmy Kilabuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize from Kugluktuk who has lived there for a number of years, and a lot of people know him as Qaminguak, he is a volunteer in our community. And also a big helper for me, my wife Margaret Havioyak. I would also like to mention that I have known this person for a number of years in Kugluktuk and Cambridge Bay. He is the Clerk of the NWT Assembly, Mr. Dave Hamilton, thank you very much for coming here.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery, Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize my uncle from Arviat and also my good friend, John Nakoolak, from Coral Harbour, if you would stand up please. Again, I would like to recognize Akuapik Panikpakoocho, who was recognized by Mr. Irqittuq, I would like to greet her because she used to give me bannock and I believe an orange too. Even though my mom said that I just used it as a ball, now I'm eating oranges today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a person from my community of Pangnirtung. This person is our elder representative and all the elders from each of the Nunavut communities I would like to thank you on behalf of the younger people who are now doing what you have started.

Also the people of Pangnirtung, on behalf of the people of Pangnirtung I would like to thank her relatives, her children, her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren, who have all made a huge contribution to our community. And again, the same with the elders of the other communities they'll be able to take a rest while we start the work.

I would like to recognize Sila Amittuq from Pangnirtung. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk, welcome to our gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize my former colleague from the House of Commons, Ian MacLellan, who has come here from Ottawa. I would also like to recognize that we always have somebody with us and behind us, when we are in politics, and I would like to recognize Mary Adams, Willies' better half.

(interpretation) As of course I am from Rankin Inlet there are quite a number of people from there, though they have mostly moved to Iqaluit. I would like to recognize two of them who I am sure would have been in Rankin Inlet, but Iqaluit is the capital of Nunavut, that is Peter Irnirq and Jose Kusugak.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Anawak. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We were asked to get an elder representative from our community so I would like to recognize my elder representative. I used to go with this elder to an outpost camp and go out camping a long time ago. I didn't think that I would be inviting him to attend an opening of this Assembly. I know very well that he and his children have done much drum dancing in front of audiences. If he had brought his relatives I'm sure they would have drum danced with him also.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I apologize Mr. Speaker, I also forgot to say his name. Jaco Petaloosie.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Welcome to the gallery. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Qujannamiik Uqaqti. This next person needs no introduction, a constituent of mine, Mr. John Amagoalik.

>>Applause

I would also take this opportunity to welcome a visitor of ours, Monsieur Bertrand, representing the Government of Quebec who was with me in Washington, D.C. a couple of years ago, a good friend of mine. I'd also like to recognize the Hon. Lloyd Snow, the Speaker for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Mayor Kilabuk, our respected Elders, Iqaluit residents and also along with Mr. Irqittuq and Arvaluk, a special welcome to Naomi Panikpakoocho who is a long time friend of my family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> Applause

Speaker: Qujannamiik Mr. Picco, welcome to the gallery. (interpretation) Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): I too, would like to recognize first our NTI President, Mr. Jose Kusugak and also the people and the Elders who came from communities far from Iqaluit and I'd like to welcome all of you to Iqaluit. I'd like you to enjoy your stay. I know it took you a while to get to Iqaluit. Also, I would like to acknowledge John Amagoalik and my constituent, our mayor, I'd like to welcome you. And Madame Marsh Lalonde, thank you for coming to the gallery. Bienvenue. Qujannamiik Uqaqti.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier, Mr. Okalik. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. At this time, I notice that all the special guests and honourable speakers have been recognized. At this time I'd like to recognize all the people that have not been recognized in the gallery. Welcome to the gallery.

In respect to my former colleague, I would also like to recognize Speaker Samuel Gargan, my former Speaker and my mentor. Qujannamiik

Going back to the orders of the day. Item 6, Oral questions. Item 7, Written questions. Item 8, Petitions. Item 9, Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 10, Tabling of documents. Item 11, Notices of Motion. Item 12, Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills. Item 13, 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.

Mr. Quirke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Reminder, at 4:00 p.m. this afternoon there will be a full caucus meeting in the Nanuq Committee Board Room. Orders of the day. Thursday, October 21, 1999, 1:30 p.m.

Item 1, Prayer.

Item 2, Ministers' Statements.

Item 3, Members' Statements.

Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions.

Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Item 6, Oral Questions.

Item 7, Written Questions.

Item 8, Returns to Written Questions.

- Item 9, Replies to Opening Address.
- Item 10, Petitions.
- Item 11, Reports of Special and Standing Committees.
- Item 12, Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills.
- Item 13, Tabling of Documents.
- Item 14, Notices of Motions.
- Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills.
- 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.
- Item 20, Report of the Committee of the Whole.
- Item 21, Third Reading of Bills.
- Item 22, Orders of the Day.

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, this house stands adjourned until Thursday, October 21, 1999 at 1:30 p.m. Sergeant-at-Arms

>>Adjournment