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**DAY 4**

**Thursday October 26, 2000**

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**Iqaluit**

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

# Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

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(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Thursday October 26, 2000**

**Members Present**

Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Honourable Jack Anawak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Donald Havioyak, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Iqittuq, Honourable Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Glenn McLean, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Jobie Nutarak, Honourable Kevin O'Brien, Honourable Paul Okalik, Honourable Ed Picco, Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, Honourable Manitok Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Mr. O'Brien): I would like to call on Mr. Havioyak to say the prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker**: Ullukkuut, good afternoon members, Mr. Premier. Orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' statements. Ms. Thompson.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 010 - 1(4): Social Housing Rent Scale Review Underway**

**Hon. Manitok Thompson**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the members of our review of the social housing rent scale that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is currently co-ordinating.

Mr. Speaker, the Task Force on Housing made two recommendations regarding the rent that Nunavummiut pay: it is too complicated and the Department of Education Income Support rent contribution of 32 dollars per month should be reviewed.

In the coming weeks Mr. Speaker, we will be consulting with our Local Housing Organizations, GN Departments and our Federal, Provincial and Territorial partners to make sure we review all options and get it right the first time.

Mr. Speaker, our objective is this simple: to charge a fair rent to social housing tenants and explain that rent in a way all tenants can understand. I look forward to rising again in this House during our winter session to report on our progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker**: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Ministers' statements. Mr. Anawak.

**Minister's Statement 011 - 1(4): Year of the Volunteer - Recognition and Development**

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues that the United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2001 as the international Year of Volunteers. As you all know, we identified that the development and implementation of a Nunavut-wide Volunteer strategy is one of this government's key priorities, in the Bathurst Mandate.

Mr. Speaker, communication has been initiated to partner with other (interpretation ends) departments and municipal governments in planning for this upcoming International Year of Volunteers. The department aims to ensure maximum participation in promoting and marketing volunteerism, and in recognizing our volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, through our various Divisions, Sport Nunavut, Recreation and Leisure, and Nunavut Emergency Management in my department, they are actively encouraging Nunavummiut to volunteer, for it benefits the individual, our communities and Nunavut as a whole. The recreation and Leisure Division is working on the strategy needed to ensure that Nunavut has a steady core of active volunteers for years to come.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you Minister Anawak. Ministers' statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Minister's Statement 012 - 1(4): Climate Change**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I provided this House with information on climate changes and I committed to this House that I would report back on initiatives we were taking to address climate change in Nunavut. I would like to provide members today with a further update on this very important environmental matter.

When we hear people talk about climate change they are referring to the build-up of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, and these gases directly interfere with our climate. The source of this problem lies with the world's heavy use of fuel. The burning of oil and gas to heat our homes and run our cars, and the heavy reliance of our industries on fossil fuels, results in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases being released into the air, eventually accumulating in the atmosphere and causing the earth to heat up.

Last week I attended the Joint Meeting of Energy and the Environment Ministers in Quebec City, and I was pleased to see progress being made towards programs that would work to address issues on climate change.

At this meeting we reviewed and approved the very first National Implementation Strategy, which sets out solid measure to reduce greenhouse gases nationally.

Mr. Speaker, like the two other Territorial Governments at these meetings of Environment and Energy Ministers, Nunavut brings a unique point of view to the discussions. We bring the perspective of a part of Canada that is experiencing the dramatic and disruptive effects of climate change first hand. The Government of Canada is using this information in their international discussions to emphasize the importance of all nations needing to at on reducing their emissions of greenhouse gases.

Monitoring the impacts of climate change in the north must involve a blend of western science and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. I stressed this point in a meeting between Natural Resources Minister Ralph Goodale and the three Territorial Ministers.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise members today that my department has been successful in obtaining 130 thousand dollars from the Canadian Climate Change Action Fund for the development of a Climate Change Strategy for Nunavut and to begin a process of tracking and monitoring of climate change impacts through Nunavummiut who are seeing these changes first hand in the travels on the land.

You can also be assured that I will endeavour to pass on as much information as possible on climate change to Nunavummiut and to this House, so we are well informed on this important environmental issue.

To this end, on Friday, October 20, 2000<sup>1</sup>, sorry this is improperly dated, October 26, 2000 I extend an invitation to all members of the House to join me this evening at 7 p.m. at Discovery Lodge for a briefing by Environment Canada scientists. They will present information on what trends are occurring in our climate, such as changes in snowfall, reductions in the amount of ice in the north, and temperature increases, as well as projections of these trends over the next century.

We will also have an opportunity that evening to view a short video on the impact of climate, as expressed through the people of Sachs Harbour.

Qujannamiik Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you Minister. Ministers' statements. Ministers' statements. Item 3. Members' statements. Mr. Ng.

### Item 3: Members' Statements

#### Member's Statement 030 - 1(4): Recognition and Congratulations to Constituent Pages

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as members are aware two young ladies from Killinik High School in Cambridge Bay, Pauline Nuvalingak and Elsie Barrows, both grade 10 students were selected by the school teachers to be pages during last week and this current week's sittings of our Legislature.

They arrived on October 18 and started their paging the next day. They have been fortunate over the last week in being able to participate in the symbols unveiling ceremony held here in our Legislature and the Territorial Leadership Forum in which we elected a new Executive Council member. They were also interviewed by Ms. Kerry McCluskey for a News North article.

Mr. Speaker, the two young ladies have been accompanied by my constituency assistant, Ms. Kitty Ittigait. I would like to thank those who made their participation here possible, the principals and instructors who allowed them time off from their school, the parents who placed their trust in the staff, both in my office and in the Legislative Assembly, both First Air and Canadian Airlines who assisted us by being able to confirm seating for the ladies at student standby fares. Last but not least a couple of former Cambridge Bay families who have recently become Iqaluit residents, Mike and Clara O'Gormann and David and Heather Omilgoitok and their daughter Jane for entertaining the two ladies over the weekend.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure the ladies have met new friends and hope that their experiences over the past 10 days have been memorable ones. I also hope that they have been able to learn a little bit about the Legislative Assembly process which they can pass on to their classmates, but please don't tell them how really boring it is here.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, today is their last day as pages, the two young ladies who are up there Mr. Speaker, beside you to your left and right, along with Kitty will be leaving tomorrow morning to go home and we all wish them a safe trip. I look forward to seeing both young ladies at their future graduation ceremonies and in closing I ask all members to join me in congratulating both Pauline and Elsie on a job well done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Members' statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Member's Statement 031 - 1(4): Social Assistance Procedures**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. This is in regards to income support. To make it clear for people who are on social assistance. At this time the procedure is as follows.

Anybody who makes more than the allowable amount are not eligible for a whole month and it seems to create hardship for those people who are on income support. They have to wait a whole month in order to get assistance. To follow this procedure they have to strive to try to have some money for food. For those who are not working they do not have the luxury of having money, this is a very good issue, and I would like to state that the unemployment rate is very high in Nunavut. They get behind because once they make the limit they have to wait a whole month in order to get assistance. Many times crimes are committed because of money. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 032 - 1(4): Substance Abuse in Nunavut**

**Mr. McLean:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise an issue today that effects us all deeply here in Nunavut. Substance abuse. Be it alcohol, drugs, or solvent abuse, it takes an incredible toll on our population.

Economically, substance abuse places incredible costs on our government and on the services it provides at all levels. Accidents, illness, and hospitalization brought on by substance abuse incurs costs in our health system. Absences from work or accidents at work incur costs for all employers, be they private employers or the government.

A significant number of deaths, including many suicides, involve the abuse of alcohol or drugs incurring immeasurable costs to the mental health of families, friends, and communities as a whole.

The cost of law enforcement from responding to incidents, to pressing charges, to following through with court actions are increased by the role that substance abuse plays in people's behaviour.

Uqaqti, as we know, an ounce of prevention can go a very long way to solving our serious problems. One way to prevent the rising cost of substance abuse is to invest more in fighting the illegal trafficking of alcohol and drugs. Currently our communities do not have adequate policing. We need more RCMP officers in every community and I look forward to the Minister of Justice's response to the question from my colleague from Uqqumiut on the status of the Inuit Liaison Officer. The advice that this individual provides will be critical in improving the effectiveness of the RCMP in our communities.

Uqaqti, substance abuse is widespread in our territory. A report released by Health Canada less than a year ago indicated that aboriginal people over the age of 15 in the north are roughly three times more likely to have used an illegal drug than their non-aboriginal counterparts. That same report shows that aboriginal youth are two to six times higher risk of alcohol related problems than their non-aboriginal counterparts in the Canadian population.

As the Minister of Health mentioned, when he was discussing smoking, the best way to quit smoking is not to start and the most effective means of prevention is the promotion of healthy lifestyles and providing information and skills to individuals so they don't start.

Uqaqti, I would like to recognize the wonderful efforts of the RCMP drug abuse resistance education program. The DARE Program, aims to provide school children with the skills to recognize and resist social pressures to experiment with tobacco, alcohol, drugs, and violence. The idea is to provide them with this education before they enter high school where the social pressures, the peer pressures become very strong.

I would like to commend the work of the DARE co-ordinator in Baker Lake, Jennifer Ebert for exemplary efforts in running this program in the Baker Lake school. I know it will make a difference in the future. Uqaqti, prevention workshops such as the DARE program is a key to ridding ourselves of these additional costs to our government, our communities, and to our lives. Ma'na.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. McLean. Members' statements. Members' statements. Mr. Tootoo.

#### **Member's Statement 033 - 1(4): Joamie School Fun Fair**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform members on the issue that I mentioned yesterday about the great generosity of Nunavummiut. Today I would like to inform them that they have an opportunity to for those members that are here from out of town, to participate in a charitable function this evening.

Joamie school is having their annual bazaar and family fun night. For members that are here from out of town and miss their children, this would be a great opportunity to be around lots of kids and have some fun. There will be things such as a canteen where they will be selling hot dogs, chips, and pops. There are all kinds of games of chance like a bake sale and a cake walk. Members who want to go there and bid on a good looking cake, I imagine there will be many around. Also you can participate in face painting. There is a hilarious hat booth there so you could get some good pictures there to be displayed around here for Halloween maybe.

The funds that will be raised tonight will be going towards graduation and awards ceremonies for the school and I would encourage all members if they could get an opportunity to go out and participate and have some fun. Mr. Speaker, it will be taking place at Joamie school between 6 and 8 pm tonight. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Members' statements. Mr. Irgittuq.

**Member's Statement 034 - 1(4): Community Centre in Igloolik**

**Mr. Irgittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on behalf of my constituents of Igloolik. If you have been to Igloolik you know that the community centre is way too small and I have received correspondence from the residents. I believe they have asked for funding for a new centre and we have requested to get a bigger centre.

If you have been in that centre it is very small. It was built in the 1970's. Once it was renovated and it got smaller inside. Mr. Speaker, our government will have to look into this very soon. The fire department and the nurses, if they were to walk in there during Christmas games you can hardly move in there when there is a community event. There is no seating capacity and not many people can be allowed in the building for safety reasons. So in the very near future this will have to be worked on or considered and if you want more information on it you can write to the Hamlet Council. You can get more information on their concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

**Member's Statement 035 - 1(4): Role Model Patrick Akpalialuk**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a constituent of mine who is a role model for young people in Nunavut. Patrick Akpalialuk was born here in Iqaluit and his family moved down south. In 1995 he moved back to Iqaluit. Along the way he attended school in Iqaluit, Pang, Hay River and Ontario. He studied Civil Engineering and Computer Sciences, in Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, in April of this year, Patrick started his own company, Northstar Networks. Northstar Networks builds computers and servers and Mr. Speaker, this young Nunavut entrepreneur was one of only 13 individuals awarded the Young Entrepreneur Award by the Business Development Bank of Canada, this week.

Mr. Speaker, the winners were chosen on the basis of their company's growth, involvement in the new economy, innovation, community work, and export performance. They will be allied by the BBC for a year with a mentor, a leading senior business person from their Province or Territory.

Mr. Speaker, the success Patrick has shown demonstrates that young Nunavummiut don't have to take a back seat to anyone. I'm sure that you Mr. Speaker, and this House join with me to congratulate the achievements of Patrick, and wish him well with future endeavours, and his exciting new business. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' statements. Mr. Kattuk

#### **Member's Statement 036 - 1(4): Congratulations to Elders' Society**

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the Baffin Elders' Society, which is meeting in town. I am not aware if they have the opportunity to visit the House, and I want to tell their relatives that I saw them today and they are happy and they are okay. The Elders' Society, we should all be proud of it, because there is a lot of intelligence amongst its' members and we should look up to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members' statements. Item 4. Returns to oral questions. Item 5. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Tootoo.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week Minister Picco, acknowledged a couple of the pages here from Iqaluit, Mr. Kevin Dunphy and Laura Simonson. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the other pages from Iqaluit that have participated here this week, Levi Eegeesiak, Ashley Tufts, and Damion Barns. I'd like ask the members to join me in thanking them for their hard work and time they put in here this week. I hope that they, like Minister Ng stated enjoyed themselves and learned something at the same time.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to acknowledge one of our members today, today this member's age was rounded off to the nearest 10, he'll be 50 today. The member I'd like to wish a Happy Birthday to is the member from Arviat, Speaker of the House, Mr. O'Brien.

>>Applause & Cheers

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Tootoo, you must be getting my age mixed up with your colleague Mr. McLean from Baker Lake.

>>Laughter

You are only off by five. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6. Oral questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

## Item 6: Oral Questions

### Question 029 - 1(4): Chesterfield Inlet Community Corporation

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Sustainable Development. When this House opened not too long ago I submitted a proposal to the minister from Chesterfield Inlet for a Community Corporation to be part of a satellite system to be put up by Americans. I would like to hear what the latest is on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Sustainable Development has been working on this ever since 1998 when it was first discussed. They are still waiting for funding. Before the next fiscal year we are still waiting for one of the communities and the amounts that were approved to date have not been responded to by the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister is telling me that they are waiting for the business plan. If he is waiting for them from Chesterfield Inlet, they do not have any funding and they were asking for help from Sustainable Development. I worked on this before and I asked people to help them. What can he say to the residents of Chesterfield Inlet for this plan to go through. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To date the Community Corporation has been funded three times and the business plan is to indicate what other sources they can find funding from. It has been agreed that the Department of Sustainable Development would assist them further once they have handed in their report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. Supplementary. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

### Question 030 - 1(4): Impact of Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On April 1 last year the Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti initiative was introduced. Can the Premier indicate how successful this policy and business incentive has been. For those people who are interested in taking this opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If it is your birthday, I congratulate you. The Business Incentive Policy is to assist the people of Nunavut in the communities and it is starting to now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister indicated it is assisting the communities, is it out in public where people can see it, so that they are aware of it. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When this was first introduced, my staff visited the communities and the contractors as to how to use it and to other interested organizations. If the communities want to get more information once we know who they are we can provide our staff to go to the communities and visit them. We can send mail. If they want to learn how it is done then my staff can be available. So once I know which communities, we can inform them either by mail or by sending one of my staff. I stated this before that the communities were informed and what it entails I am sure. It is not hard to comprehend but if the member can indicate which community, I can work on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This policy was in place since April 1. How many communities have been requesting services from your department and which communities have used this policy as it is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have published the policy and all the communities are aware of it. Once our department put the policy out to the public, all the contractors in communities are now aware of it as it is. If there is any assistance required in the communities, they could use the policy to get assistance from my department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When you mention business people do they also include big companies. Corporations. Or are you talking about small businesses that are operating in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry if I was not clear enough. When I talk about business owners I am talking about people who are

outside government who are operating their own business. I am talking about all business owners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

**Question 031 - 1(4): Creation of New Positions Within GN**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Human Resources. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask if the minister if he could explain the process in the event that any positions or jobs are created within the government system. Are all those positions created, if deemed necessary for the department to create a position, would that position, would the request from the department go through Human Resources. Would all those positions go to Human Resources to be rated and classified. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, normally if there is a request from a department they would develop first of all a job description of what that job would entail and then they would provide it to Human Resources. They would do the job classifications to find out what equivalent skills are required, compare those skills to other positions and put a salary range around that position. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when they are going through classifications and that, are they all based on the same criteria. What system is used in determining what classification and what rating these positions are rated at. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I believe they use an index of what skill levels for each position are required and there are comparable factors. Like I said, equivalent jobs within current government and I believe there is also an index for other comparable classifications of other jurisdictions, other similar related positions. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, are all the positions that do go through that process, I know that the system that was used prior to the system used now, it's like the Hay Plan or a similar type process that used to classify all positions that the government had. He indicated that he uses a different one. Are they done using the exact same system or can they pick and choose which system that they want to compare it to in

a different jurisdiction or different type of position or are there, you know, really standard guidelines for that process. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not certain about that so I can try to find out that information and provide it to the member. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister if for any reason there are any types of positions that are an exception to going through that process. That are excluded from going through that process or do all positions have to go through that process. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. By and large I believe that the majority would, I do not know if there would be exceptions, but again that is something that I can try to find out. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you minister. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. McLean.

#### **Question 032 - 1(4): Elders' Multi-Plex for Baker Lake**

**Mr. McLean:** Ma'na Uqaqti. I would like to congratulate you on your birthday today and I thought you were on the other side of 50's so I beg to apologize to you there. Uqaqti, my question today is to the Minister responsible for Housing.

It is no secret in my community that we have a large amount, or we have a large group of elders in our community. The last count we have was that we have over 1 hundred over the age of 60. As we know, there is a housing crisis in all of Nunavut.

In the last year or two, the hamlet, the municipality has been lobbying the minister responsible for an additional elders' residence. Currently we have one four-plex that was built over 15 years ago and currently we have a large demand for an elders type facility. I know we are building duplexes this year and the hamlet wrote a letter to the minister responsible requesting rather than build duplexes next year, if the minister would consider building a four or six-plex elders' residence. Could the minister update me on that. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand. I think we are all aware in Baker Lake, particularly in the Keewatin region, I know Baker Lake

has the most elders. When we attended a meeting in Baker Lake when we were visiting the elders' centre, a lot of elders in that community were out and it was nice to see.

I am also aware that the elders' centre in Baker Lake is inadequate. It was not made to be an elders' centre, and we are aware that it is an inadequate building for elders. I have received some correspondence from the Hamlet of Baker Lake. When I am travelling through Rankin Inlet or Baker Lake elders have approached me to give me their concerns about this elders' centre. We are aware that there are some problems with that building. For this reason, I want to indicate to the Member for Baker Lake that we will be working closely with the Hamlet of Baker Lake so we can construct a decent elders facility in Baker Lake. We will be dealing with the Hamlet on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Ma'na Uqaqti. The minister is absolutely correct. That facility that was built 15 years ago was just a fourplex with a minor modification for ramps and stuff. Like I say, it is totally inadequate at this point. But can the minister be more direct in her answer that instead of building public housing units next year, would she consider building an elders' residence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I have talked to the staff because this has been brought up about the seniors' facility in Baker Lake since last year. It has been brought up quite a few times already. I will ask the staff to work with the Hamlet as soon as possible for the planning of the seniors' facility instead of the duplex. If it could be modified they will work with the Hamlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

### **Question 033 - 1(4): Impact of Income Support Regulations**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not indicate that I would be raising a question. However, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Health & Social Services regarding income support regulations in the communities. This has created difficulty to some families particularly for low-income families. Whereas when they have temporary jobs, they are not eligible for income support in the community. Can the minister look into this matter and get back to the House on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Merci Monsieur Presidente. Yes, I am very happy to indicate that we are reviewing all social assistance programs and income support regulations. We will be tabling a document in the House sometime soon. We have had

some community consultations as to how best we can deal with the Act and maybe revise the Act, as it would be appropriate for the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy to hear about this. How soon can we see some results as I think this should be a priority of the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

**Speaker:** Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hopefully in the very near future, because we have a working group, which has almost completed the review and they will be giving me a report in the very near future. I will be tabling that document in the House. I just cannot indicate on what day we will be tabling it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Premier. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Premier indicated that the working group is still working on it, can he indicate that he will be able to table this document when we are still in session. Merci, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many Acts and legislation have to be reviewed yet by the working group. I am not aware when we will be tabling the document and the report. But I can indicate to the member that as soon as they are ready, I will be able to table them in the House. However, I cannot give him the date when we will table the reports and other documents, but even if the session is over then I can send the member a copy of the reports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral questions. Mr. Nutarak.

#### **Question 034 - 1(4): Pond Inlet Solid Waste Site**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Community Government & Transportation. I think it was on June 2, I was talking about the solid waste site. The minister knows the Hamlet of Pond Inlet is facing a financial crisis as the result of the Hamlet's inability to use lots that were constructed too close to the solid waste site. They could not use the lots that would have been used, as planned. The Hamlet decided that the lots were too close to the solid waste site and they had to get a lot prepared for construction. That lot that is being used needs a lot of work and they have to build a road connected to that lot.

My question is will the minister's department be able to provide funding and if he has seen a funding request from the Hamlet to construct the lot. It was in the amount of 300 thousand that the Hamlet was requesting. Can the minister indicate if he has been able to give that amount of money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not quite understand what he was saying. If the member indicated that the Hamlet incurred over 300 thousand, and he asked if I had seen a request from the Hamlet, I can indicate that NCC, Nunavut Construction Corporation is the one that constructs these facilities. If NCC has been given some funding to build houses, then they would have been given the funding to provide these facilities.

However, I can look into this matter and I can get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I am talking about is, we wrote a letter on July 11 to the Deputy Minister of Community Government and Transportation. The letter was addressed to the Deputy Minister of Community Government and Transportation on July 11, and July is quite far away now.

The Hamlet of Pond Inlet has tried to request money so their building can be constructed soon. I have also looked into this matter and it has been two weeks since I contacted his department to see if he can look into this. I know that the department had allotted over 300 thousand dollars for the Hamlet building. So can the minister get back to me as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Anawak.

**Honorable Jack Anawak (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will review this matter and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Final Supplementary.

**Mr. Nutarak (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. I was looking forward to this answer. I thank the minister for his response. However, I would like to ask another question. How quickly will the government act on this emergency that is facing the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Honorable Jack Anawak (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If not tomorrow then the following week. Than I will get back to the member. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Oral questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Question 035 - 1(4): Chesterfield Inlet Runway Upgrade**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community Government and Transportation. From time to time, the landing field in Chesterfield Inlet has been upgraded as it is quite close to the two lakes in the community of Chesterfield. In every year, they have had to upgrade the airstrip during the spring. There have been some complaints coming from one of the airline pilots that it is very dangerous to try to land on this airstrip in Chesterfield Inlet. There have been some cracks and potholes on the landing strip.

For that reason why I would like to ask the minister, I know that this is an emergency case, can the minister allocate some funding for upgrading the airstrip. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I went to Chesterfield this spring by snowmobile, I made a visit to the community and I met with the Hamlet mayor regarding the maintenance of the landing strip. He indicated to me that there was not enough gravel nearby the community that could be used to upgrade the airstrip. He requested some funding from my department so they can upgrade the strip as soon as possible. I am aware of the problem. I told the mayor that I would get back to him regarding funding for such emergencies.

However, we have not had any funding provided or set aside for the airport in Chesterfield Inlet. However, if we become aware of any emergencies that has to be a priority for the government and we will look into that matter further. If the member can wait in order for me to look into the matter further then we will deal try to deal with this as soon as possible. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. However, he is saying that if this was an emergency then his department would look into it as soon as possible. According to Federal guidelines, I know this is a Federal Government responsibility, but can the minister elaborate a little bit more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If this is going to create a problem in the future or if the airlines are having problems with the airstrip then if we feel that this is an emergency case then we will look into it as soon as possible. However,

after discussing this with the mayor of Chesterfield Inlet to see how we can provide him with funding so they can get some more gravel, he indicated they would be happy to get some funding for gravel upgrades on the airstrip. If it is going to be a safety hazard, then the Department of Transportation will work on it as quickly as possible. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I know that we are talking about a crack on the runway. The runway is made up of something other than gravel because there is no gravel available to upgrade the runway with. Would the minister commit himself to ensuring that gravel is provided to fill in the crack in the middle of the runway. Will he be setting up a plan to deal with this rather than reversing in the future. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Now the work on the gravel site, I am sure that our department is aware of this problem and we will be dealing with it. I can only indicate to the member that headquarters would provide funding to crush rock to make gravel so we can fill the crack in the runway. I can only indicate to the member that the planning is in the beginning stages and we are moving towards filling up the crack in the runway. It is still in the planning stages and the financial aspects of it have to be worked out. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Iqittuq.

#### **Question 036 - 1(4): Commercial Sale of Igunaq in Hall Beach**

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Health & Social Services. I do not want to put him on the spot, but I do have some questions that I would like to pose to him. Mr. Speaker, on September 13, 2000, he was written a letter by a person who wanted to set up his own business in Hall Beach. This person wanted to set up his own country food store. I want to ask the minister if there has been any progress made regarding this person's business. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue surrounding the business start up was the proponents idea of selling Igunaq and he had come to the Department of Health & Social Services to find out what type of requirements or regulations would be needed to be able to sell that product. Mr. Speaker, earlier this morning I faxed a copy of my response from the Department of Health & Social Services to the person. The person is in town and I had a call from the office this morning so we sent that letter to him. He would have received that this morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Question 037 - 1(4): Small Business Start Up Funds**

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Sustainable Development. I will be asking today about funds available to help small businesses get up and running. I want to know how much of those funds have been allocated to private businesses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to clarify that there are different types of businesses and different levels of funding available for different businesses. I want to ask him what type of business he is referring to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am talking about small businesses. Those businesses I am talking about are for those who own their own building such as restaurants. Those who wish to have a store. Those kinds of small businesses. Those people who want to start up their own small businesses. Is that clear enough Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason I am asking is that he is asking how much of the funding has been allocated to Kitikmeot. I am asking if his question is pertaining to one small business or to all the small businesses in the Kitikmeot. I do not have all the information here with me today as to how much of the funding has been allocated and there are still some proposals or requests for funding coming in. I cannot exactly specify how much has been allocated this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understood the minister clearly, he is saying that he does not have the information available at this time. I would appreciate the information. Mr. Minister, how much funding has been allocated for all the small business ventures in the Kitikmeot region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I have that available but it will take awhile to go through all of them. If it is okay with the member, the member's question on how many small business ventures have been funded, Mr.

Speaker, I don't have this information on hand, so I will have to get back to him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral questions. Mr. Havioyak.

**Question 038 - 1(4): Job Opportunities in Mining**

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know in Kugluktuk, there are many mining companies there, and you can hear it in the news and on the radio. There are many companies in our area and in the Kitikmeot area, because there are a lot of mining opportunities. Some of them say there are going to be many jobs opening at the mine. What kind of jobs would there be at the mining companies, what are they. I would like to know so people can find out and try to start their own businesses. It would be good if these people could get some business training. Minister, have you spoken to these people, about the kinds of jobs that are available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

**Speaker:** I believe this question is directed to Mr. Kilabuk. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I would like to thank the member for asking that question. I know that there are different mining companies in the Kitikmeot. There are some that are still in the exploratory stages and there are some that are actually mining. Right now, they are working closely with my department and they often correspond with our headquarters so sometimes I get to read those letters. I know that our department deals with mining and exploration. We have been keeping up with all those statistics and information as to the progress of the mining corporations in the Kitikmeot region. I have not had a chance to really catch up on the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A mining company has said there will be many jobs available but in Kugluktuk and in the Kitikmeot people are not trained. The people in these communities would like to work. Could somebody in Arctic College or elsewhere, have you been keeping up with trying to figure out what jobs are going to be available. What job responsibility people might have. I am asking about that because young people are not aware of what jobs are available or will become available in the future. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. To date the Department of Sustainable Development have developed a plan specifically identifying opportunities. Six mining companies have been identified. We can get people trained in terms of mining and exploration and right now, the Kitikmeot people have the best opportunity to start training this area. To date to fill our staffing capacity there still needs to be a lot of

training locally, so that we will have better trained people to work in the mines. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. To use an example, I would like it known that the mines have said that they would like to work with the construction companies in Lac De Gras. They said close to 1000 people would be working there. In the Kitikmeot we have many young people that want to work. However, the young people are not sure of what jobs are available or what training they should take. If I worked at Arctic College I would make this a priority. I would like to encourage you so that young people can become more aware. So that hamlets become more aware of what jobs are available. I hope you understand my question. Thank you Mr Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes, its true that our department and the GN seem to be going slower because when we formed the government on April 1, 1999 there was no policy in place in regards to employment. Keep in mind that within Nunavut there are no courses of that kind but we are in the planning stage.

We want to do a survey and it will not be just our department but also the Department of Education and Nunavut Tunngavik and the Federal Government, so that Nunavummiut will get proper training and have all the information they require. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Kugluktuk, there is an office that they should know about regarding mining. They help look for jobs for them, and for training. There are personnel that work there. Will there be somebody working there so that person can inform the people of Kugluktuk so people a have better idea of what's going on. It might be easier if somebody is working there. Would the minister do this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have planned to put someone into place, not just in Kugluktuk. Mr. Speaker, there will be one in your community, one in Arviat, and one in Iqaluit. The office for the Kitikmeot will be in Kugluktuk, for the Keewatin, Arviat and for the Baffin in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral questions. Mr. McLean.

**Question 039 - 1(4): Lack of Training Opportunities for the Mining Sector**

**Mr. McLean:** Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti, I would also like to direct a question to the Minister of Sustainable Development, in regards to training and mining opportunities. You may not be able to answer the question. In my experience in the last year and a half, we've been talking a lot about mining, and training and things like that, but this government doesn't seem to be taking it seriously enough. The reason I say that is because if there's a thousand jobs in the Lac De Gras mines, there's probably opportunities for 500 Nunavummiut to gain employment. This means when you talk about decentralizations and its importance to these communities, 500 job opportunities is as big, if not more and it is outside dollars.

I wonder if the minister responsible would try to work with his cabinet colleagues, of coming up with a program or proposal to train people in the smaller communities to be prepared for mining opportunities in these sites. Because right now I just don't see it happening. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I responded that the planning that we have begun for mining, it is also with the Federal Government and Nunavut Tunngavik as our counterparts. The process of training people in mining is very slow because it is a very tight budget. Within the last year, we have heard a lot about this, but at the time we became Nunavut, that's when they identified mining as an issue, before that it was not well prepared. But we are going to be pursuing this and we will eventually get back on track, the way we want to. As the government, we will be working together, and I want to apologize that it is going slower than we thought it would. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Ma'na Uqaqti. I'm glad the minister responded to that, because I don't want to look like I'm picking on him in regards to training opportunities in mining. But there may be three to four mines coming on stream in Nunavut within the next three to four years, with the potential of two to three thousand people being employed in that sector.

I have to stress those are outside dollars and the private sector is profit motivated, they have to make a profit. Sometimes if they don't have qualified people in Nunavut to take these jobs, they have to go outside and that means nothing to us, income taxes, royalties etc, etc. Would the minister commit to bringing a policy forward with his cabinet colleagues within the next year to try to train more Nunavut people to be ready for mining. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The work we have done has been going slowly. This is the initial planning stage and it is taking a while but as I said earlier, we are working with the Department of Education and there will be some steps taken. At the time I expect to have a policy in place but we have to follow the Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti policy too. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Minister. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

**Question 040 - 1(4): Criteria for Direct Staffing Appointments**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe my question again is for the Minister responsible for Human Resources or it could be for the Premier, I am not sure. They can listen to it and decide who wants to claim it. Mr. Speaker, I guess it will be for the Minister responsible for Human Resources. Earlier I asked him about the new positions and yesterday about direct appointments and he said he was going to look at finding out numbers on appointments. I would like to ask the minister what types of situations does the government fill positions by appointment. Under what circumstances and what criteria do they use when deciding whether to go to direct appoint or putting a position out. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Tootoo. I believe I heard two questions there. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it depends on the circumstances obviously. Any minister can sponsor a direct appointment within their area of responsibility to try to fill a vacancy. It could be a circumstance where an individual was designated as a training position to move into a position. So when they are trained they become qualified.

It could be a circumstance where there was a vacancy and there have been difficulties in filling the particular vacancies for various reasons, whether it be it was a specialized position, it had been vacant for quite a number, for quite a time, or the fact that maybe somebody was acting in that capacity for quite an extended period of time and gained the knowledge and skills to be able to carry out that position. Those are some of the factors that could lead to direct appointment. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you minister. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can recognize, I guess, that there may be many different circumstances in which direct appointments may be made. Where the minister talked about training or difficulty filling vacancies, or acting positions. In any type of new positions that may be, that I referred to earlier in my comments, how do those new positions come forward from the departments. Would any of those types of positions be filled by direct appointment. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again it would depend on the circumstances and there would be a possibility if there was a reorganization within a department and somebody did not want to displace somebody as a result of a new job description, then there may be a direct appointment as well in those circumstances. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in light of the minister's comments on reorganization of the departments. I am wondering, since last spring we approved the 2000-2001 business plans and organizational charts, I am wondering how many new positions were added to date that were not previously in the work charts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I could not answer that here. It would obviously entail reviewing the work charts of the departments and I know all Standing Committees will have an opportunity to go into detail in reviewing the business plan of what exactly has transpired since last year. But again similar to the other information I will commit to try to put it all together in a concise manner and I will report back. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. As indicated by the clock, question period is now over. Item 7. Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak:** I would like to go back to Item 5 for a few minutes.

**Speaker:** Member is seeking consent to go back to item 5. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Mr. Havioyak.

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

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because I do not often recognize visitors. This person used to be my constituency worker, Mary-Jane Anablak. I would like to recognize her. Thank you.

*>>Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Item 7. Written questions. Mr. Tootoo.

### **Motion 004 - 1(4): Minister's Statement 007 - 1(4): Fuel Price Increases to Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Rule 34 (5) I move seconded my the Honourable Member from Kugluktuk that Ministers' Statement 007-

1(4) Fuel Price Increases be moved into Committee of the Whole for discussion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Minister's Statement 007-1(4) is referred to Committee of the Whole. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Motion 005 - 1(4): Minister's Statement 006 - 1(4): GN Staffing Capacity & Inuit Employment Statistics to Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Rule 34 (5) I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Akulliq, that Minister's Statement 006-1(4) Government of Nunavut Staffing Capacity and Inuit Employment Statistics be referred to Committee of the Whole for discussion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. Motion is carried. Minister's Statement 006-1(4) is referred to the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Motion 006 - 1(4): Minister's Statement 008 - 1(4): GN Interim Financial Statements to Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 34(5), I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Tunnuniq, that Minister's Statement 008 - 1(4), GN Interim Financial Statements, be moved into Committee of the Whole for discussion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Minister's Statement 008-1(4) is referred to the Committee of the Whole. Item 7. Written questions. Item 8. Returns to written questions. Item 9. Replies to opening address. Item 10. Petitions. Mr. Ng.

**Item 10: Petitions**

**Petition 001 - 1(4): Residents of Cambridge Bay on Time Zone**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from the residents of Cambridge Bay. The residents of Cambridge Bay petition the Government of Nunavut to immediately respect our wishes and desires to leave the present Nunavut time zone unchanged. The original time zone represented a fair compromise in favour of unity and communications; the amendment now unfairly penalizes the people, businesses and organizations of Cambridge Bay, and disrupts and jeopardizes our lifestyles, our natural and historical education, medical, transportation, and business relationships with the west, by moving us 2 hours ahead in the winter months and one hour in the summer months.

Mr. Speaker, it's signed I am told by the Mayor in a letter that I'll table later as well, it's signed by 431 signatures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ng. Item 10. Petitions. Mr. Havioyak.

**Petition 002 - 1(4): Residents of Kugluktuk on Time Zone**

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also from the people of Kugluktuk I have a petition. The residents of Kugluktuk petition the Nunavut Government to restore the Mountain Time zone to the Hamlet of Kugluktuk. It is signed by 178 residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Petitions. Item 11. Reports of standing and special committees. Reports of standing and special committees. Item 12. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13. Tabling of documents. Mr. Premier.

**Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

**Tabled Document 006 - 1(4): MOU on Co-operation GN & Greenland Home Rule Government**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Merci, Monsieur President. As you all know and I indicated through my Minister's Statement I have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Greenland. I am very happy to be able to table the agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Mr. Ng

**Tabled Document 007 - 1(4): Letter from Mayor of Cambridge Bay on Time Zone**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a letter from the Mayor Keith Peterson of Cambridge Bay to myself. Requesting me to accept the petition of 431 people from Cambridge Bay, asking if I would table it today and asking that the government rescind their decision to amend the current Nunavut time zone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Ng. Petitions. Tabling of documents. Minister Kilabuk.

**Tabled Document 008 - 1(4): DSD Community Economic Development Programs**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a document of compiled information from the Department of Sustainable Development. All this information has been compiled by my department. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 13. Tabling of documents. Tabling of documents. Item 14. Notices of motions. Notices of motions. Item 15. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Ng.

**Item 16: Motions****Motion 002 - 1(4): Adjournment**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kugluktuk that notwithstanding Rule 4, when the House adjourns on Friday, October 27, 2000, it shall be adjourned until Tuesday, October 31, 2000. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. Motion is carried. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

**Item 17: First Reading of Bills****Bill 2 – An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Board Act**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Mr. Speaker I move second by the Honourable Member for Pangnirtung that Bill 2 – An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Board Act be read for the first time. Thank you.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. Motion is carried. Bill 2 has had first reading. Mr. Anawak.

**Bill 3 – An Act to Amend the Statutes Revision Act**

**Hon. Jack Anawak:** I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Sanikiluaq that Bill 3 an Act to Amend the Statutes Revision Act be read for the first time. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Anawak. Motion is in order. Question. All those in favour. Opposed. Motion is carried. Bill 3 has had first reading. Mr. Anawak.

**Bill 4 – An Act to Amend the Land Titles Act**

**Hon. Jack Anawak:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin South that Bill 4 – An Act to Amend the Land Titles Act be read for the first time. Thank you.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. Motion is carried. Bill 4 has had first reading. Mr. Ng.

### **Bill 5 – The Floral Emblem Act**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin South that Bill 5 – The Floral Emblem Act be read for the first time. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. Question. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Bill 5 has had reading. Mr. Ng.

### **Bill 6 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly & Executive Council Act and Other Acts in Relation to the Legislative Assembly**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin North that Bill 6 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly & Executive Council Act and Other Acts in Relation to the Legislative Assembly be read for the first time. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Ng. The motion is in order. Questions. To the motion. All those in favour. Against. Motion is carried. Bill 6 has had first reading. First reading of bills. That's it. Item 18. Second reading of bills. Item 18. Second read of bills. Second reading of bills.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and other Matters. Bill 1, Committee report 1-1 (4), Minister's statements 6-1 (4), 7-1 (4), 8-1 (4). We'll have Mr. Puqignak in the Chair. Prior to commencing with the committee of the whole we'll recess for 15 minutes.

Sergeant-At-Arms.

*>>House recessed at 3.15 p.m. and resumed at 3.42 p.m.*

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

**Chairperson** (Mr. Puqignak) (interpretation): Thank you, for returning. Good afternoon my colleagues. Our meeting as Committee of the Whole is now commencing. We will deal with Bill 1, Committee report 1-1(4) Review of the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut, Minister's statements 6-1 (4), 7-1 (4), 8-1 (4). What is the wish of the committee. Mr. Haviyok.

**Mr. Haviyok** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The first item for discussion is Bill 1-1(4). Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Report of the Ajauqtiit Standing Committee 1-1(4). Do all the members have a copy of this report. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I believe everyone will have new copies of the recommendations distributed to them. So if we can continue from where we left off on recommendation 23. The other day Mr. Alakannuark was going through the recommendations. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. We are going by recommendations. Recommendation 23. Proceed. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Committee Motion 023 - 1(4): Elections Nunavut Advice on Advance Notice**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman, recommendation 23.

I move that the committee recommends that the government seek advice from Elections Nunavut to determine what advance notice will be required for the calling of an election to ensure proper administration of an election or by-election within the 35 day- time period.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): To the motion. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Motion carried. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Committee Motion 024 - 1(4): Review of Voting Age**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, the issue of age requirements was raised. Recommendation 24 reads,

I move that the committee recommends that should the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut move to further consider dropping the age of voting to 16, a more direct manner of determining the opinions of the people of Nunavut, such as a plebiscite or formal opinion poll should be conducted on this question.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. All those in agreement with the motion.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Are there any nays. Motion is carried. Mr. Alakannuark continue.

**Committee Motion 025 - 1(4): Residency Requirement**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The issue of residency is very important to the people of Nunavut. Particularly in these times when people are moving to go to school or take up new jobs. Recommendation 25.

I move that the Committee recommends that eligibility to vote in Nunavut continue to require one year of residency in Nunavut in the new Elections Act and that Nunavut residents who move to a new community at any time in the year prior to an election should be able to vote in that community.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. All those in favour. Opposed. Motion is carried. Before we continue on to 26. There was a question on the floor on recommendation 24. There was a question on it. Thank you. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I had my hand raised. I apologize to my colleagues. It states here that should the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut further considers dropping the age of voting to 16, a more direct manner of determining the opinions of the people of Nunavut. I think this voting age of 16 was more geared towards bringing up the required number of electors. They provided for age 18 and up with provisions. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Mr. Tootoo do you want to answer that.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am not sure what the minister is asking for. As far as someone getting privileges the same as 18 year olds, maybe if I could ask him to clarify his question. Before I go any further, this recommendation is just stating that was the question we asked. What do people think about this and we had strong feedback both for and against. We are not making any recommendation on changing it, we are just stating that if there is a decision to look at changing it a more formal process such as an opinion poll or plebiscite be held before that decision was made. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Recommendation 24. Before it was agreed I think we should have asked for comments or questions. Now it has already been carried. It is too late to change it now, because we have already agreed to it. It is no longer open for debate. Now we are going on to 26. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Committee Motion 026 - 1(4): Continuation of Students on the Voters' List**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Recommendation 26.

I move that the committee recommends that students who are resident in another community for the purpose of continuing their education should be able to claim a

temporary absence and continue to be on the voters' list in their home community, if they wish.

**Chairperson (interpretation):** There's a motion on the floor, regarding recommendation 26. Those in favour of the motion. Those opposed. Motion carried. Mr. Alakannuark continue.

**Committee Motion 027 - 1(4): Voting in the Office of the Returning Officer**

**Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation):** Mr. Chairman. The needs in Nunavut are very diverse and we need an Elections Act which incorporates flexibility and special voting opportunities for people to vote in advance of election day. The Standing Committee wants to be sure the Election Act allows for circumstances that would permit every eligible voter to vote. Thank you. Recommendation 27.

I move that the committee recommends that the practice of allowing voters to vote in the office of the returning officer during the 14 day period in advance of election day be continued.

**Chairperson (interpretation):** There is a motion on the floor. Any comments. All in favour. Any opposed. Motion carried. Mr. Alakannuark continue.

**Committee Motion 028 - 1(4): Location of Advance Polls**

**Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation):** Recommendation 28.

I move that the committee recommends that if advanced polls are to be held, they be held in those communities that do not have an office of the returning officer.

**Chairperson (interpretation):** There is a motion on the floor. All in favour. Any questions or comments. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Kilabuk had his hand up, I am just wondering if he has a question on this one or not.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation):** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I just want a clarification on recommendation 28. If there are advance polls that need to be held, they are to be held in those communities that don't have returning officers, or they don't have an office of the returning officer. What does that mean. Can you clarify that. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson (interpretation):** Mr. Tootoo can you clarify that.

**Mr. Tootoo:** I hope so Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, recommendation 27 allows voters to vote in the office of the returning officer for a 14 day period prior to election day. This was brought up because some communities that are smaller do not have an office of a returning officer. So they do not have the ability to do that and in the past there was not even an opportunity for an advance poll because that is where the returning officer was.

So this expands it to the communities that do not have an office of the returning officer in their community. There are some constituencies that have more than one community and they may only have one returning officer in one community. This would allow that returning officer to go to the other community and hold an advance poll which wasn't allowed in the past. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Any further questions regarding recommendation 28. There is a motion on the floor. All those in favour. Motion is carried. Mr. Alakannuark.

#### **Committee Motion 029 - 1(4): Hours of Operation for Advance Polls**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Recommendation 29.

I move that the committee recommends that the hours of operation for advance polls be reduced to a minimum of three hours, as determined by the returning officer in consultation with the Chief Electoral officer.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. All those in favour. Motion is carried. Mr. Alakannuark.

#### **Committee Motion 030 - 1(4): Review of Proxy Voting Requirements**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Recommendation 30.

I move that the committee recommends that the CEO review the proxy voting requirements and examine ways in which the proxy voting requests could be dealt with more directly by elections officials, rather than by candidates or candidate's workers, and that proxy voting be limited to extreme circumstances.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. All those in favour. Everybody agreed. Opposed. Motion is carried. Mr. Alakannuark.

#### **Committee Motion 031 - 1(4): Mail-In Ballots and Procedures**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Recommendation 31.

I move that the committee recommends that the mail-in ballot procedure be amended so that there is no time-limit for applying for the ballot; that the deadline for receipt of mail-in ballots by the elections office or the office of the local

Returning Officer be the day prior to election day; that forms for requesting mail-in ballots be readily available through the Internet and by fax; that people applying to use the mail-in ballots procedure be able to use fax machines and the Internet with appropriate protections; that the mail-in ballot itself must be an original and not received by fax or the Internet; that the instructions for use of mail-in ballots be very clear and understandable; that the reply envelope be postage-free for regular mail; and that the mail-in ballot procedure may be done in person with the Returning Officer.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. Motion is carried. Mr. Alakannuark.

#### **Committee Motion 032 - 1(4): Support of CEO Recommendations**

**Mr. Alakannuark:** Recommendation 32.

I move that the Committee recommends that the CEO's recommendation be supported, providing that the CEO may use write-in ballots for voting by mail.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): The motion is in order. Comments. Agreed. Opposed. Motion is carried. Mr. Alakannuark.

#### **Committee Motion 033 - 1(4): Mobile Voting Stations**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Recommendation 33.

I move that the Committee recommends that the CEO's recommendation (in his NWT report) be supported that the Elections Act be amended to provide that the Returning Officer may, with the prior approval of the Chief Electoral Officer, establish a special mobile voting station for eligible electors residing at a hospital, health facility, senior citizen's home or confined to their home for medical or mobility reasons.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Motion is in order. Agreed. Opposed. Motion is carried. Mr. Alakannuark.

#### **Committee Motion 034 - 1(4): Voting for Persons With Disabilities**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Recommendation 34.

I move that the committee recommends that Elders and persons with disabilities be permitted to vote in their own home by requesting that the Returning Officer come to their home with a mail-in ballot.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): To the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. Motion is carried. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Committee Motion 035 - 1(4): Elections Information for Students**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Recommendation 35.

I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Education, in co-operation with Elections Nunavut, examine ways in which they can support Elections Nunavut in sending information to students, while protecting the privacy rights and ensuring that comprehensive information can be sent in a timely manner on students' right to vote in elections in Nunavut.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): To the motion. Comments. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The students would they be informed or would they just get their voting rights, that they're eligible. Would they be informed, I'm just concerned that on election day we have encountered where some teenagers approach each other because their parents were running against each other and that has created problems.

So I'm just wondering what kind of information will be sent to the students for example, it's okay to let the students know but some parents of these students, if they're supporting one particular person, a candidate, this caused some problems. So I just want clarification on why is it there. I just want further information. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman this recommendation deals specifically to students that are attending school outside of the territory. The information that they would be sent from the elections office is the exact same information that would be posted around regarding elections and the right to vote, and about the types of voting opportunities that are available. So if they chose to exercise their right to vote they would know how to do it, and where to call in regards to that. Thank you Mr. Chairman. I hope that I answered your question.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you for clarifying that, but the way it's written, it isn't indicated that it's for students outside of Nunavut. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Are you raising a question. Is that your question. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I don't know if it states that the students we're talking about are outside the territory. I don't see that on there. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman, if you are reading it, I realize that it doesn't specify that. The way it's worded at the end that information can be sent in a timely manner, on students right to vote in elections in Nunavut. So I would say you are looking at students from outside I guess. Any post secondary students that may be out of their community attending school. That they know what options they have or what they do not have in being able to exercise their right to vote. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Any more questions to recommendation 35. All those in favour. The motion is carried. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I will now pass the reading of the next set of recommendations to my colleague the Honourable Member for Nanulik to continue with the report.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Mr. Arvaluk.

#### **Committee Motion 036 - 1(4): Posting of Electoral Lists**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. There are a number of recommendations which deal with how polls are structured and how they are used in administering of elections. The Act currently provides that for every 350 voters, there must be a separate polling station and electoral list. Recommendation 36.

I move that the committee recommends that in multi-electoral districts, electoral lists be posted together in a central location.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Comments. Agreed. The motion is carried. Continue Mr. Arvaluk.

#### **Committee Motion 037 - 1(4): Central Office for Returning Officers**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Recommendation 37.

I move that the committee recommends that in multi-electoral districts, returning officers be permitted to establish a central office.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): To the motion. Comments. All those in favour. Opposed. Motion is carried. Mr. Arvaluk.

#### **Committee Motion 038 - 1(4): Maximum Number of People per Poll**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Recommendation 38.

I move that the committee recommends that the maximum number of people per poll be increased to 450 people.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): To the motion. Comments. All those in favour. Opposed. Motion is carried. Mr. Arvaluk.

#### **Committee Motion 039 - 1(4): Polling Station Options**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Recommendation 39.

I move that the committee recommends that the Elections Act should permit the Returning Officer in consultation with the Chief Electoral Officer, to put all polls for an electoral district in a central polling station for Election Day or to permit the establishment of a separate polling station for a smaller number of people in order to deal with the geographic circumstances of that community.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): To the motion. There is a motion on the floor. All those in favour. Motion is carried. Mr. Arvaluk.

#### **Committee Motion 040 - 1(4): Polling Stations in Multi-Electoral Districts**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Recommendation 40.

I move that the committee recommends that the Elections Act should permit the Returning Officer in consultation with the Chief Electoral Officer to put all polls in a central polling station for polling day for multi-electoral districts or to permit the establishment of separate polling stations as may be required to deal with the geographic circumstances of that community.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Agreed. Opposed. Motion carried. Mr. Arvaluk.

#### **Committee Motion 041 - 1(4): Enumeration in Bathurst Inlet and Umingmatok**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Recommendation 41.

I move that the committee recommends that the CEO's recommendation be carried out, that an enumeration be conducted in the communities of Bathurst Inlet and Umingmatok and that each community be designated as a polling division.

Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): To the motion. Agreed. Opposed. Motion is carried. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Committee Motion 042 - 1(4): Innovative Voting Methods**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Recommendation 42.

I move that the committee recommends that innovative methods of voting be able to be used in the smaller settlements and camps, on a trial basis, on recommendation by the CEO.

Thank you Mr. Chairman

**Chairperson:** Thank you. To the motion. Agreed. Opposed. Motion is carried. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Committee Motion 043 - 1(4): Qualifications of Candidates**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Mr. Chairman, a number of people made comments to the Standing Committee about the qualifications of candidates. Recommendation 43.

I move that the committee recommends that no change should be made to the qualifications of candidates as outlined in the Elections Act, unless consequential amendments are required due to changes in the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson (interpretation):** Any comments. Agreed. Motion is carried. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Committee Motion 044 - 1(4): Residency of Candidates**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Recommendation 44.

I move that the committee recommends that there be clear requirements in the Act that candidates must be resident in Nunavut for one year, as is required to be an eligible voter in Nunavut.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson (interpretation):** To the motion. Any Comments. Agreed. Opposed. Motion is carried. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Committee Motion 045 - 1(4): Minimum Age for Candidacy**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Recommendation 45.

I move that the committee recommends that the minimum age for candidacy be 18 and that should the voting age be dropped to 16, that the Government of

Nunavut obtain a legal opinion as to whether the age of 18 could remain the required age for candidacy.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson (interpretation):** To the motion. Any comments. Agreed. Opposed. The Motion is carried. Mr. Arvaluk.

#### **Committee Motion 046 - 1(4): Nomination Forms**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Recommendation 46.

I move that the committee recommends that nomination forms be redrafted so that it is very clear that the signature of each nominator requires a witness' signature.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson (interpretation):** To the motion. Any comments. Agreed. Opposed. The motion is carried. Mr. Arvaluk.

#### **Committee Motion 047 - 1(4): Clarity of Election Offences**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Mr. Chairman, a key area in which we may be able to make some changes to the Elections Act to make it more relevant to Nunavut is in the area of election offences. Nunavut has a strong tradition of community justice that emphasizes preventive and remedial approaches to wrongdoing and the Standing Committee makes a number of recommendations in this regard. Along with this approach is the importance of public education. Recommendation 47.

I move that the committee recommends that the section on election offences in the Act be rewritten in plain language so that it is easier to understand by the public of Nunavut; that it be consolidated so that all offences are listed together preferably in one section; that consistent wording be used to define the intent needed for an offence; and that better definitions be provided for words like fraudulently.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson (interpretation):** Thank you. To the motion. Agreed. Opposed. The motion is carried. Mr. Arvaluk.

#### **Committee Motion 048 - 1(4): Warning Posters**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Recommendation 48.

I move that the committee recommends that the Elections Act require warnings in all languages be posted and public service announcements be put on radio regarding what conduct is an offence under the Act and the potential consequences.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): To the motion. Any comments. Agreed. Opposed. The motion is carried. Mr. Arvaluk.

#### **Committee Motion 049 - 1(4): Offence Information for Candidates**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Recommendation 49.

I move that the committee recommends that specific materials be developed for candidates and their supporters, clearly outlining what conduct is an offence under the Act and the potential consequences.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): To the motion. Agreed. Opposed. The motion is carried. Mr. Arvaluk.

#### **Committee Motion 050 - 1(4): Responding to Complaints**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Recommendation 50.

I move that the committee recommends that the process for responding to complaints about election offences be reviewed by the working group, with a view to making it more proactive, more responsive in a timely manner, and more remedial in its consequences.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): To the motion. Agreed. Opposed. The motion is carried. Mr. Arvaluk.

#### **Committee Motion 051 - 1(4): Prosecution and Community Justice Initiatives**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Recommendation 51.

I move that the committee recommends that the process for responding to complaints and prosecuting election offences be examined in light of community justice initiatives in Nunavut.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): To the motion. Agreed. Opposed. The motion is carried. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Committee Motion 052 - 1(4): Sanctions for Election Offences**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Recommendation 52.

I move that the committee recommends that the following be added to the list of sanctions or consequences for committing an election offence: making a public or private apology; paying restitution for damage; receiving advice from Elders; and other community justice approaches as may be relevant to the election offences.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Agreed. Opposed. The motion is carried. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Committee Motion 053 - 1(4): Public Education on Election Procedures**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Recommendation 53.

I move that the committee recommends that a key core function of the Elections Nunavut office should be public education on election procedures and the rights and responsibilities of voters, candidates and election officials.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): To the motion. Agreed. Opposed. The motion is carried. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Committee Motion 054 - 1(4): Elections as Curriculum in Schools**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Recommendation 54.

I move that the committee recommends that Elections Nunavut should work in consultation with the Department of Education to ensure elections are part of the curriculum for elementary and high school students.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Any comments. Agreed. Opposed. Motion is carried.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you Mr. Chairman, I will now pass the reading of the next recommendations to my colleague the Honourable Member for Iqaluit Centre. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. You can now take a break. Mr. Tootoo.

**Committee Motion 055 - 1(4): Right of Election Officers to Vote**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman under a earlier law returning officers are called upon to break a tie. However, the Elections Act was amended should a tie vote be done after a judicial recount, that a by-election would now be held and therefore the Standing Committee sees no reason to deny the right of returning officers to vote. Recommendation 55.

I move that the committee recommends that the Elections Act be amended so that all elections officials including the Chief Electoral Officer and returning officers may exercise their right to vote if they are eligible voters.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): To the motion. The motion is in order. Any comments. Agreed. The motion is carried. Mr. Tootoo.

**Committee Motion 056 - 1(4): Election Expenses for Childcare**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee makes a number of recommendations about election financing. Recommendation 56.

I move that the committee recommends that the election spending limits allow for reasonable expenses as determined by the CEO, that are incurred by a candidate for childcare during an election period. These spending limits would be above the election spending limit of 30 thousand dollars currently in effect for all candidates.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): To the motion. There is a motion. Any comments. Agreed. Opposed. The motion is carried. Mr. Tootoo.

**Committee Motion 057 - 1(4): Spending Limits for Candidates with Disabilities**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Recommendation 57.

I move that the committee recommends that the election spending limits allow for reasonable expenses, as determined by the CEO, that are incurred by a candidate during the election period, in order to accommodate the needs of a candidate with

disabilities. These spending limits would be above the election spending limit of 30 thousand dollars currently in effect for all candidates.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. Any comments. Agreed. Opposed. The motion is carried. Mr. Tootoo.

#### **Committee Motion 058 - 1(4): Refund of Candidates' Deposits**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Recommendation 58.

I move that the committee recommends that the CEO's recommendation be supported that the refund of a candidate's deposit no longer depend on the number of votes that the candidate receives but rather on the candidate filing a completed return on his or her election expenses and contributions within the required 60-day period.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. The motion is in order. Comments. Agreed. Opposed. The motion is carried. Mr. Tootoo.

#### **Committee Motion 059 - 1(4): Clarification of Election Financing Rules**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman recommendation 59.

I move that the committee recommends that election financing rules and limits apply as soon as the election date is announced in the Legislative Assembly and that more clarification be provided on what constitutes election expenses and contributions including in-kind contributions.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. Any comments. Agreed. Opposed. Motion is carried. Mr. Tootoo.

#### **Committee Motion 060 - 1(4): Akulliq Electoral Boundaries**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman a number of people expressed concerns about the current electoral boundaries. Recommendation 60.

I move that the committee recommends that a process be developed by the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut to examine the electoral boundaries in the riding of Akulliq to determine how the communities of Kuugaaruk and Repulse

Bay could be contained in electoral districts within each region of Kitikmeot and Kivalliq keeping the existing total of 19 seats in the Legislative Assembly.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. The motion is in order. Any Comments. Agreed. Opposed. The motion is carried. Mr. Tootoo.

**Committee Motion 061 - 1(4): Legislation for an Electoral Boundaries Commission**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Recommendation 61.

That legislation providing for an Electoral Boundaries Commission should be re-enacted for Nunavut to conduct a review of the electoral boundaries during the life of the 2nd Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, taking into consideration the population statistics from the 2001 Census and community concerns.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): To the motion. Any Comments. Agreed. Opposed. The motion is carried. Go Ahead Mr. Tootoo.

**Committee Motion 062 - 1(4): Use of New Technologies in Elections**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman new technology provides new opportunities and new concerns in terms of elections. Recommendation 62.

I move that the committee recommends that the Elections Act provide flexibility for the use of new technologies in the administration of elections on a trial basis by the Chief Electoral Officer, subject to review by the Legislative Assembly.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Any Comments. Agreed. Opposed. The motion is carried. Go Ahead Mr. Tootoo.

**Committee Motion 063 - 1(4): Clarification of Offences on Broadcast Media**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Recommendation 63.

I move that the committee recommends that the Elections Act clarify certain offences on broadcast media to include the Internet and electronic media, and ensure that any other conduct which would be an offence under the Act, includes the use of the Internet and electronic media.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): To the motion. Any Comments. Agreed. Opposed. The motion is carried. Go Ahead Mr. Tootoo.

**Committee Motion 064 - 1(4): Electoral Information in Inuktitut**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Recommendation 64.

I move that the committee recommends that the CEO and the working group explore the use of new technology in the production of voters' lists and other electoral information in Inuktitut.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): To the motion. Any comments. Agreed. Opposed. The motion is carried. Go ahead Mr. Tootoo.

**Committee Motion 065 - 1(4): Responses to CEO's Reports**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman Mr. Chairman, the CEO made a large number of recommendations in both his reports for the elections in Nunavut and NWT. The Standing Committee reviewed them as a group and there is a section in the report which lists the response of the Standing Committee to each of the CEO's recommendations. Many of these are very technical in nature and we don't propose to list them in detail in the House, as I know you have all read them. Mr. Chairman. Recommendation 65.

I move that the committee recommends that any specific recommendations of the Standing Committee contained in section 6 of this report entitled "Response to Recommendations in the Chief Electoral Officer's Report", be acted upon in any revisions to the Elections Act.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): To the motion. Any comments. Agreed. Opposed. The motion is carried. This is the last recommendation. At this time I wish to thank the committee for their hard work and you've done good job in preparing this report. Although there have been difficulties I'm sure, I wish to congratulate you for making these 65 recommendation and they are very clear. I'm sure elections in Nunavut will be improved by your hard work and by these recommendations. Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you very much for your comments Mr. Chairman. As Chairman of the committee like you said, this concludes our report and recommendations. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the committee members that put a lot of work and time into this report as well as all the individuals that we met with and all the people that came out to the public hearings.

Without that input from Nunavummiut, we would not have been able to do such a thorough job in this report. Mr. Chairman, I would also like to thank the members and the minister that stuck around and showed an interest in this area throughout the duration of the recommendations, they went pretty well. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair of the committee, Mr. Tootoo. This concludes the review of the report's recommendations if the members agree. Do you agree that the report 001 - 1(4) is concluded. What is the wish of the committee now. What is the wish of the committee. Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak:** We wish to discuss Minister's Statement 007 - 1(4) Fuel Price Increases.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): This statement, do all the members have a copy of it. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Yes Mr. Chairman, we all have a copy of this. I was just wondering if prior to going right into this, maybe we have a short recess to allow the ministers and their staff to get prepared. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Someone wants a break. Ten minutes. We will have a break for 10 minutes. Thank you.

*>>Committee recessed at 4.43 p.m. and resumed at 5 p.m.*

**Chairperson** (Mr. Puqignak) (interpretation): Thank you. We shall resume our meeting of the Committee of the Whole. We are dealing with Minister's Statement 007-1(4). Does everyone have a copy of this report. Everybody have it. Minister's Statement 007-1(4). Thank you.

Ms. Thompson, you can proceed to the witness table with your witnesses. Thank you. If you would like to begin your opening remarks Ms. Thompson. Please introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I think everybody is aware of my Minister's Statement yesterday regarding the fuel price increases. I think everybody has an understanding of that already.

I will now introduce my witnesses who are the officials in our department. To my right is Mr. Ross Mrazek and on my left, I am sure everybody knows him by now, is Roy Green who is stationed in Rankin Inlet and is the accountant for Petroleum Products in Rankin.

I don't believe we have to go through everything that we covered yesterday. I think we will be dealing with fuel prices and it is a very difficult issue and it is very complex. I want to thank the members for inviting our witnesses here. I am sure we will be hearing many questions regarding the fuel price issue. Mr. Green is an expert on petroleum products. So if you have any questions regarding fuel price increases, I think he will be

giving you the appropriate answer or the appropriate person to give you a response. A lot of questions I am sure will be directed to Mr. Green, but Mr. Mrazek and I myself will be available to answer any questions that you may have. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. I want to ask members if they have any comments or questions regarding this statement. Any questions or comments regarding this statement. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am sure that they all have something to say. Perhaps the first question I want to ask is, we are all aware that as of November 1, fuel prices will increase to 98.9 cents litre. We were informed by the minister according to her report it said 86 cents per litre. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we are not looking for a whole lot of detail or a whole lot of information pertaining to the prices.

What we want to know about is that the fuel tanks that contain the fuel for houses hold 250 gallons. Right now before November 1, if a private homeowner were to fill all 250 gallons, which is about 1000 litres, right now it is 9 hundred 28 dollars and 96 cents. When the fuel price goes up it will cost 1 thousand 1 hundred and 9 dollars and 20 cents per month.

Now the private homeowners, especially the private homeowners who obtained their private homes through the homeownership program, when the fuel price goes up it will cost 1 thousand 1 hundred and 9 dollars and 20 cents per month.

The Minister of Finance told us yesterday that there was a surplus of 53 million dollars from last year's budget and a deficit of 30 million is anticipated. Now, even with the 30 million dollars paid off we are still looking at about roughly around 35 million dollars. He is aware that the fuel prices fluctuate world-wide. In the United States there will be an oil reserve established.

Those who rely on this oil reserve will be refuelling from it and after the refuel supply is finished, the oil prices will drop. Why not go into the red to help private homeowners, private business owners, hunters, vehicle owners, because we all know that during the winter more fuel is consumed. Could you set aside at least 5 million dollars, would you not even consider 5 million dollars for the stabilization fund. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Which one of you will be responding. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. When the fuel price went up, I wrote to all the mayors and all of the communities to inform them that as of November 1, the fuel price would increase because the world price is going up. For those of us who consume fuel for heating or for vehicles, or for other purposes, we looked for ways to make it as easy as possible. It is a really difficult task.

You are thinking about people who live in housing units and own private homes in this world. We wanted to make sure the fuel increase would not have a drastic effect on private businesses or private homeowners. If we are going to stabilize the fuel price and subsidize those who need subsidies, we have to stabilize the fuel price.

We need a stabilization fund to help hunters and private homeowners. The funds that were set aside by the Department of Education were geared to help the elderly. Now if we could add to that perhaps we can do our part in helping our people and to collaborate with NTI. I have spoken with the President of NTI about the fuel price increase and I told him that we have to help hunters. I told him that I will be discussing this with NTI as to what we will be doing in terms of the stabilization fund. Now 13.9 million dollars has been approved after reviewing all the funds available.

I hope it is clear that the government does not only deal with fuel or petroleum products. Many people have other needs besides fuel. There are many people out there, Transportation is one, the Department of Sustainable Development is another one. All the Cabinet Members have approved this and our Finance Minister and the Petroleum Products Division.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I just want an answer to this question. Perhaps when it is clearer I will get the response that I am looking for. I want to ask the minister, she stated before that nobody can predict when the fuel prices will go up or down. Because of that it is beyond our control. This 5 million dollars that will be set aside for the stabilization fund, the price of fuel will go up by 8.9 cents a litre, after this, it states that the fuel price will remain the same for the next two years. What is happening here.

Is the fuel price going to drop. Or even if the oil price goes up in the world this 5 million dollar stabilization fund, is this being prematurely set up for like two years from now. Has this already been approved. The five million has been approved as a stabilization fund for the next two years, even if the fuel price goes up. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitoq Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The stabilization fund, is used to keep the fuel price stable, because you never know when the price of fuel is going to go up or down and the limit here is five million dollars. If we were to add more to this five million then we would be able to stabilize fuel price because fuel prices are currently under scrutiny, and according to the Act, the stabilization fund is limited to five million, and I don't think we will be using up this fund in the next two years. Is that more clear.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. It doesn't specify that the world oil prices will go up but, the minister is letting the people believe that oil prices will not go up, and this kind of information thinking about the five million dollars, it might actually create more problems. That was why I asked this question, has the cabinet approved a plan that even if it goes over five million, that it will remain at 98.9 cents a litre. Has the cabinet agreed on something already that ordinary members have not seen. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Green can add on to the comment. I read and from what we understood five million dollars is our limit, and we're pretty confident that we won't go over that five million, so I'll let Mr. Green answer.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Minister. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** First of all, the 13.9 cents a litre increase was based on, there's two major reasons why we decided to proceed with the 13.9 increase. It was primarily the fact that since we bought our fuel in July, the cost of fuel on the world market has increased an average of 10 cents a litre, from what we bought in July. So what we decided, part of the strategy was if we can stabilize retail prices over two years and based on what we see happening in the world market, if the world price of crude remained at its current level, we would be in a position to maintain this price level for at least two years at the current level as of today.

In terms of the financial aspect of the approval, there was no approval, there's no guarantee, that the prices will not rise, not increase in 12 months. The uncertainty in the world markets, no one can really predict what the price of fuel will be even two months down the road. But if they stay in, based on the market conditions, they stay at the current level, then we should be able to live within the legislated limits of the stabilization fund, which is five million.

If next year the prices increase beyond that then we would have to re-evaluate our position and review our options at that time. But right now the decision was made to try to stabilize the prices for at least the next two years, as opposed to having an increase this year and then going forward again next year.

But if the prices on the world market do decrease, then we may be in a position next year to reduce the retail rates.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Green. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. So they have made the expectations of the consumers to determine that in the next two years there will be no increases. I think my initial question, my very first question was about the conclusion that the government has

come to by bringing the fuel prices up to 98.9 cents, when everything goes up in terms of fuel and power, everything else has a ricochet effect.

For example we have a rent subsidy for people on income support, like for example we charge them 32 dollars a month. Whereas the real rent, the economic rate is a lot higher than that. We have no problem with that kind of subsidy. We also have a proposal, apparently I heard it on the radio, that hunter support, in terms of gas may be made in partnership with the NTI, and maybe the old age pensioners can be assisted in that area. But there are a lot of other citizens, Nunavummiut who will be affected directly whether they have high income or low income.

That is the increase of groceries, the services, airlines, anything else that will require fuel, whether it's heating fuel or gasoline. If you, my initial question was, have you determined in subsidizing the fuel to keep it stable at 80 cents or 81 cents, considered that you will, the government will be saving more than just subsidizing everything else that the government service does. Has this been considered. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I share the same concerns as the member, but you know I can only speak for the mandate of petroleum products and the mandate of petroleum products is that we have to recover our operating costs from the retail sales, within the five million dollar subsidization fund. Any other subsidies or anything else outside that program is outside of the mandate of petroleum products.

I'm not sure which department would be evaluating this, all I am saying is that, in terms of petroleum products, that our mandate is to recover the operating costs from the retail sales. If we can't recover our operating costs, we can re-look to the five million dollar limit. If we exceed it, then there would have to be special approval from the minister to increase the five million stabilization fund, which is outside our mandate.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Ms. Thompson, would you like to add to that.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. What Mr. Arvaluk stated, we do not have a plan to assist them and members will have to be involved in this kind of thing. For example, under education, the elder's program, they are starting to consider that and I cannot predict what the outcome will be. We are just supporting the Department of Education program and we are not even sure how it will be done at this stage but it is understandable. For those people who struggle to keep afloat. I do not know what effect that will have on them so it is premature at this time. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. So I was right. At least the minister told me that I was right.

No consideration was given to potential overall costs ricocheting by the increase of fuel. For example, the groceries, trucked services, power. Although the minister said that they will eat that up for now but for how long we do not know. The small businesses in the communities are struggling to survive right now with the small construction companies etc. The hunters who most of the time cannot afford the fuel cost any way.

The new homeowners who are paying average of 1 thousand per month on mortgage, and over 1 thousand on fuel now to fill the 250 gallons. Some of them have 500 gallons. So the government has not thought about subsidizing, not increasing the fuel prices drastically may feed them more in the long run.

Because I understand that she said that we are only the Department of Petroleum Products, we are not the whole government. But as a minister did she not consult with her cabinet colleagues and say we will have to subsidize even more because there is a danger of an overall increase in goods and services in Nunavut that will ultimately, the consumer who is the buyer will pay. The company will raise the prices. That is no problem. Ninety eight point nine cents a litre is no problem.

Just put up the prices by eighteen point nine cents. As a consumer, who sometimes is not working, or working part-time, those are the victims of this increase. My question is very, very simple Mr. Chairman.

Before November 1, or shortly after, can the government revisit the price increase in case, well not in case because we already know that it will have more impact than they have perceived. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitoq Thompson:** I will just switch to English because when I was talking in Inuktitut, I think I can quote Mr. Arvaluk when he was the Minister of Education. We were in Rankin when he said there are other priorities of the government. We need new schools, we need new gymnasiums, we need new health centres, we need houses, that's what I was referring to when I said this government is not just a Petroleum Products Department.

There are different departments in the government that have priorities. That is what I was saying. It wasn't that I didn't consult with anybody, it was a Cabinet decision, that we raise the fuel prices. There are different priorities in the government, there are different departments we have to look at, when we considered this, I did consult with the other Members of Cabinet and that was the decision of the Cabinet. That's what I was trying to say that the government for the people is more than just gas. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Minister. Next on the list, I still have a couple. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, going back to this whole stabilization fund. Let me just ask the minister to indicate when it came into being, when did the stabilization fund start. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson:** I think just remembering what we said in the last session in Rankin. The stabilization fund was created in 1972. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Thompson. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, 1972, that's a long, long time ago and I'm sure if you take a look at the cost of living from 1972 until now, you'll see that it increased substantially. I was wondering if there was any thought about indexing the funds, so that it would keep up with the cost of living, so it would come out. To me it seems like its an understandable piece of legislation, but just like all legislation, at times it does outdate itself, and sometimes numbers that are used, when they are initiated are no longer relevant. You know 5 million dollars in 1972, is probably like one million dollars or half a million dollars today. So I was just wondering was that at all looked at, by the department and the government. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson:** Thank you Mr. Chairperson. When we were at Rankin at the last session, this was the same question and to that we had said that we would do a review of the whole petroleum products. That I believe is in the review, maybe Mr. Green can elaborate more on that but the review has been done, it's now with the senior officials and being analyzed. I'll just ask Mr. Green to answer that one. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Green, do you wish to add to that.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Even with this recent price increase we did look at the option of the changing or amending the stabilization fund but there were a lot of factors that we had to consider at that time. The stabilization agreement and how we manage the fuel prices in the future. The fuel price issue formed a part of some of the evaluation process that was brought into the financial management review report that was sent to us on September 1. So at this point in time I am not sure how much of the review process has been dealt with at the Financial Management Board. So that is one of the recommendations that is going to be dealt with in that particular report.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman in light of, I am sure to no one's surprise that this issue is here before us today and hits every single resident in Nunavut. I am just wondering why on an issue like this that does have a far reaching affect on all Nunavummiut, why it has taken so long to deal with it and why. I would guess that it

should have been treated as a priority issue to be dealt with by Cabinet. I am just wondering if the minister can indicate the timeframe when we will expect to see something come out of this review. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am going to ask to Mr. Mrazek to tell you what the process has been or where the process is in that area. It is not that it is not a priority of the government. It is one of the priorities. We did not put it aside, it is something we took very seriously. Because of the technical nature of this department, it has to be done very carefully and it is a very important document to the department and to the government. I will ask Mr. Mrazek to give us an update on where the review is. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Deputy Minister.

**Mr. Mrazek:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. You and other members also remember that the report has been requested to provide a complete total operational review of the Petroleum Products. The report has been completed at the beginning of September. A report has been given to Financial Management Board and I believe it is on the next agenda. Also, after that the report will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

It is a comprehensive report dealing with the complete operations aspect including financing and the many options for delivery of the fuel. The question of the stabilization fund is there also. But I can not really tell you what will happen because the report has to be reviewed first before anything can be recommended to be adopted. As far as the amount of the stabilization fund, it is set up as everybody knows for 5 million dollars and is a liability of the government. It is like a debt. When you go purchase something on a credit card and you have to pay for it. So we have to be very careful and that is the function of the stabilization fund, one of the options, one of the functions of the stabilization fund. That is all I would like to say. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mrazek. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I do not know if I can remember so many, February was a long time ago and I asked a lot of questions since then. But Mr. Mrazek just stated that the stabilization fund appears on the books as a liability. Does it actually cost the government in actual dollars or is it just a number that is a liability because it is in the books. It does not really cost us anything. If we do not have to spend that money. What is the big deal of changing it. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Just confirming what Mr. Mrazek said, the stabilization fund is a liability. It is just like a bank account. If you write checks in excess of the money in your account it would show up as an overdraft which in effect is a loan. The stabilization fund is the

same purpose. If anytime we go and if there is a deficit position it is actually borrowed dollars. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I guess even in that line it is still, it does not have a negative cash flow effect on any of the government's budget. If our budget is 600 million dollars, it is not 605 million dollars because 5 million dollars of our budget is not taken away as a result of the stabilization fund. Again, it is no real cost or no impact on the departmental budgets and the money that we spend on programs and services. So I wonder why, or what is the big deal about changing it. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. If you look at the stabilization fund, it does factor into the funds. If you see our financial statements, the amount that we owe to the government if there is any deficit amount, the stabilization fund is a debit so that 5 million dollars is included as part of the government debt in the financial statement. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** I understand that Mr. Chairman, but it does not have impact on the departmental budgets. The money that we have to spend on our programs and services it does not have an impact on that. Am I correct. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. The 5 million dollars that goes in part, it is like a loan that Petroleum Products use to off set. What happens when the stabilization fund is in a deficit it means we are selling a product at a loss. That is the bottom line. It still forms an overall part of the government debt, which is still part of the actual dollars that forms part of the government debt.

If the government had a total of 35 million dollars and the stabilization fund is 5 million dollars, it would mean the surplus is actually 30 million dollars. So it has to be factored into the overall funding as a government. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if what Mr. Green is saying is correct, the statement made by the Finance Minister in the House yesterday of us having an operating deficit for this year of 30 million dollars, is that stabilization fund at 2 and a half million dollars. Does that make up part of that deficit, our operating deficit or not. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Yes it does. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Green. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Okay then so our operating deficit, if we want 3.5 million into the stabilization fund it would cut down our operating deficit by that amount. Is that exactly what you are saying.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Green.

**Hon. Manitoq Thompson** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, if Mr. Tootoo can clarify his question. Mr. Green did not quite get what Mr. Tootoo was trying to ask. Can he repeat his question. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just want to reconfirm that the operating deficit of this government for this year that the Finance Minister stated was roughly 30 million dollars. That if there was not that 3.5 million dollars in the revolving fund, that operating deficit would only be 27.5 million. Is that what he is saying.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. I think that clarifies the question Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. That's correct.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** I will just ask this question, I got more, but I am sure other members have questions too. It is on a different topic I guess, Mr. Arvaluk kind of touched on it earlier. The impact roughly is like a 25% increase in fuel across the board. We all know that any time costs increase retailers and wholesalers pass that, you know they want to maintain a certain profit margin.

So their prices are going to go up more let's say 30%, just round it up to maintain the profit margin that they want. You know that is going to have an impact on everything. Right from individuals on income support, are their payments going to go, all the payments for individuals on income support, are they going to increase 25%. Are the Government of Nunavut employees going to get a 25% increase as a result of it.

You know right across the board that has a direct impact on the cost of living for all Nunavut residents of more than that 13.9 cents a litre, that 25%. So it will be passed on to the people of Nunavut. Again, has that been taken into consideration on this decision and I would really like to know the answer to that because right now people on income

support they have a hard time getting by as it is. I do not know when the last time those types of payments were indexed.

People out there right now are barely getting by as it is. Some of them are not. A lot of people, you know the only way they get by is by hunting and fishing and now with this increase it is going to hinder and make that, the last thing people will be able to afford to do that as much with that much less income they are going to have. With the money they are going to have to pay for gas, with the price of gas. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Miss Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. What we had said was the 25% increase was to the PPD when we bought the fuel. The average increase for a Nunavut wide increase right now is 14%. All those areas were considered when we did the price increase. I think we have to realize that all over the world, all over Canada, there have been price increases. We are not immune to this. Just to correct that the average increase was 14% not 25%. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am already on top of the 14% this time, I am adding the increase that we faced last year as well. Maybe with that increase we faced, that we got hit with last winter, that comes to about 25% I guess. We are not the only place having to grapple with how to deal with this. You only have to watch the news and you see in Europe where they are blockading, they are really protesting all over the world about this.

I was watching the Yukon legislature last night and there were motions put forward to the government to increase their subsidies. I think the percentage that was used was 25%. I am not sure. So these types of things are dealt with and are pushed to be dealt with by not just pushing it to the consumers, but political leaders all over the world I am sure are looking at ways to try to help the consumer who is saying all over the world we can not afford this. Our consumers are saying the same thing. We can't afford this increase.

As a government we have to try and find a way to lessen it. I think this amount is way too high and I think people will not be able to afford to pay it. People who may be working will be going to income support and I am sure, I know for a fact, when I worked at the Housing Corporation, these are outdated numbers here in Iqaluit for example, the shelter cost to maintain a home here three years ago and I am sure it increased since then, was about 664 dollars a month. Now on the programs that we had at the time, people were eligible for housing, homeowners that qualified for the program and it was based on those numbers and the level of assistance that was put out was quite high so a lot of those people like under the old EDAPP program, my guess and it is just a guess, anyone that received more than 50% subsidy or assistance would not be able to afford to maintain their homes as a result of the increases. I am not just saying the fuel bill itself, but it is

going to have additional impact on all the other components that go into maintaining your families, food and everything else. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): I wish to recognize the clock. We have to end our meeting by 6 o'clock. So therefore I will ask the Speaker to come into the House. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Mr. Chairman, in recognizing the clock I move that we report progress and continue on this topic tomorrow. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank the minister and her officials, Deputy Minister Mrazek and Mr. Green. Thank you for coming and I hope that you will sleep well tonight.

**Speaker:** Item 20. Report of the committee of the whole. Mr. Chairman. Mr. Puqiqnak.

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

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering committee report 1-1(4) and Minister's Statement 007 - 1(4). We would like to report committee report 1-1(4) was concluded. We would like to report progress on Minister's Statement 007-1(4) and Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Is there a seconder. Is there a seconder. Mr. Nutarak. Thank you Mr. Nutarak. The motion is in order. All in favour. Opposed. Motion is carried. Item 21. Third reading of bills. Third reading of bills. Item 22. Orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders of the Day for Friday October, 27;

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

11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
  - Bill 7
18. Second Reading of Bills
  - Bill 2
  - Bill 3
  - Bill 4
  - Bill 5
  - Bill 6
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 1
  - Ministers' Statement 6-1(4)
  - Ministers' Statement 7-1(4)
  - Ministers' Statement 8-1(4)
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Clerk. This house stands adjourned until Friday October 27 at 10 am.

Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 6:01 p.m.*



