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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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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday February 26, 2001**

Members Present:

Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Honourable Jack Anawak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Donald Havioyak, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Irgittuq, 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, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Mr. O'Brien): I would like to ask Mr. Alakannuark to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Good afternoon, Mr. Premier and members. Some of the members will know the clocks are not functioning. That does not mean that you have endless time for statements.

>>*Laughter*

So you'll have to keep an eye this way and we will let you know when time is up and the same thing with question period.

Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 008 – 1(5): Youth Anti-Tobacco Initiative

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker as you may be aware the Department of Health & Social Services launched a tobacco reduction media campaign in December 2000.

The campaign included a series of newspaper, radio and TV advertisements and a series of posters that graphically illustrates the effects of smoking. Mr. Speaker, since then the department has been working on a series of initiatives designed to pull together resources from around the country to overcome some of the devastating health effects of tobacco use among Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker for instance, working with Pauktuutit, we delivered a nicotine addiction counselling workshop that was attended by nearly 30 health workers and community workers from across Nunavut.

Our department has been working collaboratively with other departments including the Department of Education, Nunavut Municipalities, the RCMP, and provincial ministries including the BC Ministry of Health in developing a long-term strategy for tobacco reduction in Nunavut.

We are also doing everything we can to work closely with local champions. In fact this may be the most effective way there is to influence the decisions that people make.

Mr. Speaker, many of our children are starting to smoke at a very young age. In the upcoming months the Department of Health and Social Services plans to focus more intensely on youth initiatives such as a Nunavut-wide school poster contest and a new television ad.

This advertisement will be designed and produced with the assistance of local youths dedicated to promoting non-smoking in their communities.

In fact Mr. Speaker, a growing number of young people want to get involved in initiatives to reduce smoking in their communities. We want to work with them and build on their desire to take action.

One such young man is Mr. Jeremiah Ikkidluak from Kimmirut. Jeremiah is a Grade 9 student and was chosen to represent Nunavut at the first Kids Against Tobacco Youth Summit in Richmond, BC, this past week.

This Summit is designed by youth and for youth to share new skills, ideas, and strategies for them to take action against smoking in their schools and communities. Mr. Speaker, Jeremiah is returning from the Summit this afternoon and I'm looking forward to congratulating him after hearing his views about this important issue. Qujannamiik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 033– 1(5): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Funding

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for my voice, it's quite different as you can notice. I don't see my two minutes here so, I think you should just let me go for as long as I want.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Mr. Speaker, we used to be under the Government of the Northwest Territories for quite some time. But we now

have the Nunavut Government and we expect our government to follow through with the Bathurst Mandate. Mr. Speaker, Nunavut residents expect change today. Mr. Speaker, the people in Nunavut expect to use their language and culture because it is part of who they are.

Mr. Speaker, they want the Nunavut ministers to start using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit within their departments and we have been expecting to use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit since way back in the 1960's but we are now in 2001.

Our leaders have many new items to deal with and I would suggest that they carry a heavy crow bar so they can pry out even the toughest obstacles.

Mr. Speaker, the government is saying we don't have any funding to deal with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, which is very true, Mr. Speaker. When the government says that we don't have any funding to me it means that we have to work towards using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit any way we can and find funds to deal with the issues.

So if our leaders have a strong crow bar to pry even the toughest obstacles we can find funding to deal with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut will not be promoted by others. We have to promote our language and culture ourselves.

So with that Mr. Speaker, we have to find funding to promote Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit so our language and culture can be maintained. We have to let the world know about our culture and our languages.

If that is the case Mr. Speaker, we as the Government of Nunavut should set aside some money that will be used specifically to promote the Inuit culture and language because like I said it is not going to be promoted by anybody else.

We are the only ones who can do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I am over my time limit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 034 - 1(5): Economic & Social Crisis in Canada

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti I just want to compliment the Minister of Health & Social Services for his recent poster campaign. I myself was addicted to smoking and quit in 1985. Over the last few years, I almost took up the habit because of question period and the answers that I wasn't getting. So ever since those posters came out I am scared to start smoking.

But Mr. Speaker, I'd like to speak today on a more serious issue, on an excerpt from a book. Almost everyone knows that Canada according to the United Nations is one of the best countries in the world to live in.

Less well known however is the United Nations strong condemnation of Canada's social and economic policies. In a devastating 1998 report the United Nations Committee on Economic and Social, Cultural Rights, protested Canada's neglect of its least fortunate citizens citing among them single mothers, the homeless, aboriginal peoples and poor children.

Mr. Speaker, far from alleviating their condition, the committee found that Federal and Provincial policies are making it worse. While the rich get richer, the number of poor people has grown dramatically.

The evidence suggests that despite all their abundant rhetoric, leaders really don't care about the poor men, women and children across this nation. Thanks to the Federal Government belt tightening, unemployment benefits are denied to many men and women who have spent their adult lives making contributions to the fund.

The provinces and municipalities meanwhile have slashed the number of poor people eligible for assistance. Tax cuts have benefited the rich through the reduction of countless programs and ones that greatly affect Nunavut, such as subsidized housing. At the same time the number of working poor trying to get by on totally inadequate income even in Nunavut has increased substantially.

The recent increase in home heating fuel is another example that affects Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, in 1996 the United Nations Children's fund report shows that Canada had the second highest number of poor children among the 18 leading industrialized nations.

Not only is Canada's rate of child poverty one of the highest in developed nations but also our assistance to children is well below that of many nations. In child benefits we are 14th in the world.

Mr. Speaker, there is no statistic for Nunavut yet but I can only say we are always higher. The Honourable Paul Martin, Minister of Finance will be Nunavut next week. I am hoping that the Nunavut Finance Minister's talks are successful. I am sure he will make Mr. Martin aware that we have some grievous social issues in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Members' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 035 - 1(5): Rankin Inlet Suicide Prevention Events

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak about a very positive event. Recently in Rankin Inlet several special activities in support of suicide prevention were held. Some of you may have heard about this on the radio this morning.

There was a dance in Rankin Inlet for suicide prevention and I would like to recognize the people of Rankin Inlet who participated in, and organized this event. They did fund raising for two months to hold that suicide prevention workshop. I would like to recognize the following people who co-ordinated that event. Diane Tiktak, Margaret Nuqituq, Amber Qarlik and Palia Kappuk.

They held a dance for suicide prevention on February 24 and 25. It was a two-day meeting and they had workshops in the afternoon from 2 to 6 for healing circles. People came from Arviat, Qikiqtarjuaq, Coral Harbour, Qamanittuaq, Taloyoak, Uqsuqtuq and five from Nunavik, including Pauloosie Palaya from Sudlik who went by dog team to promote awareness of suicide prevention throughout the Nunavut communities.

I would like to thank the residents of Rankin Inlet for welcoming the participants and also to say thank you to the co-ordinators who held this activity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Irqittuq.

Member's Statement 036 – 1(5): Decentralization & Employment

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the decentralization process being implemented by the government. One of my communities, Igloolik, will see some employment created through the decentralization program.

Today with the jobs that are being advertized, I am very pleased to see that there is more and more employment being created at the local level and that more people are moving into the community. On the Trades and Certification Act, there has been no amendment to that Act yet and I think we have to start working on that so the local residents who are based in the decentralized communities and can take on the employment that is being created.

The older generation are not certified in trades or other occupations or specialized fields. But they are very capable of taking on those jobs. I think that we have to make a change to our present legislation so that the people in these decentralized communities can take on these new employment opportunities that are being created. I think we have to make those changes prior to the completion of the decentralization program.

I don't know who recruits the employees, I don't know who does the interviews, but I think that the interviewers should include more Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Member's Statement 037 – 1(5): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit & Simon Nattaq

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. First of all I would like to recognize the Department of Health & Social Services and the Department of Education for doing the suicide awareness programs. Just recently I went to a suicide prevention workshop that was held here and I went to see them during their deliberations. I would just like to say that I am very proud of these two departments.

But what I wanted to speak about today is a subject that one of our colleagues, Mr. Iqaqrialu, brought up earlier. That is the whole issue of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and its applications.

All Inuit are affected by anything that happens here. When we use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit to alleviate difficulties that arise and this is one of the areas where I am especially proud of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

I will use a recent incident as an example. Just a few days ago, one of the people from Iqaluit went to the floe edge and fell through the ice. I don't have all the details but I believe the ice conditions were poor. The person I am referring to is Simon Nattaq.

I have no use for the animal rights activists because they don't take into account the Inuit culture and traditions. It was quite a while ago that the fur market fell through because of these activists. Bridgett Bardot was one of the main activists who took the lead in that campaign. Because of that campaign our fur markets fell through.

But the reason I made reference to Simon Nattaq is because even though he fell through the ice, of course it is February and extremely cold, he was wearing Inuit clothing and using Inuit tools, and was able to survive this accident even when it took 53 hours before the search & rescue people came.

Because he was wearing traditional clothing, even though it was extremely cold, and being a traditional Inuk he knew the survival skills, in case such an accident should occur, and he used those Inuit techniques and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

For those reasons we should promote the use of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit as we have seen similar incidents where the person is able to survive because they have traditional skills and knowledge. For these reasons I wanted to recognize Mr. Simon Nattaq. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

Member's Statement 038 – 1(5): Progress of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Integration

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind my colleagues about the reasons for the land claims negotiations that occurred and the process that were required. We did not want to negotiate the land claims to make us wealthier materially, we wanted to become more self-sufficient as Inuit and not have our lives run from the outside.

What I would like to talk about today is, since the creation of the Nunavut Government, there are still some residents of Nunavut, especially in the smaller communities, who have not yet participated in the land claims and who have not benefited from the land claims agreement. There are still many people who think that they have not seen any change from the time that the powers were transferred from the federal government to the territorial government.

It is very good for some of us, but as one of my colleagues said, the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit process and integrating that into the government system is taking too long. The reason behind that is people who do not understand the Inuit language and the culture are the ones who are doing the implementation.

If we are going to speed up the process it has to be done by people who understand Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and the traditions and cultures. You may ask why I am making this statement. At that time when there was relocation decided in southern Canada to the Nunavut communities of Coral Harbour, Resolute Bay and Grise fiord, they did not ask us first what we Inuit thought about it. When they decided to kill our dogs, they did not check with us first. Also we were given e-disc numbers for identification and they did this without consulting the Inuit.

If the Government of Nunavut wants to integrate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit....

Speaker: Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (Interpretation): Thank you, I was just concluding my statement. I would like to ask permission from my colleagues to conclude my statement. Thank you.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays. There are no nays, please proceed.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. The people charged with implementing Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, for example, legislation, the language issues and whoever is going to be involved in the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit will have to ensure that Inuit are involved. Their employees will have to be Inuit. If it has anything to do with Inuit that is going to affect their lives then they should consult with the Inuit.

The process is too slow. We have only two more years in our term and we will want to have this issue progress before then. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Members' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

Member's Statement 039 - 1(5): Ice Sculptors from Kimmirut

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a statement about several Kimmirut residents. A group of carvers went to Ottawa for an ice sculpting competition. Their plan was to carve an image of the RCMP boat, the St. Roch.

Although it was almost completed, warm weather resulted in the sculpture melting. The carvers were David Paniuq, Kootoo Manu, Donny Pitseolak and one of their goals was to honour the late Sam Pitseolak who was in a previous competition representing Nunavut. I would like to congratulate all of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Member's Statement 040 - 1(5): Miner Training in Kugluktuk

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some good things to say about my community. On Friday February 23, there was a celebration there. I want to congratulate some young people of Kugluktuk who completed training for jobs in the mining industry, in particular Diavik Mines.

I want to thank Diavik Mines, Nunavut Arctic College and the many organizations that have helped our young people to try to get their training in the mining industry.

They also had many good events happening during that week including feasts and celebrations. Best wishes to all of them. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Members' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 041 - 1(5): Simon Nattaq's Hunting Accident

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all I'd like to thank Minister Anawak and Member McLean for their kind words regarding the smoking cessation program. It's safe to say that I don't deserve the credit for that Mr. Speaker, it is the staff of the Department of Health and Social Services as well as the members around this House that supported that program, that deserve credit.

Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, I visited the hospital to see our former Sergeant-At-Arms, Simon Nattaq. Simon, as all members know, had a hunting accident last week when his qamutik and his skidoo went through the ice down the bay.

Simon, I'm happy to report Mr. Speaker, is doing really well, he hopes to leave the hospital this week and his frozen feet seem much better.

Mr. Speaker Simon is a constituent, a friend, and his daughter Dorcas works here at the Legislative Assembly. I've known Simon and his family for over 17 years and like his father, Simon is recognized as an excellent hunter.

It was this Inuit traditional knowledge that helped Simon survive his ordeal, like Mr. Anawak said. While visiting with Simon, he told me about the accident and how he had slipped on the sea-ice, and was covered in snow as all of his supplies, his skidoo and his qamutik were lost in the water.

Mr. Speaker, I won't re-tell Simon's story here today, but I would like to point out that through this ordeal Simon told me that his faith in God helped sustain him in the more than minus thirty degree weather, being soaking wet and having no food or real heat for two and a half days.

Mr. Speaker, Simon has asked that when someone is overdue that a search should begin immediately, no matter how experienced or well equipped the missing hunter or hunters are. I think that this is an excellent suggestion from one who knows.

Mr. Speaker, when I was visiting Simon this weekend at the hospital, he was following the Legislative Assembly on television. I'm sure that you and the members will join me in a loud ovation to wish Simon well as he watches this broadcast on television today and our best wishes go out to Simon and his family. We wish him a very speedy recovery and we want to see him back in this Legislative Assembly very soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 042 - 1(5): Medical Boarding Home in Cambridge Bay

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps first of all I would like to say that for the people who have just made a statement on Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit I support them.

Mr. Speaker, I heard that there was going to be a small health facility in Cambridge Bay built and since I also go to the hospital and travel to work myself, I prefer to stay in hotels rather than stay in a home.

Mr. Speaker, I represent the mothers and the children and the elders that have to travel to the hospital. I just want to find out if, when they build the hospital, a small facility in Cambridge Bay, will they build a boarding home as well. I feel that if the government builds a small hospital facility they have to build a transit centre there as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 043 - 1(5): Canadrill/Northmart Funspiel

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll start off the week with a smile like I mentioned last week for someone special watching out there. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to rise and acknowledge something that's become almost a landmark type of event here in Iqaluit. It happens every year at this time of year. Mr. Speaker, I'm talking about the Canadrill/Northmart Funspiel that took place or barely took place over this weekend due to weather.

Mr. Speaker, this event has been ongoing now for ten years here in Iqaluit and I had the opportunity to participate this weekend. That's why if members see me a little stiff early this week, you'll know why. I did a lot of sweeping this weekend and I'm not used to that, I'm usually a skip and I just have to holler at people and tell them to sweep, so it was payback time this weekend.

Mr. Speaker, this Funspiel every year attracts teams from outside of Nunavut. This year again, due to weather, we were hoping to have six teams come in, one from Toronto, one from Ottawa and four from Yellowknife. Unfortunately, due to weather, like I said, only one team from Yellowknife was able to make it in. But we all appreciate the time and effort that it took for those people that did make it in, to come in.

I think that, as one team indicated, they are going to come up early next year so that they don't have to get in late Friday or Saturday and have to curl about six games back to back. So we will be looking forward to seeing them earlier in the community next year and spending more money in our community, which is always nice from outside of the Territory.

Mr. Speaker, the results for the tournament for the Funspiel this weekend. Finishing first was the Crayton rink from Toronto. Second was the Bottomlee rink from Yellowknife, third was the Duguay rink from Ottawa and fourth was Iqaluit's Terry Gray's rink that came in fourth. Mr. Speaker, I would like to add that the Duguay rink and the Crayton rink from Ottawa and Toronto respectively have been attending this event for the last ten years since it started.

One of the other benefits of that Mr. Speaker, is that Mr. Ian McCauley who is a professional ice maker, was able to touch up the ice here in the curling rink and give our municipal facility ice-maker some pointers on keeping the ice in good shape for those of us who curl. So I would like to ask members to join me in thanking all the participants in the Funspiel, especially Mr. Bronyk Skavinski who co-ordinated the Funspiel and I believe at least six or seven times had to change the draw due to weather.

So I would ask all members to join me in thanking them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Member's Statement 044 - 1(5): Snowmobile Fire in Gjoa Haven

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about, I think it was last Saturday, from my community of Gjoa Haven, the women's hockey team went to Kugaaruk to play hockey against their fellow women.

Just after they took off from Gjoa Haven, they encountered an emergency right beside the airstrip. There was a lot of smoke like a tornado that appeared in front of them and I have two daughters that attended the hockey tournament. My two daughters were on the plane as well as other young women from Gjoa Haven.

The parents were apparently very surprised and very afraid because there was this fire in front of the airstrip. Apparently it was just after the plane took off, they saw smoke and thought that it was the plane. But it was a teacher's skidoo that was burning and it just disintegrated and burned up right on the side of the airstrip.

Although they were shocked about that incident, they were better when they were told it was a skidoo. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. If there are no further Members' Statements we will move onto item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Premier.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a person that I have known for quite some time. It was around February of 1985 that he worked with me at the land claims negotiating table as my superior. He is from your

community, Mr. David Aglukkaq. He must be an elder now as he is sitting in the elders' section. He deserves much recognition and appreciation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the Gallery, David. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the son of the person that was just recognized, Mr. Brian Aglukkaq who I have worked with in the past with the Nunavut Planning Commission. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Tongola Sandy who is sitting beside David Aglukkaq. That is my older sister's husband and he is the Chief Lands Administrator for the Kivalliq Inuit Association.

I would like to recognize Nancy Tagalik, who is David Aglukkaq's daughter as well, sitting beside her brother Brian Aglukkaq. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an individual today from my community. The mayor of Kugaaruk. Welcome.

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an individual. Maybe I could tell a little story first. He is my constituency assistant and he is behind me. He is also a Ranger and for six years he has been going down to Ottawa for shooting competitions.

In 1998 he was one of the top sharpshooters with the Rangers and he has received five awards from that. Mr. Solomon Curley, my constituency assistant.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although they have already been recognized, I also would like to take the opportunity to recognize these people. Mr. Aglukkaq I have known for quite some time, since 1967.

But I remember most when we were in Montreal together and at that time we didn't speak Inuktitut too much and we had to make decisions.

(interpretation ends) We had memorable times during the hard times when the Northern Quebec Inuit Association had to negotiate land claims at least to stop Hydro Quebec from proceeding before the land claims had settled.

We were having secret meetings with NQIA and ITC, of course, they were participating, and I think he will recall when Senator Charlie Watt, then president of NQIA, the room got very stuffy and we were allowed to smoke at that time in the rooms, it got very stuffy and very hot and finally Mr. Watt requested in the meeting "can somebody open the window, please, I'm getting very sophisticated". Thank you very much.

>>Applause

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague has just recognized the individual. I would like to recognize Raymond Kayaqsak, he's my relative, my adoptive mother and his mother are sisters. I went to school with him back in Chesterfield Inlet and I know him pretty well and I can speak to him openly. We never thought that we would actually sit in a government, local government or in the legislature at that time. So, therefore I would like to take this opportunity to recognize him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask to go back to Item 5. I thought you had my name on your list, I must have switched really quick when you called. I would like to seek the members' consent to go back to Item 5.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 5. Do I have any nays. Please proceed Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a few people in the Gallery today.

The first is an individual that I first met in 1997 at a Public Service Alliance of Canada convention in Toronto. That individual is now the first regional rep for Nunavut, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon with the Public Service Alliance of Canada and that's Mr. Jean Francois Doreen back in the Gallery over there.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize a constituent of mine, a couple of constituents, I'd like to recognize Mr. Claude Beauchamp and his wife Maria in the gallery today.

Also a good friend of theirs Angnariaq from Greenland who's here visiting right now in Iqaluit and I believe the occasion for her visit is to share a very important event that happened here in Iqaluit, or Apex I should say, this weekend when Mr. and Mrs. Beauchamp tied the knot and were married this weekend. I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate them and wish them all the best in the years to come in their marriage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery and congratulations. Returning to Item 6. Oral questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 023 - 1(5): Anti-Smoking Week

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services since he made the Member's Statement on smoking cessation. There was an anti-smoking week in December and in this year, 2001, will you have more youth anti-tobacco initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Health & Social Services. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in December we celebrated, like any other jurisdiction in the country, National Anti-smoking Week, unfortunately it happened during Inuktitut Language Week.

We plan Mr. Speaker, in the coming months after the budget is released, to be able to do more initiatives as I said in my earlier member's statement. We will be targeting our programs to help children not smoke. We have children as young as 9, 10, 11, and 12 who smoke in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will you have another special week of anti-smoking awareness for this year. That was my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said the annual National Anti-smoking Week is something all jurisdictions in Canada, including Nunavut play a role in and play a part in and also sponsor and help promote. So, we would be doing that next year as it is an annual event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last time it was held in December. Will it be in the same month this year. I'll be asking the other minister this question also. I'll let the Minister of Health & Social Services respond first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are several national events surrounding tobacco, for example Mr. Speaker, on May 31 this year there is World No Tobacco Day. So Nunavut would be celebrating that also. I know there is a concern with the dates this year Mr. Speaker, and as I said national smoking week, is picked as a national date.

We don't really have much say in when the date is picked. It did clash with Culture, Language, Elders & Youth's Language week and that was a concern. Mr. Speaker, I don't know the date off the top of my head when National Non-smoking Week will be held next. We can find that information out and we can pass it on to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 024 - 1(5): Update on Manitoba/Nunavut Power Grid

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti, my question is to the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. Mr. Speaker, over the last few years there was talk between Manitoba and Government of Nunavut regarding the extension of the power grids from Manitoba to the Kivalliq region.

To date there hasn't been much public information out there and a lot of my constituents and other people in the Kivalliq region are wondering what is going on. Can the minister update me on the talks or the status of the power grids coming into the Keewatin. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister Responsible for the Power Corporation. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: That is a good question Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just as an update, we haven't had an opportunity to discuss this at any great length since we returned. Mr. Speaker, Manitoba Hydro along with the Northwest Territories Power Corporation did

what was called a pre-feasibility study on the opportunities for transmission lines from Manitoba into the Keewatin region of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, that was a pre-feasibility study. During the session in Rankin Inlet last February, I had an opportunity to meet with the Minister Responsible for Manitoba Hydro in Rankin to discuss the possibilities of moving the next step forward after the Government of Nunavut had an opportunity to review the pre-feasibility study.

Mr. Speaker, we have had an opportunity to review the pre-feasibility study. There are three options that present themselves to us. One is to do nothing else with the pre-feasibility study that Manitoba Hydro had brought forward. The second one is to go into more in-depth, which would be a feasibility study. To do that Mr. Speaker, we are talking into the tens of millions of dollars. We would have to approach our federal partner on that opportunity. The third option Mr. Speaker would be to just do nothing right now and see what plays itself out.

For example is there going to be mineral activity in the Keewatin region, which would help subsidize the economic opportunity for the transmission line. Mr. Speaker, we have not, the Nunavut Power Corporation has not made a decision yet and as the member knows and as you know Mr. Speaker, and as the House knows, the Nunavut Power Corporation doesn't start until April 1 in reality.

Before I can approach the federal government, we need an active legal entity in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. The three options are nothing, do nothing and then moving on to the feasibility study, which is in the tens of millions of dollars. I know we are a new government and we can't afford to put tens of millions of dollars into a feasibility study.

So can the minister commit to me after April 1, when he will be the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation of Nunavut, that he will attempt to meet with federal government officials and even Manitoba officials to start talks on trying to find money from outside sources other than our government, in funding the feasibility study. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes. The answer is yes to Mr. McLean's question and I would like to elaborate by saying Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity here now, as everyone here in this House knows who has been following the news of the past several weeks. The energy crisis that we are seeing in the North-western United States, California and in southern locations in Canada, presents itself as an opportunity to look at the opportunity for not only transmission lines into the Keewatin

region, but also the possibility of other hydroelectric potential that have been designated and identified in the first pre-feasibility study.

Mr. Speaker, after April 1 it is the intent of this minister to follow up on that report and move forward in this very exciting atmosphere of new economic change. Again, to bring into the relationship of the opportunity not only for transmission lines in, but hopefully in the future, for the exportation of possible power. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Qujannamiik Uqaqti. Uqaqti, that's good news to hear from the Minister Responsible. I also have to agree with him that the rising cost of energy, we all know that with the price of gasoline and fuel oil going up, that there is a triple effect.

I also am glad to hear that he is talking about hydroelectric and various options and I think we should be exploring them. I have seen a windmill in Rankin Inlet, that's another good move. We have a lot of wind up here and to exploit that I don't think is that difficult.

Will the minister commit to keeping the House informed monthly or bi-monthly by way of a newsletter to the business community and to the other members in the House of the status of the ongoing talks on the power grid. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Responsible for the Power Corporation. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes I will commit to updating the House and the members, and I should also add Mr. Speaker, that as a government and as the minister and as members in this House, we need to have vision. We need to be able to try and project where the Government of Nunavut, as well as Nunavut itself wants to be fifteen or twenty years from now.

We need to be able to look at the opportunities for independence from fossil fuels. We see the cost implications as we have in the past several months or in the past several years.

However, Mr. Speaker, the key on this whole project would be the federal partner, who has announced through Minister Anderson, and in co-operation with Minister Akesuk, who is the Minister for Sustainable Development, to look at opportunities for leveraging of federal dollars from our federal partners to be able to move this file forward.

With the support of the House and with the support of the members, I think that is a possibility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Item 6. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 025 - 1(5): Incremental Cost for Rankin Inlet Session

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister Responsible for Finance and Administration. Mr. Speaker, as we all know during the last session the Clerk tabled the incremental costs for the session that was held in Rankin Inlet. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance if he plans on providing the incremental costs to the government for that session here in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister Responsible for Finance. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If this keeps up we can have a lot of questions during question period.

>>*Laughter*

I would like to ask the Minister of Finance if he could give me a better idea of when he could provide the Members of this House that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Finance. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to provide it during this session. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to that Mr. Speaker. I am also wondering Mr. Speaker, if the minister can provide something that the members can understand and see how the amounts were formulated. I am just wondering if he could also provide the backup information as to where those numbers came from and what they were for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Finance. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would be willing to provide a summary of each department's expenditures. I think that would be sufficient, I don't think it is necessary to provide all the backup documentation per se. We are talking generally in the area of approximately 78 thousand dollars of incremental costs to the Government of Nunavut for the Rankin Inlet session. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Final supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think that would be great to see a summary from each department. Mr. Speaker, maybe I could also ask at this time if the minister is also taking a look at forecasting what he is projecting the incremental costs will be for the upcoming session in Cambridge Bay and if he would be willing to provide this House with that information as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no we haven't undertaken that exercise yet as a result of not exactly knowing right now, the caucus hasn't decided yet what type of Legislation is going to be undertaken, what kind of policy review is going to be undertaken in Cambridge Bay.

Until that's determined we won't be know what kind of sources of support we need from our bureaucracy and what departments will be required to attend at whatever given time. So until we have some certainty around the actual final topics and legislation requirements for Cambridge Bay, we won't be in a situation of making those estimates here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Minister Ng. Oral Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 026 - 1(5): Subsidy for Polar Bear Skins

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing a question to the Minister of Sustainable Development. The other day Mr. Speaker, under members' statements, I said in my constituency the Kitikmeot polar bear quota was cut in the year 2001.

The new quota was not stated. We are looking forward to the new quota that is going to be introduced by the Minister of Sustainable Development and also the Nunavut Wildlife Board is going to have a survey of polar bears.

The polar bears are very important in our communities. We use them for food, as well as making money so that they can buy skidoos and other things we need. People do make a living out of it. I would like to know whether the Sustainable Development Minister has any plans to replace the income that has been lost from losing the quota for polar bears.

Do you have any ideas as to what kind of income program is going to be introduced. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Sustainable Development. Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I visited the three communities that are going to be affected by this policy. I went to visit the communities to try to find out exactly what type of a program they would be willing to take to replace the income lost from losing the polar bear quotas that they usually have.

We met with the Hunters and Trappers organizations. The issues were presented and the ideas were taken so that we will be able to make a decision as to what kind of programs we should introduce to supplement their income.

The person who is assisting us with this program is starting to finish his report and then from there the hunters and trappers assistance program is going to be introduced from that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister's visit was very helpful to the communities, and we were able to speak to him about programs delivered by these departments to replace the income lost because they lost their quota.

Looking through the legislation that was instrumental in implementing this quota, the polar bears do have a migration pattern and during the off hunting season, some of the polar bears do become wild. Some people have to kill the polar bears that approach the communities. The defence kill polar bear pelts are taken by the government and confiscated by the government from the person who caught the polar bear. Maybe our quotas for polar bears should be less restricted and it is probable that there are going to be more people killing polar bears because of that reason.

During the off-season they confiscate the meat as well as the hides. The person who killed the polar bear has to be charged through the courts and made to pay for his crime. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I remember these same questions when we were doing our tour in regards to defence kills.

Of course, wildlife officers have to follow the rules, the hide of the polar bear is returned to the hunter who got it and it's up to the Hunter's and Trapper's Association to do what they want with the meat and the hide. We are just going to follow the required legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do understand very well but with the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and the present legislation, there is a clash there.

Today with the Nunavut Government we have talked about the need to integrate the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into our laws. So, with that in mind there's the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit that applies to polar bears and musk oxen and that affects the lives of

the Inuit. You said that we are going to be using our present legislation and I'm concerned about the management.

I do know about the legislation that we have to follow but how or what can we do to amend the legislation so that there's more Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit integrated into it. I think we have to review the whole Wildlife Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Wildlife Act will most certainly have to be reviewed and it is in fact, in progress.

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, NTI, and Nunavut Government are working together in reviewing the Wildlife Act. We are also going to be using the effected organizations at the community level and individuals.

The three main organizations, NTI, the Nunavut Government and the NWMB are going to be working together to be reviewing the whole piece of legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Final Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you Mr. Minister for responding to my question. You said that the main organizations reviewing the Wildlife Act are NTI and NWMB.

Our quota system will come to an end in the year 2002 and of course there will be polar bears in our area. Are you going to be making an announcement in the House on what is going to be happening after 2001 or 2002 or when are you going to be making a new announcement. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Sustainable Development. Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We have already notified the NWMB and we have already made public announcements to the people of Nunavut and to the communities. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Iqittuq.

Question 027 - 1(3): Insurance Coverage for Inmates' Survivors

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice. There are incidents or occurrences that happen that we don't anticipate.

In regards to the inmates, is there any life insurance for Baffin Correctional Centre inmates. Do you have any type of insurance for the inmates because of course they have family members that they have to take care of at home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. Minister responsible for Justice. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): We are reviewing it as our insurance coverage is still administered out of Yellowknife. There are no life insurance policies for inmates but there are other types of coverage available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, anything that is being operated and maintained by the government and any new organizations or institutions we establish should have insurance.

For example, if I am going to have my own business, I have to have workers' compensation and other insurance. I am very surprised by your response that it is under review.

If the inmates for example at the Baffin Correctional Centre went up in flames, are there no types of protection for the inmates. In my question I am referring to insurance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Justice.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well there are different types of insurance. There are some for accidents, there are different types of insurance, I am not sure which one you are referring to.

There are different types of insurance that you can buy. I don't know which type of insurance you are referring to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is very clear when I am talking about it. For example, if I died suddenly my insurance would cover and pay for expenses that would have to be incurred by my family.

It is not because my life is more precious than the inmates. The inmates are just as precious as anybody else. My question to the minister is, if they don't have life insurance, can they get coverage.

Speaker: Minister of Justice. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I have insurance as well. I pay for that policy myself. Of course, if you want to buy life insurance it is up to you. You can be covered by a policy. If you are incarcerated that doesn't mean that they should get more benefits than anybody else.

We won't buy you life insurance if you happen to be incarcerated. We have different types of insurance that can be applied in specific areas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Final supplementary. Mr. Irgittuq.

Mr. Irgittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is up to each individual of course, but the inmates are under the care of the Nunavut Government. I would see them as Nunavut Government wards. For example if I had my equipment or something that belongs to me I would cover it under my insurance because they are under my care or are my property.

If anything should happen to one of these individuals, what kind of help can the immediate family members or the parents get if there should be a sudden death or an accident. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister of Justice. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said, there are different types of insurance. We wouldn't really be able to deal with it if it was an accident that occurred because of two inmates. But like I said there are different types of insurance and we have to do an investigation if there is an accident or a death. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Question 028 - 1(5): Kitikmeot Health Facility and Boarding Home

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make reference to a statement made by the Minister of Health and I would like to direct my questions to him. We are going to be getting a hospital facility in the Kitikmeot and my question was whether the hospital and the boarding home will be built together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Responsible for Health & Social Services. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, we are just looking right now at the scope of the facility program for the Kitikmeot as well as the other two regions in Nunavut for the hospital facilities.

As an example, Mr. Speaker, as you know here in Iqaluit, which has had a hospital since 1962, we only had a boarding home in the last three years when the old student residence

was made available as a boarding home. Before that it was home boarding in people's homes by residents of Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, right now we are looking at the opportunity for a boarding home in both those locations, in Rankin and in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This hospital that is going to be built in the Kitikmeot area, when are you going to be building it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we had a meeting this weekend, myself and the Minister of Finance along with senior members of our respective departments, to go through again the time lines and the time frames.

We are hoping Mr. Speaker, to be able to pull it off in the next 18 months. We have a lot of work to do along with work for the Development Corporation as the major advocate or proponent for the facility.

So we would expect Mr. Speaker, that early 2002, in the next year and a half, we will be able to see construction started on the facility in the Kitikmeot, as well the Baffin. I have to be contingent and say that it is based on getting functioning program reviews completed.

Also bringing the business case forward depends on the negotiations that we are involved in right now with the federal government. But that is our timeline Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am asking those questions because of the concerns my constituency has. There are people that have to go to Cambridge Bay and go to other medical facilities for examinations and so on.

They are usually billeted out to local families. We have a concern, which is the reason why I asked the question on whether the hospital and the boarding home will be built together.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, maybe a level of comfort for the member and members in the House, Mr. Speaker, the three health care facilities are a priority of this government.

We have reaffirmed that as a government over a year ago. We are moving toward a very tight time frame. We also want to make sure Mr. Speaker, not only the administrative, but also the logistic and financial information is in place.

We want to make sure we get the best deal for the people of Nunavut and for future governments in regards to the leases and so on. On the boarding home Mr. Speaker, the member is on the Standing Committee on Health and we have initiated a review of all of boarding home facilities in and outside of Nunavut.

As the member knows we operate boarding homes in Edmonton, Ottawa, Churchill, Iqaluit, Yellowknife and in Winnipeg. So we have quite an infrastructure for health care not only in Nunavut but also outside of Nunavut.

So we are doing that review and the member's comments are well taken. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 029 - 1(3): Polar Bear Study

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is directed to the Minister of Sustainable Development. It was asked earlier but I would like to elaborate on the question.

For many years now, my community have had problems with polar bear quotas. I encountered a bear once and almost kissed a bear at one time, not on purpose of course.

I also know when the polar bears are around the community, ever since I was a child, from what I have learned and from what I know and what the polar bear biologists do are two different things. They do a survey and they don't seem to really know and they don't really seem to use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. They do surveys perhaps for two months and they do a report. They report about them to the people in the United States and to the foreign countries and say that the polar bears are declining in numbers.

But for us they say that they use us to do the surveys but they don't utilize us, and the people down south and in foreign countries believe those reports of the polar bear biologists.

So, I would like to ask the Minister of Sustainable Development about the reports from the polar bear biologists, say for instance in the communities of Cambridge Bay, Uqsuqtuq and Taloyoak. It seems like the survey that was done by the polar bear biologists might not be accurate but the department believes in the reports from the biologists.

So after they do a study, will Sustainable Development accept the reports of the biologists right away without having the input of local individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Just to remind members that the questions are not to be statements and try to keep your preambles short that we can hope to get more questions for the other members. Minister responsible for Sustainable Development. Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's question.

As the Nunavut Government we have stated that Inuit Qaujimaqatunangit has to be used a lot more now especially in regards to the study of polar bears and we would like to utilize the Inuit knowledge more so than before.

So we have talked about this and the three communities that the member mentioned we visited those communities and we asked questions of the hunters in regards to polar bears, the number of polar bears in their area and they said to us that they're declining in numbers because they use the Inuit knowledge and we asked the hunters before we released the report.

The polar bear biologists that he talked about work with the people in the communities and we will be using the knowledge of the Inuit people in the communities more so than before. That's what we are working towards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Just another reminder to the other side of the House, the ministers, try to keep your answers precise and as concise as possible to allow more questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will make my questions brief. I would like to ask the minister that since he stated he will be using Inuit more than ever before, will you be able to provide some funding to the hunters, so the hunters can be perhaps paid more money than the helicopter contractors and to utilize the Inuit more and provide them funding so they can do more studies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Sustainable Development. Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Yes, we will be using them more in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Akasuk. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is very good to hear. The hunters will also be working to help with the study of polar bears in areas close to your community. Is that what he is saying. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have to look at it first, to try to find out how best we can use the hunters to help out with the polar bear survey. We have to look into it first and I can't really answer at this time, on exactly what we are going to be doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 030 - 1(3): Winnipeg Inuit Centre Contract

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Health & Social Services. Does the minister know if the contract for the Inuit Centre in Winnipeg still has the original owners. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Health & Social Services. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the original owners on the award of that contract or percentage of it Mr. Speaker, I don't have the numbers in front of me has changed hands. Indeed Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the birthright corporation for the Inuit, for the Members of this House is now an equal shareholder or operator of the contract in the Winnipeg boarding home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the contract between the new owner or new partner and the Government of Nunavut still valid. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that it is valid. My understanding Mr. Speaker, is that one of the partners who originally bid on the contract decided for whatever personal reasons or business interest reasons, they wanted to get out, extricate themselves from that contract. At the same time they sold their interest to the regional corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have the numbers or the contract in front of me so I wouldn't be able to comment on that part of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well I hope it will be checked or at least reviewed for the purpose of availability or the delivery of goods under that contract because I hear there is a lot of dissatisfaction from the patients who still go down to Winnipeg and it has deteriorated quite rapidly.

Can the minister tell me under the contract, has there been some inspections or at least monitoring to ensure the quality of service that is delivered under that contract. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Health & Social Services. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in this House several concerns were raised with the boarding home in Winnipeg. It is an older facility, it is in the older section of town. My understanding is there was a drug bust recently very close to the facility. I have been in the facility three or four times in the past 12 months.

I think that is what the member is trying to indicate. Mr. Speaker, a review of the boarding home facility is underway. The review of that facility has been completed. We've talked to clients, patients who have gone through the facility.

The operators of the facility have come forward to the Department of Health & Social Services indicating that they would like to move out of that facility because of the conditions that we talked in this House. The Member for Baker Lake brought up the incident of mice being in the facility, which turned out to be true.

Mr. Speaker, the health protection branch and the other services in Winnipeg went through that and we found out that indeed that was the case. That still seems to be an issue, so there are concerns with the facility. We have not had complaints about the operators of the facility, we have had complaints about the facility itself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's very hard to complain about the operators when the operators are in Yellowknife not in Winnipeg. Have Inuit made any complaints about the practices of the management who are in Winnipeg or the treatment of the patients by the management in Winnipeg. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in general and as I tried to explain earlier to one of the other questions, we operate several boarding homes in four different provincial jurisdictions and in Yellowknife as well as here in Iqaluit.

We get complaints from time to time on the services and management and so on and so forth so those types of inquiries are made generally. But on the specific issue of that

facility in Winnipeg, I think it's fair to say that it is an older facility. We've had complaints, we've done our review of the facility there, we've actually done a review with the patients, we've talked to them, we've done a survey with them on the quality, of the control of the standards that are in place.

We have seen improvements actually since the corporation took over. I haven't named the corporation particularly because I'm not sure if that has been announced by the news release or so, I know the member knows like most of the members in this room know, and I'm sure most people in the Keewatin know who they are.

But I'm not sure if they actually released that and I'm not sure if the person who sold out, that has been made public yet. So I'm not at liberty to say that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Oral questions. Oral questions. Ms. Williams.

Question 031 - 1(5): Update on Funding for Transportation Strategy

Ms. Williams: Qujannamiik, Uqaqti. I would like to direct this question to Minister for Community Government and Transportation.

In the recent presentation on the government transportation strategy, it was mentioned that federal funding might be available and I would like to know if the minister could update the Assembly on what steps have been taken to date to access this funding.

One of my communities would like to know the answer to this question as I come from a community that has lots of mountains. We need roads up there. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all when we were developing this transportation strategy, access roads in the communities were an important part.

I would like to thank the Premier that when he met with the Minister of DIAND he discussed this matter and later on I was able to meet with Bob Nault to discuss this matter. We expect that the access roads could be developed in the communities and when we have access roads we can develop ourselves more economically.

But at this time I cannot tell you whether we will get the funding prior to April 1st but I can tell you that I'm sure we can get additional funding for that.

Also, once we find out how much funding we can access we'll discuss this matter with the members of the legislature. Thank you.

Speaker: Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to further ask, would the communities be able to apply for this funding or would the funding be going to Community Government & Transportation.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this point in time the Department of Transportation would be seeking the funds from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. We already have some plans for what we can do about the access roads and we would be talking to the MLAs as well as to the communities about how we might go forward on it.

But it would be Community Government & Transportation dispensing, or at least arranging to get the funding from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and dispensing the funding to the communities. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It would be very good to know about this funding as soon as possible so the communities can plan to do the work in their communities. So I would ask the minister to let us know as soon as he can. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Question 032 - 1(5): Status of Firearms Registration Licences

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you. I am going to direct my question to the Minister of Justice. This fall staff from the department visited our community to assist the residents of Kugluktuk to try and get their certificates and registration to purchase rifles and to buy ammunition.

Can you update us as to how those visits went and when the applicants will receive their certificates and registration. Koanna.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Justice. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Ma'na Uqaqti. I have no idea. It is a federal Act, administered by the federal government so I can't respond to how soon it might take place. Ma'na Uqaqti.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you. To date people are having difficulties purchasing ammunition and are unable because they don't have the licence to purchase ammunition. They are unable to put food on the table because they have no ammunition due to not having their licence yet.

I am not happy with that response. Yes, it is difficult. How and when will Inuit be able to obtain their licence so that they can purchase ammunition and own rifles. The weather is getting very nice, there will soon be a lot of game. While we wait how are our people going to deal with this situation. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Ma'na Uqaqti. Yes, we have written letters to the federal government opposing this gun legislation and asking them to hold on for a while but we have been denied. We are still waiting and have no jurisdiction over this because it is federal jurisdiction.

We tried to apply to the courts to have the Inuit as an exception, but we don't have the jurisdiction over that. Ma'na Uqaqti.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll make another comment. When Jack Anawak was the minister he wanted to assist and bring about an expedient result to this issue of people being able to purchase ammunition. They want to know from the Government of Nunavut how they'll assist the people or even write a letter to the Prime Minister of Canada.

We as Inuit leaders should help them as much as we can to write letters today or tomorrow so that the people can be able to purchase ammunition. This is becoming very difficult. I need an answer for this because people are still waiting for the federal government to respond to some of the applications so that the people can purchase ammunition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would like to respond to you adequately, but this is not our legislation, if it was I am sure we would have deleted this regulation but it is the jurisdiction of the federal government. I am sure the courts will start dealing with it in the summer time because we don't have jurisdiction over it.

We can approach the Member of Parliament for Nunavut. NTI has a 1-800 number for complaints. But again, we have no jurisdiction so therefore I cannot respond to you in any other way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Question Period is now over. Moving on to Item 7. Written Questions. Written Questions. Mr. McLean.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 007 - 1(5): Kivalliq Dental Services

Mr. McLean: Qujannamiik Uqaqti. My written question today is to the Minister of Health & Social Services.

1. Can the minister provide information to the House on the frequency of visits by dental professionals to the Kivalliq region over the past 2 years.
2. Can the minister inform the House how many visits by dental professionals are planned for the current year.
3. Can the minister provide an update on the current contracting arrangement for dental services in the Kivalliq region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions.

Before we move on to Item 11. I've been getting signals from the members that they would like to take a short health break. So we will break for 15 minutes and return to the House.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*Short recess*

Speaker: Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 11. Reports of Standing & Special Committees. Reports of Standing & Special Committees. Mr. Nutarak.

Item 11: Reports of Standing & Special Committees

Report 002 – 1(5): Review of the 1999-2000 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Members of the Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health, I have the honour of presenting English and Inuktitut copies of the Standing Committee's Review of the 1999-2000 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut. Inuinnaqtun and French versions of the Standing Committee's Review are forthcoming and will be available shortly. As members are aware, our capacity as a government to provide translation services for French and Inuinnaqtun is just one of the many language issues that needs to

be addressed in the near future. In cooperation with my colleagues, I would like to take some time to highlight the contents of the report.

Mr. Speaker, the Languages Commissioner's 1999-2000 Annual Report was tabled in the House and referred to the Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health in October 2000. In November 2000, Ms. Eva Aariak, Nunavut's first Languages Commissioner, presented her report to the Standing Committee. Members of the Committee would like to thank Ms. Aariak for this presentation as it led to a very productive discussion and consideration of many key issues relating to language use and rights.

Some of the key issues identified by the Standing Committee through its review of the Languages Commissioner's Report included:

- the standardization of languages spoken by Inuit and the importance of supporting dialects;
- the Languages Commissioner's role as an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly;
- the importance of communication at all levels;
- the relationship between language and education; and
- the *Official Languages Act*.

The Languages Commissioner's primary role is to ensure that the Government of Nunavut carries out its obligations to minority languages and respects language rights as they are established under legislation.

The Languages Commissioner made a number of recommendations in her Annual Report. My fellow Members of the Standing Committee shall be presenting the Committee's response to those recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask Mr. McLean to continue with the Committee Report.

Speaker: Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to present the Standing Committee's response to the Languages Commissioner's first two recommendations.

The Languages Commissioner's first recommendation reads:

"That the Legislative Assembly, or the committee it designates to perform the review of the *Official Languages Act*, conduct a series of public hearings throughout Nunavut to solicit public input on the content and scope of the Act."

The Committee agrees that public input and support will be crucial to long-term preservation and promotion of Inuktitut. The Standing Committee also agrees that public input must be solicited and considered in the process of reviewing the *Official Languages*

Act. However, the Committee would like to emphasize at the outset that some issues raised in a broad review process may not be addressed within the specific context of amending the Act but could be addressed through other legislation, regulations or policies. Establishing linguistic rights, and protecting them through legislation, is but one step towards making linguistic communities secure. Ensuring that languages are preserved and promoted will require the effort and commitment of many organizations, groups, individuals and the public as a whole.

The Languages Commissioner's second recommendation reads:

"That the Legislative Assembly allow the Office of the Languages Commissioner to participate fully in any public hearings that are held."

The Committee agrees that the Languages Commissioner will play an important role during public hearings, as well as in other deliberations on legislation or policy relating to language. The Languages Commissioner's activities in relation to the Review will be established under such Terms of Reference as the Legislative Assembly may determine for carrying out the Review.

I will now ask my Standing Committee colleague, Mr. Havioyak, to read the next part.

Speaker: Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present the Standing Committee's response to the Languages Commissioner's next two recommendations.

The Languages Commissioner's third recommendation reads:

"That the Languages Commissioner be allowed to review any proposed changes to the *Official Languages Act* and provide comments to the Legislative Assembly."

The Committee agrees that the Languages Commissioner will be closely involved in the process of reviewing and proposing amendments to the *Official Languages Act*. In addition, under the current legislation the Languages Commissioner has a regular opportunity to make her own recommendations for proposed changes to the Act with the tabling of her Annual Report in the Legislative Assembly.

(interpretation ends) The Languages Commissioner's fourth recommendation reads:

"That the process of reviewing and amending the *Official Languages Act* include the development of a Government of Nunavut language policy to direct its departments, boards and agencies in implementing the new Act."

The Committee also believes that a government-wide language policy is necessary to ensure that the *Official Languages Act* is implemented accordingly. The Committee feels

that such a policy will be important to protect and promote the use of Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, French and English languages. The review of the *Official Languages Act* will raise a broad spectrum of issues and the Committee feels that a government-wide language policy reflecting the spirit and intent of the newly amended Act will be a product of the review process.

The Languages Commissioner indicated in her opening remarks to the Standing Committee that her Office has initiated a review of government services in the Official Languages and that a report with the findings of this investigation would be issued to the Legislative Assembly. The Languages Commissioner also committed to a study of language policies in other jurisdictions. The results of these studies will be important to the process of developing a made-in-Nunavut government language policy.

I will now ask my Standing Committee colleague, Mr. Alakannuark, to read the next part.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present the Standing Committee's response to the Languages Commissioner's fifth recommendation.

The Languages Commissioner's fifth recommendation reads:

"As the *Official Languages Act* will be reviewed concurrently in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories, we recommend that representatives from the Legislative Assembly confer with their counterparts in the NWT on the changes to the Act they are proposing."

The Committee agrees with this recommendation. I will now ask my Standing Committee colleague, Mr. Puqiqnak, to read the next part.

Speaker: Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present the Standing Committee's response to the Languages Commissioner's last two recommendations.

The Languages Commissioner's sixth recommendation reads:

"Given that the *Official Languages Act* cannot be amended without the approval of the Parliament of Canada, we recommend that representatives of the Legislative Assembly make a formal presentation to federal parliamentarians of any changes they propose to the Act."

The Committee feels that an amended *Official Languages Act* should be presented to the Parliament of Canada only in the event that the amendments "have the effect of diminishing rights or services provided for in ordinance."

The Languages Commissioner's last recommendation reads:

“As it is likely that the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories will also propose changes to the Act, we recommend that Nunavut and the NWT attempt to present their proposed changes to Parliament at the same time. This will help ensure that federal parliamentarians understand and recognize the different needs and aspirations of the two territories.”

The Committee feels that the respective committees should address this issue during the consultation process articulated in Recommendation 6.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to turn the presentation back to the Chair of the Standing Committee, Mr. Nutarak.

Speaker: Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would now like to present the additional recommendations brought forward by the Standing Committee of Culture, Education, and Health during their review of the Languages Commissioner's Annual Report.

1. That the Languages Commissioner includes in her next Annual Report information on specific and measurable goals and objectives for the upcoming year, so that a single Standing Committee may review the Office's activities, both past and proposed;
2. That the Languages Commissioner's proposed budget be reviewed by the Management and Services Board of the Legislative Assembly;
3. That the Languages Commissioner address the issue of which language services should be provided by Government as well as addressing how the Government provides the various services currently mandated;
4. That the Languages Commissioner establish strong working relationships with the Nunavut Social Development Council and other Nunavut organizations which deal with issues of language;
5. That the Languages Commissioner submits the results of her Office's studies on the status of Government language services and language policies to the Legislative Assembly in a timely manner;
6. That a Special Committee of the Legislative Assembly be established during the 5th Session of the Legislative Assembly to carry out the 10-year Review of the *Official Languages Act*. Recognizing that the scope of the review will be broad and far-reaching, it should involve the full participation of the Languages Commissioner, departmental officials, stakeholder groups, expert witnesses and the public.

7. That the Special Committee pay particular attention to the status and needs of English, French, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun-language speakers as it considers the objectives and provisions of the *Official Languages Act*.

This first year has seen some important steps towards addressing language issues, rights and responsibilities. The Committee looks forward to continuing our work with the Languages Commissioner in the future.

With that, Mr. Speaker, this concludes our overview of the report and I move that the Report be received by the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. The member has moved that the report be received by the Assembly. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health - Review of the 1999-2000 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut

Introduction

Nunavut's first Languages Commissioner, Eva Aariak, was appointed by motion in the Legislative Assembly on October 28, 1999, to a four-year term. The Languages Commissioner is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly, but is required under Section 23 of the Official Languages Act to prepare and submit an Annual Report on her activities to the Legislative Assembly.

The Languages Commissioner's First Annual Report covers her Office's activities since November of 1999 to the end of the fiscal year. The Annual Report was tabled on October 27, 2000, and referred to the Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health on October 31, 2000. The Languages Commissioner presented her Annual Report to the Standing Committee during a public meeting on November 20, 2000.

Background

The majority of Nunavut's population is Inuit and, like many aboriginal peoples, Inuit have a unique culture. The language spoken by Inuit is an integral part of that culture and is an important affirmation of self, community and society. The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, which resulted in the creation of the territory of Nunavut, leads to many underlying commitments to promote, preserve and protect Inuit society and culture.

Although the Government of Nunavut is new and many challenges lie ahead, there is steady progress towards reaching the goal of providing representative government for this culturally unique jurisdiction. As legislation and policy is reviewed or developed with the goal of achieving made-in-Nunavut solutions, Nunavut's language issues and rights

must always be taken into consideration. Efforts in this area will progressively meet the Government's Bathurst Mandate commitment to have Inuktitut as the working language of government by the year 2020.

Nunavut's Official Languages Act was inherited from the Northwest Territories upon division. This Act, modeled on the federal Act, was first passed in the NWT's Legislative Assembly in 1984 with a dual purpose: to guarantee equal status for the use of English and French in public access to government programs and services; and also to formally recognize the aboriginal languages used across what was the entire Northwest Territories. Those languages are Chipewyan, Cree, Dogrib, Gwich'in, Slavey and Inuktitut (which includes, according to the Act, Inuinnaqtun and Inuvialuktun). In 1990, the Act was amended to give official status to these aboriginal languages as a means of preserving and promoting the aboriginal cultures of the Territories. Another amendment was to create the position of Languages Commissioner. When Nunavut inherited the NWT legislation, this included the ability to appoint a Languages Commissioner for Nunavut.

The selection of the Languages Commissioner was undertaken by the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit as part of that Committee's mandate to recommend appointments to positions that are made, by statutory authority, by the Legislative Assembly. In keeping with the Government of Nunavut's commitment to accountability, the selection of the Languages Commissioner was an open, competitive and transparent process. The position was advertised and many exceptionally well-qualified and committed individuals were interviewed. At the end of October 1999, the Committee unanimously recommended to the Legislative Assembly that Eva Qamaniq Aariak be appointed as Nunavut's Languages Commissioner.

Acknowledgements

Members of the Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health would like to thank Ms. Eva Aariak, Languages Commissioner of Nunavut, for appearing before us to present and discuss her First Annual Report. We would also like to thank Chris Douglas from the Languages Commissioner's Office for attending and contributing to the proceedings. We were pleased that members of the public and media were able to join us to observe this meeting. The meeting was recorded and will be broadcast again on APTN.

Comments on the First Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut

Recognizing that the Languages Commissioner's First Annual Report relates to a mere four months of activity, the Standing Committee was generally pleased with the contents of the Report.

Highlights of the Report

The Languages Commissioner's opening message provides some important views on the uniqueness of Nunavut's situation and needs, on the various organizational roles that relate to language issues, and emphasizes the urgency of addressing these issues.

The second section of the Report, entitled, "Talking the Same Language", addresses three language-specific issues: the status of Inuinnaqtun; different systems used to write Inuktitut; and the standardization of Inuktitut writing systems. Each of these issues is multi-faceted and inter-related and consideration of them raises further issues.

Committee members had a number of questions regarding the conclusions drawn by the Languages Commissioner in this section. During discussions with the Languages Commissioner it was apparent that interpretations of 'language', 'dialect' and 'mutually intelligible' varied considerably and that the related conclusions were far from being unanimously accepted.

Key Issue: Standardization of Inuktitut

One of the primary challenges facing any individual or organization addressing language issues in Nunavut is to establish acceptable and workable definitions of "Inuktitut". From one Member's perspective, "Inuktitut" is the language spoken by an Inuk and, as such, is an affirmation of self and one's heritage. From another's perspective, "Inuktitut" is the language shared by a group of individuals, such as a family or a community, and is an affirmation of social ties and a source of pride. As the number of individuals sharing the common language grows, the unifying features of the shared language give way to the differences in wording, pronunciation or other features which define dialects or, eventually, distinct languages. Inuinnaqtun and Inuvialuktun, for example, unify specific groups of Inuit and are used predominantly in certain communities and areas. The Committee believes that Nunavut's languages and dialects cannot not be standardized into one universal form.

The success of program and service delivery, the dissemination of public information and the process of public consultation in Nunavut will be determined by the ability to communicate in both written and spoken contexts across the Territory. Ensuring this success will require careful and effective allocations of financial, human and administrative resources for activities such as translation, interpretation, and publication. While meeting the territory-wide communication needs, the richness and diversity of dialects must always be respected. The status of Inuinnaqtun in Nunavut will need to be addressed in depth.

Establishing standard definitions of Nunavut's official languages will likely be a critical issue when considering legislated language services such as those specified in the Official Languages Act or the Education Act, as well as in establishing policies relating to language use.

The Languages Commissioner's Annual Report describes her current roles and responsibilities in three general areas: protective activities involving the investigation of complaints, monitoring government activities and advising the Government of its

responsibilities to linguistic minorities; consultation, promotion and education activities relating to Nunavut's official languages; and reporting and recommending to the Legislative Assembly. Committee members felt that the Languages Commissioner's role needs to be strengthened within the system or process of addressing language issues. This could occur through a revision of the Languages Commissioner's mandate within the context of the Official Languages Act. In the meantime, Committee members encourage the Languages Commissioner to continue to take a pro-active role in addressing Nunavut's language issues.

The Languages Commissioner's Report describes several activities undertaken in 1999-2000. The Committee congratulates the Languages Commissioner on the establishment and staffing of her Office. The Languages Commissioner's website is also a significant achievement as it provides an important source of information to the public. The Committee feels that greater effort could be made in promoting and publicizing the website as it will be an important avenue for members of the public to inform themselves of their language rights as well as to submit complaints or enquiries should they feel that their rights are not being protected. The website is at: www.assembly.nu.ca/langcom/ The Committee does note, however, that many people do not have internet access and looks forward to seeing other informational and promotional materials from the Languages Commissioner's Office.

Key Issue: Languages Commissioner as an Independent Officer

The Languages Commissioner's role puts her in a position to measure the Government's success in meeting expectations that have been raised through the Land Claims Agreement, through the Nunavut Act and by the Government of Nunavut to preserve, protect and promote the language of Inuit. The Languages Commissioner also has a role with respect to other languages such as English and French. The Standing Committee supports such initiatives as community tours, the development of an inquiry/complaint protocol, internet presence and the publication of a 1-800-number as important tools for the Languages Commissioner to carry out this function.

Committee Members look forward to seeing the results of the Languages Commissioner's ombuds activities and anticipates that her first "report card" will show progress in this area.

The Report lists a number of meetings with, presentations to and dialogues with language-issue officials and representatives of stakeholder groups. Committee members were disappointed that the Report did not provide much detail on the outcome of those meetings, information on the topics discussed or what kinds of working relationships or initiatives resulted. Committee members suggested that, in future, the Languages Commissioner provide more detail about these activities in order to inform the public on the status of the various language issues addressed. Members also felt that the Languages Commissioner could take more of a lead role in coordinating language-related activities.

The Government of Nunavut's Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth also has language issues as a strong component of its mandate. The Committee felt that there

is confusion between the Department's role, which is linked to programming and funding for language related activities, and the Languages Commissioner's role, which focuses on the promotion and protection of language rights. The Committee anticipates that the working relationship between the Department and the Languages Commissioner's Office will make these roles more clear to the public.

Key Issue: Communication on all levels

Currently, many different departments and organizations are addressing various aspects of language use in Nunavut and a number of positive suggestions, initiatives and proposals have been brought forward. The lack of communication or co-ordination between these diverse groups means that there is a great risk of duplication of effort or, worse, the loss of valuable resources and potential. Elders must be included in all language-related initiatives. The contribution of Elders is essential to the preservation of language.

The Committee was pleased to hear of the various projects being undertaken by the Languages Commissioner's Office, such as the development of a logo; the development of an Inquiry/Complaint protocol and a review of language services offered by departments, boards and agencies of the Government of Nunavut.

Key Issue: Education

The relationship between education and language is rich and complex. The Committee is very pleased that the Languages Commissioner has, and continues to have, input in the development of a new, made-in-Nunavut Education Act and on special projects such as the current "Language of Instruction" study. Although the Committee approves of the intent, it is not clear how the Languages Commissioner envisions her statutorily defined role with respect to language of instruction in years to come.

The Committee firmly believes that the use of language in an educational environment helps to preserve it, promote it and provide youth with a link to their culture and identity. Suggestions regarding the use of Inuit language within the education system included supporting Inuit educators through certification and recognition, providing adequate and appropriate curriculum materials and exploring options for using dialects as well as universally accepted and standardized forms of language.

The Languages Commissioner's 1999-2000 Budget and Expenditures Summary notes a surplus due to the fact that the office was only functioning for one-third of the last fiscal year. As the Report does not include plans, objectives or projections for the upcoming year, Committee members could not evaluate the Budget's adequacy. Committee members further noted that some confusion resulted from the fact that the Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health reviewed the Annual Report covering the Languages Commissioner's activities over the past fiscal year while the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit reviewed the Languages Commissioner's Business Plan covering the Languages Commissioner's proposed activities for the upcoming year. As a result neither Committee got the complete picture.

The next section of the Report presents a history of Official Languages legislation in the North and also addresses the upcoming 10-year review of the Official Languages Act, which must commence after December 31, 2000. Committee members were disappointed that there was not more specific discussion on the Act nor any specific views on possible amendments to the Act. A brief discussion of the upcoming ten-year review of the Official Languages Act included some reference to the non-Inuit aboriginal languages protected under the current Act but did not argue either for or against removing them from the Act.

Key Issue: Official Languages Act

The review of the Official Languages Act is a matter of considerable importance to Nunavummiut. The review is required by statute to take place after December 31st 2000, by a committee of the Legislative Assembly. The Assembly has the option of assigning the review to a Special Committee established specifically for this task. The review of the Official Languages Act will be an open process, involving the public and key stakeholders. It promises to be an opportunity for many language issues to be raised and addressed.

The Report discusses documents other than the Official Languages Act which relate, mainly in a monitoring capacity, to the work of the Languages Commissioner. Those listed include the Nunavut Act, the Bathurst Mandate, Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Canada-Nunavut Co-operation Agreement for French and Inuit Languages. Committee Members noted with interest that the Report made no reference to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NCLA). Article 32 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement states that the government is obliged to “provid[e] Inuit with an opportunity to participate in the development of social and cultural policies, and in the design of social and cultural programs and services, including their method of delivery, in the Nunavut Settlement Area”.

The Languages Commissioner’s Report in many ways demonstrates her Office’s parameters of operation and initiatives are described in relation to the principles and objectives of the documents listed above. While Committee members understand that the Commissioner’s role is established through territorial legislation and includes a responsibility for protecting language rights under federal legislation, they also felt strongly that the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement should have been addressed in the Report. Committee members feel that the Languages Commissioner’s mandate to “promote, preserve and protect” minority language rights is very closely linked with the objectives of the NLCA especially with respect to Inuit society and culture.

The final section of the Languages Commissioner’s First Annual Report listed a number of Recommendations.

Committee’s Response to Recommendations of the Languages Commissioner

The Committee initially wanted more detail and specificity in the Languages Commissioner’s Recommendations. As a result, in January, the Languages

Commissioner provided an “Elaboration of Recommendations from her 1999-2000 Annual Report”. The additional text is included below with each recommendation.

Recommendation 1:

That the Legislative Assembly (or the committee it designates to perform the review of the Official Languages Act) conduct a series of public hearings throughout Nunavut to solicit public input on the content and scope of the Act.

Elaboration:

The long-term maintenance of Inuktitut will require a combined effort by government, communities and families. The public, therefore, must have an opportunity to participate in the process of developing new language legislation. The Languages Commissioner favours an approach that will allow communities to express their opinions and concerns directly to those writing the new Official Languages Act. Representatives of the Legislative Assembly should also present options to communities in terms of the direction and scope the new Act might take. Public hearings held throughout Nunavut would be the best means of achieving this dialogue. This process would also help ensure that any new provisions developed by the Government of Nunavut would enjoy the support of the public.

The Committee agrees that public input and support will be crucial to long-term preservation and promotion of Inuktitut. The Standing Committee also agrees that public input must be solicited and considered in the process of reviewing the Official Languages Act. However, the Committee would like to emphasize at the outset that some issues raised in a broad review process may not be addressed within the specific context of amending the Act but could be addressed through other legislation, regulations or policies. Establishing linguistic rights, and protecting them through legislation, is but one step towards making linguistic communities secure. Ensuring that languages are preserved and promoted will require the effort and commitment of many organizations, groups, individuals and the public as a whole.

Recommendation 2:

That the Legislative Assembly allow the Office of the Languages Commissioner to participate fully in any public hearings that are held.

Elaboration:

Section 29 (3) of the Official Languages Act states that the Languages Commissioner shall provide all reasonable assistance to the Legislative Assembly or any committee it designates for the review process. The Languages Commissioner and her staff have a wealth of expertise in the area of language issues and rights and could make a valuable contribution in the following capacities:

- engaging communities in a meaningful discussion of their concerns;
- informing them of how language legislation and policies can address their language goals; and

- working with government to draft their recommendations into legislation that is fair and reasonable.

The Committee agrees that the Languages Commissioner will play an important role during public hearings, as well as in other deliberations on legislation or policy relating to language. The Languages Commissioner's activities in relation to the Review will be established under such Terms of Reference as the Legislative Assembly may determine for carrying out the Review.

Recommendation 3:

That the Languages Commissioner be allowed to review any proposed changes to the Official Languages Act and provide comments to the Legislative Assembly.

Elaboration:

It is important that the Office of the Languages Commissioner be involved throughout the process of reviewing and amending the Official Languages Act. As the Act impacts directly on the role of our office, we would like to have the opportunity to review any changes to it and provide comments to MLAs before these amendments are approved. Collaboration among the principal stakeholders will help ensure that any changes to the Act receive broad support.

The Committee agrees that the Languages Commissioner will be closely involved in the process of reviewing and proposing amendments to the Official Languages Act. In addition, under the current legislation (Official Languages Act, s. 23), the Languages Commissioner has a regular opportunity to make her own recommendations for proposed changes to the Act with the tabling of her Annual Report in the Legislative Assembly.

Recommendation 4:

That the process of reviewing and amending the Official Languages Act include the development of a Government of Nunavut language policy to direct its departments, boards and agencies in implementing the new Act.

Elaboration:

In 1997, the Government of the Northwest Territories developed a comprehensive language policy to assist its departments in implementing the Official Languages Act. It included:

- the roles and responsibilities of Ministers, Deputy Ministers and the Executive Council in implementing and enforcing the Official Languages Act;
- a list of designated departments that must provide services to the public in French and the Aboriginal languages;
- guidelines for what official languages should be used in serving the public in each of the NWT's communities;
- information on making the public aware of the availability of services in French and the Aboriginal Languages (active offer);
- outlines of the ways to deliver services in the official languages;
- guidelines for interpreting during public meetings;

- guidelines for the translation of documents, forms and advertising produced by the GNWT;
- requirements for the use of official languages on the GNWT's signs; and
- a requirement that the GNWT use standardized Dene orthographies when producing signs or written materials.

Unfortunately, the Government of Nunavut did not inherit the GNWT's language policy nor did it develop one of its own. Instead, GN departments and agencies have been left on their own to implement the Official Languages Act. The result of this has been that the quality and availability of services in French and Inuktitut has suffered. The fact that many departments believe language services to be CLEY's exclusive responsibility underlines the urgent need for defined roles and responsibilities.

The Committee also believes that a government-wide language policy is necessary to ensure that the Official Languages Act is implemented accordingly. The Committee feels that such a policy will be important to protect and promote the use of Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, French and English languages. The review of the Official Languages Act will raise a broad spectrum of issues and the Committee feels that a government-wide language policy reflecting the spirit and intent of the newly amended Act will be a product of the review process.

The Languages Commissioner indicated in her opening remarks to the Standing Committee that her Office has initiated a review of government services in the Official Languages and that a report with the findings of this investigation would be issued to the Legislative Assembly. The Languages Commissioner also committed to a study of language policies in other jurisdictions. The results these studies will be important to the process of developing a made-in-Nunavut government language policy.

Recommendation 5:

As the Official Languages Act will be reviewed concurrently in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories, we recommend that representatives from the Legislative Assembly confer with their counterparts in the NWT on the changes to the Act they are proposing.

Elaboration:

In addition to sharing the same Official Languages Act, the GNWT and the Government of Nunavut are both concerned with raising the status of Aboriginal languages. In conducting their separate review of the Official Languages Act, the Northwest Territories may come up with new initiatives that the GN might wish to adopt as well. By engaging in a dialogue on official languages, the governments of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories may also be able to develop a common front in pressing Ottawa to increase its support for government services in Aboriginal languages.

The Committee agrees with this recommendation.

Recommendation 6:

Given that the Official Languages Act cannot be amended without the approval of the Parliament of Canada, we recommend that representatives of the Legislative Assembly make a formal presentation to federal parliamentarians of any changes they propose to the Act.

Elaboration:

The review of the Official Languages Act will require a substantial investment of time and resources by the Government of Nunavut. It will be important, therefore, to ensure that any changes it proposes will be approved by Parliament. It is unlikely that MPs will have a good understanding of the language situation in Nunavut. A formal presentation by the GN to Parliament of its amendments to the Act, would help improve the chances of them being accepted.

The Committee feels that an amended Official Languages Act should be presented to the Parliament of Canada only in the event that the amendments “have the effect of diminishing rights or services provided for in that [Official Languages Act] ordinance” (s.38, Nunavut Act).

Recommendation 7:

As it is likely that the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories will also propose changes to the Act, we recommend that Nunavut and the NWT attempt to present their proposed changes to Parliament at the same time. This will help ensure that federal parliamentarians understand and recognize the different needs and aspirations of the two territories.

Elaboration:

The review mandated by section 29 of the Official Languages Act may cause confusion among parliamentarians, as it will require the same piece of legislation to be reviewed by both the Government of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. Furthermore, it is likely that the GN will propose far more substantial changes to the Act than the GNWT and this position will have to be defended. If Nunavut were to present its proposed amendments in conjunction with the Northwest Territories, MP's would have an easier time appreciating the complexity of language issues in Canada's north, and Nunavut's need for a fundamentally different Official Languages Act.

The Committee feels that this issue should be addressed by the respective committees during the consultation process articulated in Recommendation #6.

The Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health Recommends:

That the Languages Commissioner include in her next Annual Report information on specific and measurable goals and objectives for the upcoming year, so that a single Standing Committee may review the Office's activities, both past and proposed;

That the Languages Commissioner's proposed budget be reviewed by the Management and Services Board of the Legislative Assembly;

That the Languages Commissioner address the issue of which language services should be provided by Government as well as addressing how the Government provides the various services currently mandated;

That the Languages Commissioner establish strong working relationships with the Nunavut Social Development Council and other Nunavut organizations which deal with issues of language;

That the Languages Commissioner submits the results of her Office's studies on the status of Government language services and language policies to the Legislative Assembly in a timely manner;

That a Special Committee of the Legislative Assembly be established during the 5th Session of the Legislative Assembly to carry out the 10-year Review of the Official Languages Act. Recognizing that the scope of the review will be broad and far-reaching, it should involve the full participation of the Languages Commissioner, departmental officials, stakeholder groups, expert witnesses and the public.

That the Special Committee pay particular attention to the status and needs of English, French, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun-language speakers as it considers the objectives and provisions of the Official Languages Act.

Conclusion

The Standing Committee was pleased to have the opportunity to discuss the Languages Commissioner's 1999-2000 Annual Report. This first year has seen many people working hard together on the path towards addressing language issues, rights and responsibilities. The Committee expects that next year's Report will address issues such as the Review process, the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and the development of a government-wide language policy. The Committee looks forward to future experiences in creating resourceful solutions to address the unique needs and aspirations of Nunavut and Nunavummiut.

Speaker: The report has been received by this House. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Mr. Speaker, I would again like to beg the indulgence of the Assembly to return to Item 5 on the order paper. Thank you.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 5.

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Proceed Mr. Tootoo.

Item 5: Revert to Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues for twice in one day. I would like to take the opportunity to recognize my family who were able to come to the Gallery today as a result of no school being held this week due to professional development for the teachers.

I would like to recognize my wife Carol, my daughter Eden and Taya and their little friend Aurora. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: I would also like to recognize someone. I see somebody else in the Gallery, Ms. Aariak our Languages Commissioner. Welcome. Our other two guests are here from Yellowknife, welcome to the Assembly. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Nutarak.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 003– 1(5): Terms of Reference of the Special Committee to Review the Official Languages Act

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I will be tabling the Terms of Reference of the Special Committee to Review the Official Languages Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Nutarak.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give notice that on February 26, I will move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay, that the Legislative Assembly hereby establish a special committee to be named the Special Committee to Review the *Official Languages Act*.

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

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Nutarak.

Item 16: Motions

Motion 001 – 1(5): Special Committee to Review the *Official Languages Act*

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Whereas, Nunavut inherited its *Official Languages Act* from the Northwest Territories on April 1, 1999; and

And Whereas, the *Official Languages Act* establishes an equality of status, rights and privileges with respect to the use of Official Languages in institutions of government in Nunavut; and

And Whereas, Section 29 of the *Official Languages Act* requires that the Legislative Assembly or a committee established by it, shall review the provisions and operations of the Act at the session next following December 31, 2000;

And Whereas, Section 29 of the *Official Languages Act* requires that the Languages Commissioner shall provide all reasonable assistance to the Legislative Assembly or a committee established to review the Act;

And Whereas, the Legislative Assembly, recognizing the importance of languages use and language rights across Nunavut and the benefit of wide-reaching and public discussion, wishes to being the review of the *Official Languages Act*;

Now Therefore, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay, that the Legislative Assembly hereby establish a Special Committee, to be named the Special Committee to Review the *Official Languages Act*;

And Further, that the following Members be named to the Special Committee:

- Hon. Peter Kattuk
- Mr. Donald Haviyok
- Mr. Ovide Alakannuark
- Ms. Rebekah Williams
- Mr. David Iqaqrialu

And Further, that the following Members be named as Alternate Members of the Special Committee:

- Hon. Peter Kilabuk
- Mr. Jobie Nutarak
- Mr. Enoki Irqittuq

And Further, that the Committee, in pursuing its mandate shall:

- Examine the objectives set out in the preamble of the Act;
- Examine all provisions of the Act, including the rights and responsibilities established in the Act and the extent to which they support the achievement of the stated objectives;
- Examine the administration and implementation of the Act;
- Examine the effectiveness of the Act's provisions in relation to the general public and the government departments and agencies charged with providing services;
- Review questions of specific needs related to each of the official languages in Nunavut;
- Examine the extent to which the public understands the current Act and current language rights, including the role of the Languages Commissioner;
- Examine and consider other Acts that have reference to the official languages of Nunavut;
- Evaluate official languages legislation, policies and programs in other jurisdictions;
- Provide an assessment of the current objectives of the Act;
- Provide recommendations from stakeholders regarding legislative changes, policy initiatives and the provisions of language program and services;
- Prepare and provide results of public consultations;
- Provide recommendations on administrative regulations, policies and procedures designed to guide the implementation of the Act;
- Prepare information on the implications for other Nunavut statutes that impact language rights and services;
- Prepare and provide a final report on the Committee's activities; and
- Prepare a draft bill to amend the *Official Languages Act*.
- And, Furthermore, that the Special Committee submit its final report not later than two years from the date of its establishment.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: One moment here, Mr. Nutarak. According to the procedures of the House, under 45 – 1, asking for the motion to be dealt with today as opposed to the 48 hour notice, I would ask you now to ask for unanimous consent to read your motion.

If we have agreement we will consider the motion as read. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would request unanimous consent to waive Rule 45 - 1 to consider my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Nutarak. The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 45 – 1. Do we have agreement.

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those against. Motion is carried.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Item 20. Report of Committee of the Whole. Report of Committee of the Whole. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 21. 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. Meeting of Regular Caucus at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Orders of the Day for Tuesday, February 27:

1. Prayer
2. Budget Address
3. Ministers' Statements
4. Members' Statements
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Replies to Budget Address
12. Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
14. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
15. Tabling of Documents

16. Notices of Motions
17. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
18. Motions
19. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 1- Appropriation Act 2001-2002
20. Second Reading of Bills
21. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
22. Report of the Committee of the Whole
23. Third Reading of Bills
24. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 27 at 1:30 p.m. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 4:23 p.m.*

