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**Tuesday May 29, 2001**

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**Cambridge Bay**

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

# Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

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**Cambridge Bay, Nunavut  
Tuesday May 29, 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. Jobie Nutarak, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Glenn McLean, Honourable Kevin O'Brien, Honourable Ed Picco, Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, Honourable Manitoq Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker:** Good morning members. Before we get started today, I believe Mr. Tootoo has his hand raised. Mr. Tootoo.

**Point of Order**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise on a point of order. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Member for Cambridge Bay tabled a document with all the names crossed out. Basically an anonymous document and I would like you to rule on whether or not anonymous documents should be allowed to be tabled in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Before I rule on that. Mr. Ng would you like to comment on Mr. Tootoo's point of order as it is in reference to comments and statements that you brought forward in the House yesterday. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in reference to the tabled document that I believe the member referred to, it is in fact not an anonymous document. The names were struck off the e-mail message Mr. Speaker, in order to protect the integrity and the reputation of those individuals that were involved in the e-mail.

Now I have no problems Mr. Speaker, if the member wants or the House rules, to table the actual document with the names of the e-mail, the individual that sent it and the person that it went to and the references to the individuals within the e-mail document itself.

Now, the reason why I think it is important that we all think about this and debate this issue Mr. Speaker, is that on the principles of confidentiality, the principle of protecting individuals that don't have the opportunity to speak or defend themselves in the House here. I think it is incumbent on us as Members of this Assembly to respect that.

Now, having said that, if the member has concerns about the validity of the e-mail, individuals or those that were involved in that tabled document, then like I said Mr. Speaker, if the House chooses that takes precedence over an individual's interests then I will respect the rules of the House and your ruling and table it again with the individuals' names intact. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ng. As part of our rules and the rules of this House, Mr. Ng has the opportunity to speak to Mr. Tootoo's point of order and also any of the members that wish to speak to it should do so now. Are there any other members that wish to speak to the point of order. There are not.

Mr. Iqaqrialu, are you wishing to speak to the point of order. Proceed.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On this point of order and tabling of documents that are not signed or where the author is not named. Ever since we became Members of the Legislative Assembly two years ago, we have received quite a lot of correspondence, I think it is up to us as a government to keep the issue of confidentiality.

Since the creation of the Nunavut Government on April 1, 1999, we stated that we would treat everyone fairly and equally. If there are going to be conflicts the differences between us are going to come out and it is going to have an effect on the way we are seen by the public. We have to work together as people of Nunavut.

That was the reason why we created Nunavut. There has to be co-operation between the Nunavut Government and the people of Nunavut. We have to work together and that will make us more accountable to the people out there. Conflicts like this can grow from seeds and we will make decisions that should be a learning experience. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From past experiences, my reference to that would be that if any member, not as a minister, not as a chairman of the committees, but as a member representing his constituency or Nunavut as a whole, can submit written or oral information, not necessarily in the full context, that's the member's right.

For example, when I reported about trappers in Coral Harbour, there were 45 trappers in Coral Harbour and there were some direct quotes in my document, in my presentation. But I did not even have to mention that there were some names. I simply omitted them in order to represent the community fairly as a whole rather than those individuals who were trapping and praised the government for giving them assistance of 25 dollars for their pelts.

So I don't think yesterday's statement was an exception in this case other than it might be a little bit more closer to home to some members than maybe the Coral Harbour case



was, people didn't really seem to care whether I omitted those names that were directly quoted from the report. Qujannamiik.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Other comments. Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was pretty obvious early on that there were conflicts looming with this event. If our employees are going to be going on a strike, we had heard about the rumours prior to the actual strike that if employees were going to be crossing the line, that they would be in some sort of difficulty. The people that did go to work would receive correspondence and they would be ridiculed.

We also know that the author of this letter in question can also be turned on if we have the names publicly announced in the House. So I think it would be better if we leave it confidential.

If any member is interested in seeing the names then I think it is better if they approached the Member for Cambridge Bay and ask to see them. If the names were tabled here in the House, these individuals would probably be in trouble with some Nunavummiut and we don't want that. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Anawak. Further comments. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday when we heard the tabled document from the cabinet side, we heard that there is a serious disagreement or conflict and we understand that. But according to my knowledge, when I was growing up in the Inuit culture we never thought about these things as young Inuit people living in Nunavut, this was not part of our way of life, our culture.

I think back around 1987 or 1989 in my community there was a strike by the union. There was a disagreement between the union and the local government. This was back when our population was about 500 to 600 people in Gjoa Haven. When there was disagreement, people from the Public Service Alliance had to come up north from the south to teach the Inuit how to do union things.

They taught the Inuit workers that you have to picket and show what you are not happy about. I am not sure if it affected every individual in the community, but it affected many of us negatively because we had never experienced or saw that before. The actions hurt a lot of people. But now we see it happening again today.

Some Inuit strikers in our home communities said that it is breaking up our family relationships although they don't intend to. An Inuk individual even though he is a union individual member and even though he is on strike, he told his fellow Inuit people that he felt like he was not part of the community any more and it is true.

This conflict and rebellion is not coming from our culture. As the Nunavut Government, since we represent our people in the legislature we have to look for ways to work together and resolve issues together rather than through confrontation.

We have to look for ways to resolve this kind of a situation. As the Member for Uqummiut said, back in 1999 we were happy to see Nunavut and we did not expect to see these types of things. Yes, life will go on and we expect that this is not going to be the last time. I just wanted to point that out, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak. Just a reminder to members that the rules of the House dictate that the mover of the point of order, or point of privilege is the last one to speak to it. So before I go to Mr. Tootoo, is there anybody else that would like to address the point of order. Mr. Tootoo you have the last comment on the issue. Proceed.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to clarify my point. The comments that I have heard from members I agree with them. It is the member's right to be able to voice the concerns of their constituents.

However, my point of order deals specifically with a document that was tabled in this House, it comes to us with no names on it, for all intents and purposes for us as a tabled document, it is an anonymous document.

I think that tabling documents like that in this House, you know, could open the door wide open to anything being tabled in here anonymously without any idea of where it came from. It sets a dangerous precedent and I don't think that anonymous documents, whether it was anonymous before it came to this House or not, is irrelevant.

The fact of the matter is, that it got tabled in this House as an anonymous document. For all intents and purposes, for us it is an anonymous document. I don't think those types of documents should be given into consideration, because I know what I do with anonymous letters that I get is that if someone wants to talk to me, if they want me to look at their opinions and views, they should put their name on it.

For all intents and purposes that was an anonymous document and I am not questioning the validity of it or condoning the actions mentioned in it. My point is that, technically speaking, for this House that was an anonymous document and those types of documents I don't believe have any place in here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I have listened to what you have had to say and also the comments by Mr. Ng and other members. I believe the issue here is trying to find a balance between what is confidential and also consider the issue of transparency and openness and fairness.

Given that, before the end of the day, we will consider the issue and rule on it. At this point we will return to the Orders of the Day. Proceed to item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Ng.

## Item 2: Ministers' Statements

### Minister's Statement 091 – 1(5): Tax-on-Income

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the Legislative Assembly that beginning with this taxation year, Nunavut will adopt a “tax-on-income” approach to determining its personal income taxes.

Currently, Nunavut income taxes are calculated as a percentage of federal personal income tax. Under the new system, called tax-on-income, Nunavut's personal income tax rates will apply directly to taxable income and not to basic federal tax.

While this concept sounds complicated it will lead to a more streamlined approach to calculating Nunavut's personal income tax and give our government more flexibility in determining its own personal tax rates and making more accurate revenue projections.

Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the House that this change will not result in any Nunavut taxpayer paying any additional personal income tax. This change is simply a different way of calculating Nunavut's personal taxes.

All provincial governments across Canada have adopted this approach to determining personal income taxes, except the province of Quebec which has used this method since the second world war. Both the Yukon and the Northwest Territories will also be adopting this method for the 2001 taxation year.

The Canada Customs and Revenue Agency will continue to administer Nunavut personal income tax as they do in all jurisdictions across Canada, except for the province of Quebec and they will continue to do so at no cost to our government. Furthermore Mr. Speaker, those who file personal income taxes will continue to have the benefit of a single Canada and Nunavut tax return.

Mr. Speaker, adopting tax on income for this tax year will save the Government of Nunavut approximately 200 thousand dollars in implementation costs that would normally be required to adopt this method of determining territorial income taxes. This is due to our co-operation with the Government of Canada in adopting this approach.

Mr. Speaker, I will be introducing legislation implementing the changes required for the Nunavut Income Tax in the fall session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Ng. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

**Minister's Statement 092 – 1(5): Nunavut Economic Outlook**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. (interpretation ends) I rise to inform this House today of a recent publication of a report by the Conference Board of Canada, "Nunavut Economic Outlook: An Examination of the Nunavut Economy".

As many members are aware this report was commissioned jointly by the Department of Sustainable Development, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. We asked the Conference Board of Canada to conduct an independent study of the Nunavut economy, the first since the creation of the territory.

Mr. Speaker, I believe all members of this House will find this report to be of great interest. The Conference Board of Canada provides an optimistic outlook for the Nunavut economy and they forecast a sustained rate of growth in our wage economy of 2.42 percent a year for the next 20 years.

The Conference Board points out the future development of the Nunavut economy must include a commitment to traditional economic activity as well as the sectors which they identify as having the greatest potential for growth; mining, fishing and tourism. Mr. Speaker, the Conference Board of Canada report states that our future economic growth is dependent on four factors.

The extent to which we invest in our knowledge of our resource potential. For example, the extent of fisheries, minerals and wildlife resources;

The extent to which we invest in the education and skills of our people;

The extent to which we support the organizational structures needed to encourage economic development; and

The extent to which we invest in the infrastructure needed to foster economic growth such as ports, roads, community harbours and waste treatment facilities.

The Conference Board of Canada also notes the future growth of the Nunavut economy is dependent on this government's ability to attract more investment. Particularly from the Federal Government.

The Board stresses the need to establish productive economic partnerships with the federal government, with municipal governments, Inuit organizations and the private sector. Mr. Speaker, for the first time, current information on the Nunavut economy has been assembled in one document. Today I will table the executive summary and distribute copies of the full report to all members as soon as it is available in translation.

Over the next several months I will also ensure that all interested persons, organizations and the members of the business community receive copies of this report. My hope is that

the Nunavut Economic Outlook will encourage discussion and debate about our economic future, which will be a great assistance to this government in the development of our economic strategy for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister Thompson.

**Minister's Statement 093 – 1(5): Homeowners' Programs**

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Good morning Mr. Speaker. I am also very pleased as I think this is the last day of our session and some people are leaving today Mr. Speaker, and some of us will be leaving tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give the members an update on the Nunavut Housing Corporation's support for Nunavut's homeowners. Mr. Speaker, the Minister's Task Force on Housing directed the Nunavut Housing Corporation to revise the current homeowner programs to access all available funding through federal government departments that assist Nunavummiut in meeting their housing needs.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce today that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has improved the existing emergency repair program, a program that enables existing homeowners to complete emergency repairs to their homes. Also, in recognition of the higher costs in the north, this grant has been increased from 8 thousand 242 dollars to 15 thousand dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to announce that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will offer a renovation program for homeowners. Depending on the client's income, they may receive a forgivable loan up to a maximum of 33 thousand 750 dollars to renovate their home.

Mr. Speaker, the emphasis of the program will be on health, safety and fuel efficiency. Where eligible, those renovation programs will be partnered by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, thereby reducing the Nunavut Housing Corporation's contribution and allowing the Corporation to assist more residents.

Mr. Speaker, this is good news for Nunavummiut that would like to become homeowners. The Nunavut Housing Corporation will continue to offer the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program. We would also like to recognize the benefits of new construction in our communities for economic development, employment and increasing the number of homes in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, to encourage continued new construction in our communities, we have increased the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program grant for new construction to 25 thousand dollars.

Clients purchasing existing homes will still be eligible for a grant of 15 thousand dollars for their downpayment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Thank you, thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

**Minister's Statement 094 – 1(5): World No Tobacco Day – May 31, 2001**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is a hard act to follow this morning, Minister Thompson's statements. Congratulations.

>>*Laughter*

Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Ullakkuut, Uqaqti. Mr. Speaker, May 31 is a very important day. May 31 Mr. Speaker, throughout the world is World No Tobacco Day. I have spoken many times in this Assembly Mr. Speaker, about the serious health problems caused by tobacco.

I probably do not have to tell you again Mr. Speaker, that in Nunavut more of our young people smoke cigarettes than in any other part of Canada, or that smoking causes the majority of our cancers here in Nunavut.

Instead, today Mr. Speaker, I want to talk to you about what this year's theme for World No Tobacco Day is. The theme is: Second Hand Smoke Kills, Let's Clear The Air. The effects of second hand smoke are many and serious Mr. Speaker, especially for our children. Second hand smoke is associated with respiratory disease, middle ear infections, asthma attacks and sudden infant death syndrome.

But Mr. Speaker, our smoking has another hidden effect. We teach our children to respect us and to respect the choices we make in our lives as adults. When they watch us do good things, we expect them to follow us. So when they see us doing things that are bad for our health, how can we expect them to understand why they should not follow our example.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services, and our colleagues in Education are doing what we can to combat this serious problem. We continue to release anti-smoking ads on television, we continue to seek out informational and promotional materials for distribution to schools and to health centres in our communities. We also Mr. Speaker, continue to work with the Department of Education on developing Mr. Speaker, a curriculum for young people.

Our schools continue to enforce policies Mr. Speaker, to ban smoking on school grounds like we see right now in Cambridge Bay, we have to smoke out on the road. Mr. Speaker.

My department can do its part by creating public awareness about the dangers of smoking but we can't do it alone.

Everyone Mr. Speaker, everyone has a role to play. So Mr. Speaker, on World No Tobacco Day, I would challenge Nunavummiut to do whatever you can to help make our municipalities smoke free. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Picco. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Ng.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 232 - 1(5): Events During Cambridge Bay Session**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As this historic first sitting of the Legislature in the Kitikmeot Region in Cambridge Bay comes to a close, I would like to acknowledge and thank a few people and individuals. First of all, those involved in the welcoming feast, organizers and volunteers, Commissioner Irniq for his attendance and for giving Commissioner's Awards that evening.

The Cambridge Bay dancers and drummers. The Kitikmeot Youth Square Dancers who on several occasions got to perform for us. The Frolics organizing committee and volunteers over the course of that first long weekend. The Elks Lodge members for sponsoring activities and more particularly the childcare society auction. The dinner and auction I understand raised a record 30 thousand dollars for the Childcare Society.

>>Applause

The Killiniq High school Vice-Principal Judy Cherniak in particular, Kullik Elementary School here, Principal Dawn Wilson. All the teachers and students for giving up their gym time, some of their classrooms to support us. For providing pages and generally for co-operating while we slightly disrupted their schedules.

To Mayor Keith Petersen and the SAO Elwood Johnson, all the Hamlet staff for their support in assisting with the set up and the on-going support while we are here in the community. To the Government of Nunavut staff. Many of them in particular Doug Crossley, Annie Kaotaluk and Brent Boddy and the Public Works staff for their assistance again in setting up offices and giving up offices for some of our colleagues while we were here.

To the Legislative Assembly staff of course. Some of the advance team that came over to set things up and to make sure things continued on in as orderly and organized fashion as possible when you have to deal with 19 MLAs.

Over the course of the week and a half, two weeks we've been here Mr. Speaker, we've also carried out a lot of business contrary to some media suggestions and we had 5 Bills that were actually passed and couple of significant ones that had to be done. The Loan Authorization Act, the Supplementary Appropriation Act to allow to capital projects to continue on this year. The centrepiece during our the midnight sun sitting was the new Integrity Act which all members know is the first piece of legislation representative of our legislature.

Mr. Speaker, while we were here we had an opportunity, as I indicated in my opening statement, to get to out to the other parts of the region. We had an opportunity to go out east to Kugaaruk, Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven. There was another trip yesterday evening to Kugluktuk and we had an opportunity to go down to view the BHP Ekati Diamond mining operation.

We had pages come in from Nattilik, my colleagues Mr. Puqiqnak's riding. We had a Sergeant-At-Arms from Kugluktuk, Mr. Haviyok's riding. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognise and thank the people of the constituency for their warm welcome and hospitality they extended to all members and to all the staff, and all the visitors that were here in the session.

Finally, I'd like to thank my colleagues for their support in holding the session this far West. I know some individuals had reservations about that but overall I think they will find that it was a rewarding experience.

Mr. Speaker, to close things off, to commemorate the first sitting in the Kitikmeot and Cambridge Bay, I'd like to bring to the Legislature a carving. I will ask Mr. Jimmy Haniliak who is the carver to come over and to unveil it for us while I am speaking, Jimmy.

I hope when we get back to Iqaluit it'll always bring fond memories for all members of their time that they spent here in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ng. Members' Statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

### **Member's Statement 233 - 1(5): Workload During Session**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today being the last day of the sitting, I also want to state that quite often the media will not report all of the things we did here but will only concentrate on some specific issues.

But Mr. Speaker, as the member has just stated we have done a lot of work during our stay here in Cambridge Bay. Since March there are about 10 Bills that we have dealt with. We have a binder full of work, perhaps three inches thick, that we have completed.



We have meetings first thing in the morning and sit during the day and while we have been in Cambridge Bay we have travelled to four communities. Last night some members travelled to Kugluktuk. We visited the BHP mine during this sitting.

I think people need to realize how much work we have done. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to talk about the work that we deal with. A lot of the work we do is overwhelming. There are some Bills that we deal with for 6-10 months. When we visit the communities quite often community residents express their appreciation for the work that we have done.

A lot of times we go to the communities. People are out camping and people have to travel back to Iqaluit to do some work. I know the communities recognise the hard work that we do. I'd like to thank the community of Cambridge Bay for their warm welcome.

I remember the first time that I came to Cambridge Bay was about 25 years ago. There are a lot of new faces. At that time we didn't know where we were heading while dealing with Land Claims. We didn't realise that we would be able to deal with Bills.

Quite often we didn't know where we were heading but I think we have done pretty well since we have been here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like unanimous consent to conclude my statement. I am just about done.

**Speaker:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Proceed Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. When we are travelling to far places, quite often we are gone for a month. The last day is always the hardest day because you get anxious to go home.

During my trip here in Cambridge Bay, I have seen young children. I often think of my two little boys that I dearly love. They are the best children in the whole wide world and I miss them dearly. So I am glad tomorrow evening I will be able to hug them.

Lastly I just wanted to say "Angigaqsipaa", which means I yearn to go home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter and Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Just to remind the members, we have a long day ahead of us. So try to stay within your time frame. Ms. Williams.

**Member's Statement 234 - 1(5): Cambridge Bay Youth Mock Assembly Session**

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the contribution of Patti Bligh's grade 7 class. The class sat here last Thursday afternoon in a mock assembly session.

Mr. Speaker, this mock session was an excellent way for youth to experience the workings of our government. We saw the students as cute and they were very cute. But, they demonstrated a very important point.

Mr. Speaker, when I sat here following the session I noticed that an MMA, as a member of the mock assembly, raised a question about why there aren't bigger drug busts in the communities and why beer dances are allowed by the RCMP.

Mr. Speaker, the grade 7 students had two very important concerns and these concerns are ones that I as an elected member of the Legislative Assembly cannot ignore. Drug abuse and alcohol abuse are issues in every community of Nunavut.

I agree there should be things done to deal with alcohol and drug problems in our communities. To be successful in dealing with our drug and alcohol problems in our communities it will take all of us from grade 7 students to parents to RCMP members, and MLAs together. Working together.

I want to thank the grade 7 member of the mock assembly for raising these important issues and demonstrating that it takes all members of the community to work together for solutions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Williams. Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Member's Statement 235 - 1(5): Income Tax Forms**

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it is our last day today. At this time I would like to thank the people of Cambridge Bay and the member representing Cambridge Bay.

As you probably noticed we've got the municipal flags in the gym here and they are all represented by members sitting around the table. The member representing Cambridge Bay worked tirelessly during the time that we are sitting here.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns in my constituency regarding filing of income tax returns for people with disabilities. Regarding the T-5007. Mr. Speaker, a while ago the Minister of Health talked about the need for Federal documents to be translated into Inuktitut.

As with hospital documentation, I am echoing this concern in the statement now. Mr. Speaker, the T-5007 is a form sent by the Department of Health & Social Services to people who receive income support.

This form often arrives late, approximately two or three weeks before the deadline for the return. This form should be sent to the people in or around February or March so that they have sufficient time to have their income tax returns prepared. Mr. Speaker, I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, members. Another concern is the disability tax credit form. Mr. Speaker, many people with some type of disability have difficulty in filing income tax returns and getting the special forms that relate to their disability completed.

These forms are also very complicated. Mr. Speaker, these forms must be verified by qualified persons to prove that the person has the disability that he or she claims. In most communities in Nunavut there are no optometrists, audiologists, occupational therapists, psychologists or speech and language pathologists.

As a result Mr. Speaker, many of these people do not receive the credits that they deserve. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be asking the Minister of Health and Social Services questions on this topic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak. Members' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

### **Member's Statement 236 – 1(5): Cambridge Bay Session – Gratitude for Assistance**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to thank the people of Cambridge Bay and the Member of the Legislative Assembly who is representing this community. I join him in thanking the principal Dawn Wilson for giving us this space in the school.

We are also grateful to the people who made the food and ran the many events. Also your staff Mr. Speaker, have worked tirelessly and also the interpreters, thank you very much. Also behind the little blind over there, we see them now and then, the technicians. Thank you.

Also thanks to all my staff Tom Best, Vicky Babinski, Ian Rose and Kathy Okpik. I believe this session was very helpful as we got to see the Kitikmeot portion of Nunavut and Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask that we go to Pangnirtung for the next session.

That's for your consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqittuq.

**Member's Statement 237 – 1(5): Day Trips to Outlying Kitikmeot Communities**

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is unfortunate that I was slow in raising my hand and Mr. Kilabuk beat me to making that statement. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the people of Cambridge Bay and also for our accommodations provided by the Co-op.

Mr. Ng will have to apologize to me, I was supposed to go to the Ekati mine tour but he forgot to inform me. I can forgive the member for that but I think it will be a while and I don't think we are in sync. When we were coming from Kugluktuk and arriving here, he put us in a truck that was completely full. So I haven't quite fully forgiven him yet for anything.

Our session here was extremely educational. We met a lot of people that we never met before and while we were here we had many places to go fishing and to also see the Umingmak Follies that were held here during the session.

One thing that I didn't do was get a muskox, so I will have to come back here and billet myself in Mr. Ng's house and get myself my muskox. I would also like to invite the members and for your consideration to consider Igloolik for the next session. There are good hunting grounds, it is very culturally based, you can go to the floe edge and other such things. It is beautiful country.

So I welcome you all and if you are going to consider going anywhere it would have to be between Pangnirtung and Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my family for being very patient, especially Linda and Marsha and my children. I will be going home possibly on Monday and as Arvaluk said, boy am I homesick. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

**Member's Statement 238 – 1(5): Pauktutiit Amauti Copyright**

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would first like to thank a Member of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Ng and the people of Cambridge Bay, I am very grateful for their hospitality.

However today Mr. Speaker, I will make this as brief as possible. Pauktutiit had a meeting just recently and they spoke about our amautiks. When they spoke about this it touched me personally because it is an integral part of the Inuit culture.

I was given an amautik from the Keewatin region. The amautiik are not just slapped together. There are rules that you have to follow when you are making them. It is not just something that is put together. There are strict rules that you have to follow while you are making your amautik.

During the Pauktutiit meeting, they are saying that they should copyright the design. For example, they mass produce knives, cups and there are all types of ulus and Inukshuks that are made today. One thing I would like to say today Mr. Speaker, is that the Inuit lived with custom law. They were able to work together and complete everything following the rules and regulations.

These amautiks were made, as I said, you can not just slap them together. Just the same as animals are not butchered just like that. There are rules that you have to follow. There are a lot of people out there who don't know these things anymore.

But, Mr. Speaker, since the creation of the Government of Nunavut we are now trying to get all these back and of course we'll invite everyone, we invite all visitors to Nunavut.

But, I have to say the Inuit had their customary laws and that applied to our whole life style. I would the people out there to understand that the Pauktutiit are going to be talking to Federal Government that they be protected from mass production or from being copied by people who don't know the customary laws. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

### **Member's Statement 239 - 1(5): Building a Foundation for Youth**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for my voice. I would like to thank the people here for their hospitality and for providing the facilities for our meeting and also to the member representing Cambridge Bay. I now have had the opportunity to have worked with him. And I congratulate him for a smooth operation during this session in the Kitikmeot region.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak about what kind of foundation we are laying for our young people. Our young people are growing in population. What kind of future will we lay for them. What kind of foundation should we lay and what kind of economic development will they have in their generation.

Yes, I speak to these issues at times but for the people and the communities if we don't work on the foundation of our youth we cannot resolve the problems. It has to start at the

grassroots level, at the community level. Where the elders and the young people work together they can have lesser gaps between them. It is very hard to know what kind of future you hold.

Many young people I am sure don't know what the future holds. We have to be patient in order to have a good future. In order to have a good future whether you are young or old. You have to have very good patience in order to have good success in the future. I know we will go through hardships and we will experience barriers but we have to overcome them in order to achieve and become successful.

When we look at the elders we think that maybe they never even went through hardship as young people do today. But, I would like to tell the young people that is what we have experienced too. We went through hardships and experienced problems. After you overcome them you can become a successful person.

When we were in Rankin Inlet during the spring session it was enjoyable also, but this session has been very interesting.

However we have to use our common sense, because a travelling legislature is very expensive. Many communities are requesting programs and services at their level. They see the session as very expensive and here they are asking for more funding for programs and services. So we have to use our logic and common sense and remember that there is also a housing crisis.

They see that they need funds for housing and for educational facilities. So these are some of the problems that my communities are concerned about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Member's Statement 240 – 1(5): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit & Traditional Laws**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Member for Cambridge Bay for his hard work and also the residents. I would also like to say that the three regions, Kitikmeot, Baffin and Keewatin, ever since we became the Nunavut Government I have been travelling to other communities, in all the three regions.

It has effected my personal life because when I was campaigning I used the platform if Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and I have seen that in the various communities that we have toured from the elders, the youth and the middle aged persons.

I would like to give them further support in their meetings when they are trying to deal with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. When you are given encouragement, you want to work

even harder at something. Our life as aboriginal people of Nunavut, we were losing our traditions and culture but now we want to strengthen them as we look at them closer.

It is evident today that we may have different legislation today than our traditional ways. We are still not using our traditional laws fully to the extent that we should be because we are not used to the western statutes. In spite of that we are still at the learning stage and starting to understand the fact that we were forgetting our cultural values and traditions.

Especially our language. Yesterday it was very hard when I had to make my comments in the House and I wanted people to be aware as Chairperson I was giving the members a title before their names, Upinaqtuq, to show respect.

I used my own dialect, angajuqara meaning your superior. I want people of Nunavut and Members of the Legislature to know about this too.

We are looking for managers and also we still haven't fully integrated the traditional knowledge and values and we need to integrate them further into the system in the future. Residents of Nunavut, I am requesting your support. Please do not hesitate to talk to me and converse with me so that I will have a clear idea and I can then represent my people.

I cannot work on my own but I need the support of all the residents of Nunavut to resolve some of the issues that are in front of us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Mr. Nutarak.

### **Member's Statement 241 – 1(5): Homeowners' Statement**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to express my gratitude to the residents of Cambridge Bay for the great food that they have been providing us at their homes and they have been very receptive. So I would like to express my gratitude. I would also like to tell my stepfather, I found an individual in Cambridge Bay, a girl who was named after my mother here in the Kitikmeot region. My family is grateful for that.

Also when the ministers make their statements, they are always interesting to hear, but in regards to the Housing Corporation's statement it was especially interesting. Especially for the homeowners and that there will be more benefits for them.

It was very interesting to hear that and I would like to congratulate you on that. But if we see more application forms and too much paperwork to qualify, it will be quite disappointing to see. I am not too sure, there will be questions there, yes, no or maybe, on that application under the minister's statement.

Today is the last day of our session. The standing committee has to travel to three communities right after this session. Some members will be going to Iqaluit tomorrow, if the weather is good. I will be going home and perhaps then I will see my grandchild on Monday evening. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 242 – 1(5): Gratitude to Cambridge Bay Residents & Hunting Rights**

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I almost thought you forgot me and you finally mentioned my name.

(interpretation ends) I would like to thank the Cambridge Bay people for their very warm hospitality while we were here. Also I haven't thanked Kristi Aknavigak for that binder she provided me. Also the elders here in the community for the feast yesterday, they invited me for their lunch and for the apartment that we lived in.

(interpretation) Also I would like to thank individuals from Cambridge Bay for taking us out on the land. Also to my colleagues for eating the animal that I harvested. I cannot tell you that I am a great hunter, but our creator gave me the animals and the right to harvest them. I hear some people saying that person is a great hunter, and people talk about great hunters, but I can tell you that we each have talents that were given to us as gifts by our creator. So I would like to thank the people for eating the food.

I still have caribou meat in my freezer if anybody is interested. They are welcome to come and have some frozen caribou meat. Also that rock that I brought from Sanikiluaq for the tent ring, I will be leaving it behind. Please take care of it.

>>Laughter

To my colleague, the Member for Cambridge Bay, I would like to thank him for providing us with snowmobiles and outdoor equipment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

**Member's Statement 243 - 1(5): Cape Dorset Graduation Ceremonies**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I'd like thank my wife for being patient while I was out on the road and I would like to thank her for being supportive. Also, I would like to thank Mr. Ng, Member for Cambridge Bay for



being available to us at all times and Bill Lyall for lending me his snowmobile. Also, Kia Nakashuk who gave me a gift and also my staff, Jane Cooper and Steve Hanna.

I rise today to speak about the students who will be graduating in my community on May 31, 2001. The parents were in full support in getting their children to complete their education.

I would like thank the parents and also the teachers who taught the students. I will mention their names and I would also like to thank them again and congratulate them for completing their education.

First of all, David Joanasie, Elisapee Qimikpee, Lucy Utuqi, Johnnyboo Ashevak, Mathew Jaw and Etidloi Toonoo. So, these are the students that will be graduating their grade 12 this year on May 31st. Also, on another topic, our pages from Gjoa Haven have been here for a week and I would like to thank them.

Irene Kayutinuaq, Sheila Tularialik, Chuck Bissell Lyall, Meagan Lyall and Jacob Jayko. So, we'd like to extend our gratitude and to the pages and also Mr. Puqiqnak for bringing the students here as pages.

And, last week our pages were from Cambridge Bay. We would like to thank Roland Wilcox, Terry Niptanatiak, Lucy Kablumik, Maggie Aknavigak, Sarah Akoak, Ryan Kioganan, JJ Evalik, Trisha Ogina, Clarissa Kabluginak, John Paul Tologanak, Crystal Kamiulik and Jason Akugak.

These are the students that were pages last week and I would like to thank them again. And also the first ones that I mentioned were from Taloyoak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Akesuk for acknowledging the pages that have served here for the last two weeks. Members' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

#### **Member's Statement 244 - 1(5): Trip to Kugluktuk**

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to talk about our visit to Kugluktuk with the ministers. I just want to let my riding know that although it was short notice, perhaps we will be in the community again sometime.

I want to thank my colleagues that went to Kugluktuk yesterday, many thanks to you all. I wanted to mention their names. Minister Thompson, Minister Picco, Minister Kilabuk, Minister Kattuk, Minister Anawak and Minister Akesuk.

I thank you all for coming to my community to visit. Also my colleagues, Ovide Alakannuark thank you for coming. To Rebekah Williams, I want to thank you for speaking about our language.

I also want to say thank you very much to the residents of Cambridge Bay. It seems like this is my second home because I have many relatives, although I will be leaving for my own home tomorrow. Thank you very much for allowing us to do our work with a lot of support around. Thank you very much.

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

**Member's Statement 245 – 1(5): Working Together**

**Hon. Jack Anawak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I thank the MLA for Cambridge Bay, Kelvin Ng and the other MLA for the Kitikmeot Uriash Puqiqnak, David Alakannuark...

>>*Laughter*

...I mean Ovide Alakannuark and Donald Haviyok. A lot of the people of Cambridge Bay and the other Kitikmeot communities deserve a pat on the back for the efforts that they have made and the success that they have had in making this legislative session a successful one. Qujannamiik, thank you very much.

(interpretation) We have really enjoyed our visit. The hospitality was very good and during our discussions statements were made about the government disagreeing with each other. We are working together and although sometimes it seems that we disagree, I think we are learning from each other.

When you look at the posters that are on the stage here in the gym, it talks about a brighter future and what we can do to make our lives better. I think that as the Members of the Legislative Assembly, there is talk in the community but I think since the government was established here in our land, people started to go against each other. But it was not our culture originally to go against each other.

I think it is just from what we had learned and it was brought into our communities and I think we learned quite fast as Inuit. So I think we need to work closely together as a government, as Members of the Legislative Assembly.

We have to look back at how we used to work closely together and remember how hard we worked to set up our own government. The people are looking at us and we are working to voice the Nunavut residents' concerns.

I think we need to work together to do this. We need to be strong and take the good things that we need, like how life was and good things from our culture. When people start to disagree with each other or have disputes it is not a good feeling so I think we need to work at working together more closely together not just as members but as Nunavummiut and remember how hard we worked to make Nunavut a reality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Anawak. Members' Statements. Mr. Picco.

**Member's Statement 246 - 1(5): NavCanada Radar Site in Iqaluit**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before I begin my Member's Statement, this is the last day and I would like to congratulate two individuals. First of all, Mr. Speaker, a constituent and friend Ms. Pat Arnakak who was sworn in as Deputy Commissioner for Nunavut recently in Iqaluit while I was here. So I would like to congratulate Pat on her appointment.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Alain Carriere's daughter Sarah who was recently chosen as a page for the House of Commons in Ottawa representing all of Nunavut as well as the valedictorian for her graduating class. I should add Mr. Speaker, you know Sarah, this exceptional lady, speaks Inuktitut and fluent French as well as English. She finished her last academic year in the south and will be coming home this summer. I would like to congratulate Sarah and Pat.

Mr. Speaker, recently in Iqaluit we learned of a plan by NavCanada to install a new radar site in our community. Now Mr. Speaker, little consultation had taken place and the prime location is identified by NavCanada as an area approximately 2.5 kilometres from the end of the Road to Nowhere, near the old sand pit there.

Mr. Speaker, the road to nowhere area as you know is quite heavily used by residents for berry picking, for barbequing, walking as well as camping. It is very scenic and picturesque.

Mr. Speaker, no one is denying the issue of air safety or increased radar support for our domestic and now Mr. Speaker, for the transatlantic and international air flights in the Iqaluit area. But, Mr. Speaker, many residents are concerned about the possible intrusion in this area by the radar site. Mr. Speaker, I have spoken to the City of Iqaluit senior administration people as well as spoken to representatives of the HTA on this issue.

My understanding is that the HTA will endorse the preferred site of NavCanada if certain conditions are met. But, many residents have still not endorsed that particular proposal or location.

Mr. Speaker, my research indicates that five possible sites have been identified by NavCanada. I believe we have not have a chance to have a second look at some of these alternative sites before this final decision could be made.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, the next step is for the Iqaluit City Council to address the NavCanada proposal and the NavCanada chosen location. I have been contacted by several constituents on this issue and I will be speaking to NavCanada, the Chairman as

you know the CEO and President of NavCanada used to live in Iqaluit and used to be in charge of First Air and we know him quite well.

I will be speaking to the President of NavCanada and our mayor when I return to Iqaluit later this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

### **Member's Statement 247 – 1(5): Government of Nunavut & NEU Negotiations**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before I get into my member's statement I would like to take this opportunity of our last sitting day here to thank a few individuals.

The first ones that I would like to thank are Bill and Kathy Gofton for taking me into their home while I was here, they were very nice and I appreciate the hospitality that they showed. I would also like to give a special thanks to David and Annie Aklak, who is an old friend of mine from high school and thanks to him I was able to go out and go hunting and see this beautiful country that we have around here.

It was also an opportunity to see some old friends. Friends like Larry Aknavigak, Harry Aknavigak, Helen Tologanak and old friends that I went to school with Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring another perspective on the issue of the recent negotiations between the Government of Nunavut and our employees in the Nunavut Employees' Union. Yesterday we heard in this House some very strong comments concerning the conduct of the union over the past weeks and months leading up to the recent vote on the government's final offer.

Mr. Speaker, as members know, I also have strong views on the need for a relationship between the government and the union that is based on respect. To be honest Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that the comments made yesterday in this House were helpful in moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, I don't agree with everything that was done on either side of the recent dispute and speculating about personal agendas is just as needlessly confrontational as other tactics. Mr. Speaker, all of us as elected members felt the heat from our constituents on this issue. That's part of our job. Whether we are being petitioned to take a specific stance or through other means.

Mr. Speaker, earlier during the session I suggested that the way to go in the future for our jurisdiction would be to allow arbitration in the event that the bargaining process does not succeed. In a jurisdiction where many families simply cannot afford to go on strike because of the fear of losing their homes or the ability to feed their children, this would

avoid a climate where accepting any offer that is on the table is seen to be better than the alternative.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that when we reconvene in Iqaluit for the fall session, that the government will be in a position to tell the House that it has had a constructive summer building bridges to its employees and their representatives and not tearing them down. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Mr. Tootoo, just a comment on your statement and that it does border on a point of order given the fact that it relates to the point of order that you raised yourself earlier that is still under review and has still not been ruled on by the chair.

In the spirit of trying to keep harmony in the House, we will let it go and I would remind members that in the future that when something has not yet been ruled on that members should stay away from it until it has been ruled on.

Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

#### **Member's Statement 248 – 1(5): Gratitude to Cambridge Bay Residents**

**Mr. McLean:** Koana, Uqaqti. Uqaqti, this is my last day in Cambridge Bay and I would like to thank everybody for their warm welcome. Like I said earlier when I first got here this was my last home before I moved to Qamanittuaq.

I would like to thank the Mayor Keith Peterson, he has been vigilant and here every day watching us and I hope he has been impressed. I would like to thank the hard working MLA for this riding that convinced us in a long debate to have the session here. There were detractors, but he finally got his way and convinced us to come this way.

I would like to thank Dawn Wilson and the kids of this elementary school for giving up their gym and letting us sit here and listen to our debate. I want to thank all the staff for their hard work because I know it has been stressful on them, there's a lot of hours that they put in behind the scenes.

I would like to thank the interpreters for putting up with my fast talking and I would like to thank just everybody for making our stay warm and welcome. I felt really good here, I felt that this sitting was equal to Rankin's in regards to friendliness and I am hoping in the future, if we have Assembly sittings in other communities they make us feel this way.

I would also like to thank the people of Uqsuqtuq for their warm friendliness when we went over there to visit them. Taloyoak, and I must point out that the mayor there gave me a bit of advice when I was in sort of a grumpy mood. He said relax Glenn, Nunavut is still an infant. It is only two years old, it will get better. So I thank the mayor there for his good advice.

I would also like to thank the community of Kugaaruk and John Ningark and his wife for the fresh caribou heart stew that we all enjoyed over there and the coffee and I still think that John Ningark has the best lot in Nunavut when it comes to view. I would also like to take the time to thank the press. I guess, if we are not keeping cabinet accountable, behind the scenes and in the corners they whisper things to us in regards to sittings and in this Assembly.

I would also like to point out that there were a few good things that came out of this Assembly. I think the young people that staged the mock Assembly here, there was really a tug at my heart strings here when they were asking questions that maybe we should be asking more in regards to why don't people get more money, why don't people get more houses, why don't people get more of the most basic necessities in life.

I would also like to remind members that the announcement of the parental leave, the Bill was a good one. Minister Thompson's announcement this morning about homeownership and repairs was a good one. That's stuff that this government is being proactive on and Inuit values and beliefs.

We just don't sit around here and debate and have fun after hours, we do serious things and we do try to help the people of Nunavut. So I would like to say once again, before closing, I would like to thank everybody in this community for the hospitality and warmth that I received. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. McLean. I also had a number of thank you's and recognitions and so on to make. Approximately three pages. But after listening to 19 members I really don't have anybody left.

>> *Laughter*

Everybody has been thanked and acknowledged, but I would like to say that the real heroes throughout this whole session and our time spent here in Cambridge Bay have to be the people of Cambridge Bay as Mr. McLean has mentioned.

>> *Applause*

They have to be the friendliest, kindest and nicest people living. When I went in the Northern Store, the Co-op, the local hotel, it has just been a great opportunity for myself and I know for all the members to be here and enjoy that hospitality.

So I think we should all rise now and thank the people of Cambridge Bay and Mr. Ng for allowing us to be a part of their community for the last three weeks.

>> *Applause*

Moving on to the Orders of the Day. I know I am getting signalled here to give consideration to a break, but in the interests of trying to get the work of the Assembly done, we will carry on for another short while.

Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ng.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a few guests in the gallery. Of course we have Mayor Peterson with us again. We have David Panigyuk who is involved with the Elders' Society. We have Kim Crockett who is now with the Literacy Council but heavily involved in the Kitikmeot Heritage Society. Jimmy and Ruby Haniliak, Bobby Kudlak, we have Mary Avalak, our Sergeant-At-Arms.

I would like to recognize a couple of people I haven't recognized yet but they have been with us since day one, that is the camera individuals. We have Bobby Makhagak directly across from me, behind him we have Marjorie Komaktuk, and we have also had three Inuinnaqtun interpreters with us from Cambridge Bay that we don't see often but we hear. James Panioyak, Joe Otokiak, and Gwen Ohokak.

Finally, I would like to also recognize some individuals that have been here with us off and on, that are working in the back and there was one that I was remiss in missing in my member's statement, some of these individuals. The members of the Ladies Group that put on the feast and have been catering our snacks and the bannock and all the things that we have been having during our breaks.

We have Helen Tologanak here with us, we have there in the back there has been Mary Kidlaulak who is the President of the Ladies' Group, Susie Manigyogina, Gwen Tikhak, Kitty Taipaga, Lynn and Jessie Tologanak and Anna Nahogaloak. So I think they all deserve a round of applause too for all that they have done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*>>Applause*

**Speaker:** Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today as this is our last day I want to recognize some people from Cambridge Bay. First of all the mayor from Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson. My cousins, I want to recognize both of them there beside each other, Helen Tologanak and Mary Avalak. Thank you, good to see you both.

My brother-in-law and sister, Jimmy Haniliak and my wife's sister, Ruby Haniliak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*>>Applause*

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not going to recognize visitors at the moment but I would just like to state that Jokeypah from my community said that I never smile when I get up to speak so I would just like to look into the camera and smile at him. Joanna Nutarak, my wife, I would like to thank her for her patience and being there.

**Speaker:** Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a number of people that I would like to recognize at this time since it is our last day.

I would like to recognize Mr. Keith Peterson, the mayor. You did an excellent job while we were here and since it is our last day I would also like to recognize the pages. Chuck Bissell Lyall, Meagan Lyall, Jacob Jayko, Sheila Tularialik, Irene Kayutinuaq, and Nee Porter.

I would like to thank the staff for providing their services here during this session. Thank you, very much. They are from the Taloyoak school. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize my executive assistant for few days, he's done a great job...

**A Member:** He wants to be permanent.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:**...no, he doesn't want the job he says. But he did a really great job as my executive assistant for the last few days since my executive assistance left. He is the director of the Kitikmeot Region for my department Steve Hanna. Thank you Steve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Boy I'm homesick.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation ends) I would like to recognize a constituent of mine who has been interpreting for us all this time, with the rest of the interpreters, Jeanne Kusugak who is



sitting there in the interpreter booth. She's been a friend of mine for a long, long time and sometimes even when we just look at each other, we just start laughing because we remember all the good times and we've had a lot of good times. She used to live with us in Yellowknife for a year and she also used to baby sit my son Trevor along with other girls who went to Akaitcho Hall.

And I would like to also say Happy Reunion to all the Akaitcho Hall students for this summer and I'm not switching my EA at this time because he's the best in the country at this time.

Say hi to my husband. (interpretation) And I thank all the people of Cambridge Bay and out of Cambridge Bay, my parents and in Salluit Maggie and Mark, I say hi to the people of Nunavik and also to my riding in Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove.

**Speaker:** Thank you Ms. Thompson. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to recognize a couple of people. The translators and interpreters of course who have been with us, you have done an excellent job over the past several days and Mr. McLean you speak a bit fast coming from east coast, I know it's sometimes difficult so I appreciate good work on their behalf.

Also Mr. Speaker, there is an individual who is here, who me and Mr. Akasuk have enjoyed the services of. He's what we call the water boy, he's sitting behind me and I just want to welcome him to the gallery officially and he threw us for spin earlier when we asked what his name was and he said his name was Chuck and we thought he said Picco and I said, my god there can't be two Piccos in Cambridge Bay and I asked him to spell it out and of course it was Pizzo, so I would like to take this opportunity to welcome a compatriot, a very good fine young gentleman, a son of our good friend Charlie Lyall. Mr. Chuck Pizzo Lyall, welcome to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the mayor who was tremendously helpful during our session here. And also our interpreters who like they are usually right, usually don't like my statements, I just do orally and I'm sure that it's hard on the interpreters at times. I would like to thank them all and also recognize them all.

I've been travelling for a long time and I never said hello to my wife, so I will take this opportunity now to say hi to my wife and my children and they have grown up while I was still on the road, it's been approximately 20 years since I was travelling.

And also Manitok for making delicious food for us over those weeks and also Ms. Rebekah Williams. I would like to thank everyone at the clerk's table, they have been very helpful to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I believe some of the members are calling for a health break. Before we move on to Item 6 which is Oral Questions, we will take a 15 minute break and return back to the Chamber.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 11.51 a.m. and resumed at 12.35 p.m.*

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

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a member from my constituency of Uqsuqtuq, he has been carving for the past 27 years and he has been working for Northwestel and for the past 18 years, he's been the cable man. He recently received a plaque from Northwestel recognizing his service and his name is Tommy Porter.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I never thought having a session in Cambridge Bay that I'd be able to recognize a constituent of mine. I'd like to recognize Phoebe Hainnu, back there and Sue Cooper, that are here from Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

### **Speaker's Ruling on Point of Order**

**Speaker:** Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Before we proceed to Item 6. I have the interim ruling on Mr. Tootoo's point of order.

I'll read from the text here, the Member for Iqaluit Centre raised a point of order in relation to a document which was tabled yesterday by the Member from Cambridge Bay.

The document in question was a copy of an e-mail correspondence between an unknown number of individuals received from an unidentified source. Prior to tabling the document, the member quoted from it in his member's statement. It is important to note that the correspondence was not addressed to the member, as the member himself noted in describing its contents.

While there is no general prohibition on the tabling of private correspondence, or indeed e-mail correspondence, the language used and the comments made must be such that they would be in order if spoken by a member.

Further when such correspondence are referred to there must be some way of authenticating the source as stated in the House of Commons Procedure and Practice Rules, page 5.17.

Accordingly the document tabled is out of order.

I'm directing the Clerk to withdraw the e-mailed correspondence from the working papers of this Assembly until further review of the full and complete document. During the debate of the point of order earlier today, the Member for Cambridge Bay indicated that he would be willing if so directed to table the document in question with the names of the correspondents not blacked out. The Chair must advise members that it has not yet had sufficient time to consider the very important issue of whether it is appropriate for any member to table what appears to be a private communication between individuals not intended for the member or for general public distribution.

This is a non-precedented procedural question in our Assembly and the Chair wishes to proceed with this with the utmost caution. It is mindful of the comments made earlier with respect to the need to ensure a balance for the members' right to draw attention to public issues and the right of all residents to appropriate levels of privacy, especially in respect to the statements that may have been intended for private communication only.

I've asked the member from Cambridge Bay to present the Chair with the original version of the document so the Chair will have all the facts at his disposal prior to delivering the final ruling, which I intend to serve as guidance for all members in the future.

I would further suggest that the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges, which is currently engaged in the process of reviewing the rules of this House, may wish to consider bringing forward recommendations for all members with respect to the procedures and protocols concerning the tabling of documents in this House.

Copies of this ruling and its translation will be provided to all members in the very near future. Thank you.

To item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

#### **Question 263 – 1(5): Kivalliq Transmission Pre-Feasibility & Feasibility Studies**

**Mr. McLean:** Koana, Uqaqti. Uqaqti, today my question is to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Power Corporation. Uqaqti, he tabled his Kivalliq Line Transmission Pre-Feasibility Study and I want to go back a little bit and I will try to keep my preamble short.

The minister showed a lot of vision by going out and creating the Nunavut Power Corporation and I give him a lot of credit for that. I think he did the right thing at the right time. The future will tell us if it was the right decision and in my humble opinion I think it was the right decision at this point.

Getting back to the Kivalliq Transmission Line Pre-Feasibility Study, there are a lot of as, whens, ifs, buts, how, maybe, we don't know, too much, too little, things like that. There is a lot of innuendo in sixteen or seventeen pages. When they built the CNR in this great country of ours there were a lot of naysayers also and I know the Kivalliq Transmission Line Pre-Feasibility Study affects one region.

But, I think that it will benefit all of Nunavut and there are a lot of questions in here in regards to if there is more consumption, if we convert to this, if we convert to that, if the price of diesel fuel goes up, fossil fuels, greenhouse effects and things like that. But we are talking about a basic need that people in Nunavut need and it is called power.

Whether we generate it ourselves and export it that will give us revenue. Whether we import it that may save us money down the road. When utility companies invest in power and lines it is a long term investment.

So my question today to the minister responsible, where is he going to go at this point with this Kivalliq Transmission Study and will he go into a feasibility study in the very near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all I would be remiss in not thanking the member for his excellent compliments to yours truly. I thank you sincerely for those comments, Mr. McLean.

I think it is fair to point out Mr. Speaker, that the pre-feasibility study was done in conjunction with the Northwest Territories Power Corporation along with the Manitoba Hydro, prior to division. After division we had to set up a new power corporation as the member has stated. Now what the Manitoba Hydro Commission study states is basically that it is technically possible to build a line.

That's what the pre-feasibility states. However Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to note as the member has just said himself, we should look at what alternatives are out there. Is there the possibility for wind generation, hydro development and so on. The Kivalliq Transmission Study never answered many of the basic facts.

What do we do with the increase in the oil, diesel generation. Everyone in this room, everyone in Nunavut receives their power supply directly from diesel generation. Mr. Speaker, we know that there need to be alternative mechanisms in place. Mr. Speaker, what I am about to do Mr. Speaker, is bring forward to my cabinet colleagues an

opportunity to look at some of the alternative energy options that are available to this government.

I have heard what the member has had to say, I have heard what my colleagues on this side of the House have had to say, I have heard what the Nunavummiut have had to say. What I would like to do Mr. Speaker, as the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation is to move forward on the next stage of this program. That is to look at the alternatives that present themselves.

The Manitoba Hydro link, as the member has pointed out is only one option. There are some other provinces, Saskatchewan for example has hydro lines directly on the Nunavut border that may be interested in power transmission. So our next point would be Mr. Speaker, is for a thorough study of Nunavut's alternative energy opportunities and potential and then Mr. Speaker, to look at whatever types of emerging technologies we may be able to use and Mr. Speaker, I am in the process of trying to bring that forward as we speak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is nice to see that myself and the minister are on the same wave length here when it comes to power in Nunavut. In the pre-feasibility study it says, "that in these circumstances we recommend that the pre-feasibility study be used as a starting point for a thorough study of Nunavut's energy options, including hydro transmission lines, wind power, low head hydro and other emerging technologies".

Mr. Speaker, when we brought this issue up and you brought it up as a regular member yourself two years ago and I followed up in the last year or so, the issue here is the transmission line from wherever it is, Manitoba or Saskatchewan into the Kivalliq. Now the reason that we are pushing this and emphasizing it is that there may be some mines on the bubble. We know there is tremendous mining potential and we can't go to the mining companies and say listen if you guys open up the mine will you buy power from us.

They are going to say sure, if you can deliver at a certain price. On this he wants to do a study of all Nunavut a thorough study of Nunavut's energy options. This could take years. Could the minister commit today that he would look at doing a thorough study of all Nunavut's power options, but also try to fast track this transmission study or the next part of this transmission line in the Kivalliq also.

So there are two different things here that I would like to see the minister commit to doing. Do the thorough of Nunavut's energy options, but also maybe fast track this and see where he can go with it immediately on the transmission line. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all I think this line of debate here today gives us an opportunity to look at something in Nunavut, for a vision. You have to be able to strategically look ahead and have some vision.

When we went forward with the power corporation creating the Nunavut Power Corporation, there were quite a few people within government, outside of government, in the private sector, in the public sector, in the Northwest Territories, in Hay River in the head office saying it can't be done, it wouldn't be done. Minister Picco is out to lunch moving forward.

I believe we proved that by hiring I think it was sixteen individuals, all from Baker Lake that we were able to move forward. That takes guts, that takes vision. What I am saying now Mr. Speaker, is that we need to be able to look at the full range of energy alternatives available to people in Nunavut.

A few weeks ago, I brought to cabinet an opportunity to do this and my cabinet colleagues have given me the direction to look at those alternatives and I am doing exactly what Mr. McLean has asked me to do.

Mr. Speaker, at the same time the Manitoba Hydro Transmission Line has not fallen off the wagon. I have had discussions as late as this past April in Rankin Inlet with the people from Manitoba Hydro on the next steps and I hope to be able to follow that up. At the same time Mr. Speaker, you cannot be afraid to look at some of the potential down the road.

I have been in communications with the power corporation and the mining interests in the Keewatin. They have approached the power corporation. I am not at liberty to discuss some of those things right now, those types of things. But we are following that up, there are some opportunities there with the power corporation. I would suggest to you Mr. Speaker, that I appreciate the support the members have given me as the Minister for the Power Corporation and I will ask for their support and let's have some vision here and look at the alternatives.

Low head hydro technology Mr. Speaker, at the present time means that you don't have to have major dams or reservoirs. Mr. Speaker, that is environmentally friendly, that is one of the potential technologies that we need to be able to look at. Look at solar power Mr. Speaker, and potential wind energy.

But to do that Mr. Speaker, I may have to move away from the power corporation and have some type of corporate entity and that's the direction we are taking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Koana, Uqaqti. Uqaqti, the minister brings up a very valid point of moving maybe this tremendous task of studying Nunavut's future power needs, because I think we have to look at thirty or forty years down the road, not just two or three.

Nobody has, we don't have the expertise, I'll be the first one to recognize that we don't have the expertise in our territory to really go out and look at alternate sources of power, or talk about looking for funding, outside sources of funding.

The minister brought that point up, would the minister commit to the House that he will go out and look for outside sources of funding to maybe finance this Kivalliq transmission line. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, not only would I commit to looking at the alternatives, Mr. Speaker, I've said we're moving forward in that direction.

Right now under the auspices of the Nunavut Power Corporation Implementation Secretariat, NPCIS, we have some of the best utility minds available in the country. They put together the Ikuma Report One. We also did the Transmission Line Pre-Feasibility study that the member has been referring to, the tabled document.

Mr. Speaker, we need to be able to move forward aggressively with the climate that we have right now, the Federal Government has been talking about other alternative energy sources, we've seen the price of diesel rising. Minister Thompson has been talking about that.

There are several recommendation in the Ikuma report which we are trying to follow, if the members remember the debate we had in Rankin Inlet and we had a quite a debate on the Ikuma report. I've put those recommendations in place and we are moving forward on them. But I can commit to the members that I will, with the direction already given to me as I stated by the cabinet, to follow up on alternative energy sources including hydro and low head hydro.

An example, your colleague across the floor, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Haviyok asked if there a possibility of low head hydro technology using that in Kugluktuk on the Coppermine River. That's a possibility, can we offset those costs, at the same time Mr. Speaker, we do know for example in the Keewatin region, when we use the transportation of oil, it subsidizes food prices and subsidizes some other things.

The study by Manitoba Hydro did not collate the potential economic impacts of some of these issues for example when the recommendation was conversion to electric heat, and so on.

So we need to be able to move forward, that's what I'm trying to do Mr. Speaker, with the direction given to me by this House and by the Cabinet. Thank you.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Mr. Speaker, the minister seems to be dancing around the issue that I have been bringing up here, this is my final supplementary and I'm just going to be blunt with him.

Can he tell me, when, he's going to be working on trying to bring a transmission line, a power transmission line, into the Kivalliq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not trying to dance, walk, run, slide, jog, slip away from the issue.

I've committed to the member that I would follow up what he's asking. When I set up a separate corporation to look at alternative energy sources including hydro transmission, yes I will do that. When I look at alternative energy sources, yes, I will do that. Have I been doing it, yes. Have I had discussions with the mining industry in Keewatin about potential opportunities for the power corporation to provide electrical to some of the mining interests. Yes, we've done that, I've had discussions.

Mr. Speaker, on the transmission line, as the report has said, the member wants me to say yes, I will start moving on the transmission study. Mr. Speaker, as I've said in this House and the member knows and he's read the report, this was a pre-feasibility study asking if it's technically feasible to put a line in the Keewatin region, yes it is, if I had 250 million dollars.

What I have said Mr. Speaker is that I will commit to the member that on the further review which is what we are trying to do now, in the next step in the report it says to look at the transmission line and other alternative energy opportunities in concert. And that's what we are going to do, and I think that's the commitment the member wants and that's the commitment that I'm giving. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

#### **Question 264 – 1(5): Review of Hunters' & Trappers' Subsidies**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am so homesick I didn't even notice the fact that you called my name. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Sustainable Development.

As he said that they are going to do a review of the subsidies for the hunters and trappers. I would like to ask, the subsidy that you provide for one fox pelt of 25 dollars, the foxes



are sold by the trapper and they auction them in Vancouver and the trapper has to reimburse the 25 dollars to the government.

I would like to ask, even though there is going to be a review done prior to the fox trapping season around November or December, in the beginning of the season, this 25 dollar subsidy, can you change it so that the trappers won't have to reimburse the 25 dollars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a very good question and very clear. At this time we are in the process of reviewing that subsidy so it is very hard to respond to your question especially when this review is still under way.

The review has not yet been completed, so I can't tell you exactly what the answer is until after the review has been completed and after we see the results and hear from the committee that was struck by Sustainable Development. So therefore, I cannot tell you if it is going to be that way or not, because the review isn't yet complete.

But once we get the results from the review, I will be able to respond to your question. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister responsible for Sustainable Development. I would like to give him a little information so that he can understand the issue.

The fox trappers work very hard because it is part of our culture. That part of our culture is very hard work. It is in the mid-winter when it is coldest, that's when they go trapping. The equipment they use are snowmobiles and in the mid-winter they tend to break down easily because of the cold weather. They are out all day long and sometimes these trappers stay out on the trap line for a whole week in the hinterland and when they go back home they have to clean the pelts.

For those of us who clean fox pelts it is one of the most difficult jobs, especially when you are tired and you have to skin the fox and the pelt is very easy to rip. I know Minister Thompson has said that the hunters are receiving support for their gas, but the subsidy is quite small.

So I would like to ask if you can provide free gas to the fox trappers providing that they have proof that they are fox trappers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, his questions are very clear and I can understand them. I can envision what the fox trappers do. So I thank you for the explanation and in view of that, yes there is a gas subsidy for the hunters. For the full time hunters.

Providing we can find the funding it would continue for those hunters. We have provided this subsidy for the hunters and if it can be done we will consider it for next year for the full time hunters who are being provided for by that program. We would like to see it continue but we don't know what the future holds.

However, we will look into providing fuel to the hunters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like you to be more sensitive to the fox trappers because we are all proud of what they do. We congratulate people, we are congratulated and we are recognized all the time, but we continue on as we are proud of our work.

Likewise with the fox trappers, that's the same way they are. Their income is very low, even lower than those that receive income support because they have to pay so many bills. The fox traps are expensive, snowmobile parts are very expensive and they need supplies and food while they are out trapping. They have to pay for all these expenses.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask when this review will be completed and when we expect to see the results and recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can update the member on the review. The review was completed on May 1, so it has been three weeks since we have been analyzing the results and we are now continuing the analyses.

But I can update the member within this week or next week where they are at now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Oral Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

### **Question 265 – 1(5): Supplying T-5007 Slips to Clients on Time**

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I made a member's statement and said I would be asking this question on behalf of my constituency. Please understand that this is not just about my riding but on behalf of all Nunavut residents.

Mr. Speaker, in regards to T-5007 sent by the Department of Health and Social Services to the income support recipients. Mr. Speaker, these forms, the T-5007 forms, are sent

very late, perhaps two to three weeks before the deadline to fill out your income tax forms.

These T-5007 forms should be sent to the income support recipients earlier, before the income tax deadline arrives.

Also for the disability certificates Mr. Speaker, when they are provided with services by the government such as income support, these individuals have to fill out the income tax forms and claim this.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister what kind of plans the minister has for T-5007. Can they be sent to the communities a lot earlier than currently so that they could receive them farther in advance than they do now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member has brought up a very interesting point that is close to my heart as I have worked on the income tax forms for the past few years with Revenue Canada and Excise.

In my recent correspondence with them we were trying to get the forms translated and I haven't received an answer yet. But Mr. Speaker, I believe the member is talking about the T-5007 which is an income T-4 slip stating the amount of money that they received from in this case, I believe the member is referring to income support.

Under regulations Mr. Speaker, I believe my understanding is that the T-4 or in this case the T-5, has to be sent by February 28 and that if there is a concern that the constituents have not received it by that date then it would be from the office where the form would be directed.

Mr. Speaker, in most cases these forms would be written up and produced by the income support worker which would be under Education. But Mr. Speaker, I can follow up with the Minister of Education to find out if indeed, the T-5007 form is being sent out on time.

But under regulations Mr. Speaker, it has to be issued by February 28 and that is a federal guideline for income tax forms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for the response. Also on personal income tax, I am glad that you are concerned that you have not received any response from the federal government in regards to the translation of those documents.

That way my riding would be very happy if they could have their T-5's earlier on. Mr. Speaker, as the minister has said we need to receive those by February 28 and especially

in Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak, February is way past by the time we receive our T-5. So that is the concern that we have.

Also Mr. Speaker, the disability certificates have to be approved and signed by professional doctors or nurses. We need those professionals to sign the disability certificates because these disabled people cannot go and get that kind of service.

**Speaker:** Proceed with your question Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for example in my riding we need to better service the disabled individuals. We don't have optometrists, we need our certificates signed by the appropriate professionals and we need to better service these individuals.

As the minister said earlier on that no matter where your staff are, please encourage them to look into this issue. I would also encourage the minister to advise his staff to support those individuals who require it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Just before we proceed. Mr. Puqiqnak you're my good friend but by the same token, I have to be fair to everybody in the House here, and when members take additional time on their preamble and the second preamble and the third preamble, it takes away from other members, from their opportunity to have a question. So a reminder to members again, please try to keep your preamble short, on the first question, and on the second and third supplementaries go right to the question.

I'm not sure there even was a question there but Mr. Puqiqnak if you want to go to a comment, continue on. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

#### **Question 266 - 1(5): Update on Staff Turnover Rate**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Human Resources. Mr. Speaker, during the last session in March, I believe it was March 22nd, I asked the minister if he was aware, or had any idea what the turnover rate was with the government employees.

I just want to ask minister if he has any update for us on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no I don't have anything to report in respect to turnovers but further to the statement that I did on staffing statistics, it seems to be that we are making progress and the vacancy levels are starting to decrease and our staffing levels are starting to go up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe other than just the minister's statement on staffing capacities and one of the requirements for the minister and the Department of Human Resources, the government, I'm not sure which department, is to file a public service report annually.

And in that report in the past, it's had turnover rates for other departments. I'm just wondering when the minister plans on filing their first public service report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Probably as soon as it's available and ready for tabling. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's nothing like a true openness and not going on here. I'd really like any idea of a timeframe for this document that is legally supposed to be tabled annually by the government and I would just like to know when he plans on tabling his first one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not trying to avoid the answer, I just don't know. I know there's been some work and preparation in trying to finalize the document.

If the public accounts are any indication that we have ready to table today, I mean it was a lot of effort, and lot of work required to have them translated because of technicalities of the document but we'll do it as soon as humanly possible, given the resources and other commitments we have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, let me just ask, the minister alluded to having some problems in having the capacity to be able to put together this report. I'm just wondering if what type of capacity problems is he talking about, as far as being able to put together this type report.

I know earlier he alluded to in the last session with the human resource system that they were going to have implemented by the end of March. I'm just wondering if that's the problem, is it the fact that they don't have the staff to be able to do the work. I'm just wondering if you can clarify that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I didn't indicate it was a capacity problem, I said it was a priority among other priorities that department has, it hasn't been the main priority of the department given as all members know, the focus has been on the job action and trying to mitigate any negative effects as the result of the job action of the NEU and that's been taking place, quite frankly for the past couple of months and it has taken the focus away from a lot of other initiatives.

Now we are back into the staffing situation, trying to catch up because of being unable to advertise for some of the NEU positions. Now there are demands coming forward from some of the departments so it is a matter of putting the priorities of government in an orderly fashion in respect of the Department of Human Resources.

So having said that, because the member feels that it is such an important issue, I will get our staff to check into exactly when it would be available and be prepared to table it as soon as possible Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ng. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

#### **Question 267 – 1(5): Unions**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance. I would like to know where the concept of having employees' unions came from. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The question I believe is directed to Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Employees' Union is representative of the unionized employees and they bargain on their behalf. They are the organization that was representing the employees prior to the establishment of Nunavut. So they are the same representative body that was in office after April 1, 1999. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister for your clear response. This is the first I have heard about the union since Nunavut was created. Could you explain more about the work of the union. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It isn't a government organization or established by government. It is the employees' union. The employees themselves, the unionized employees of the Government of Nunavut, all the members of that union, they elect their own membership.

They set the guidelines or the rules that govern their own organization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the clear response. So who funds the union. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Picco do you intend to answer that question. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the union sets union dues and they are deducted from each unionized employees' pay cheque. It is remitted through us as part of the agreement we have with them, it is remitted directly back to the union and that's primarily how they fund their operations.

They may have other sources, I am not familiar with the internal workings of the union as far as their finances, other than what we provide through payroll deductions from the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ng. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question. I would also like to understand because they pay their union dues out of their income and the government doesn't give any money why do they have to respond to the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, again, so much advice here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, like I indicated earlier, the union sets the dues, we through our collective agreement deduct union dues from the unionized employees and remit that payment to the union officials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ng. Oral Questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

#### **Question 268 - 1(5): Final Decision on Transmission Line**

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my colleague was raising some questions and I would just like to follow that up, he raised some questions directed to the Power Corporation Minister.

When will we get an update on the pre-feasibility study. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, transmission study was actually tabled in this House. I believe it was early last week and gives all members an opportunity to review and look at the recommendations. Mr. Speaker, that's the report that Mr. McLean was quoting from this morning and his earlier question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a Kivalliq transmission line, pre-feasibility study and my question is when will they be able to find out when or if it's feasible. Will it be 2002-2003 or later, what year will we be able to get that response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member made a very clear question, and Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to commit to the member, to the House and Mr. McLean if he's listening, Mr. Speaker.

I have committed to continue discussions with Manitoba Hydro in the coming weeks. I will suggest to you by Friday, I will be in contact with the Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro on the next steps with the feasibility study which I have committed to earlier in questions with Mr. McLean. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is he not responding to my question because he hasn't met with the Minister or what's the reason for not answering my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll try and be a little bit more clearer, the answer to both the members' questions is when and if. Both answers are yes and hopefully by Friday.

Mr. Speaker, I will repeat again, Mr. Speaker, I have been in contact with Manitoba Hydro officials, I met with them in April. I believe it was in Rankin where I saw the staff members of Manitoba Hydro and expressed our interest in the report.

I met with the Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro and Mr. Speaker, I have committed to the member just now, that when we get back to Iqaluit, before Friday I will contact the Minister for Manitoba Hydro to plan our next steps.

This report is Manitoba Hydro's report and the Northwest Territories Power Commission's report and we will need to partner with them to be able to look at the next



details. As outlined Mr. Speaker, in the transmission line pre-feasibility study, to look at alternative energy sources and so on as we discussed earlier in questioning.

So Mr. Speaker, I think I answered the member's question. I will be hopefully in communication with the Minister for Manitoba Hydro by Friday to see what the next steps are and indeed, if they want to look at the possibilities of a feasibility study, because this was a pre-feasibility study. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Irgittuq.

**Mr. Irgittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, will there be power coming from Manitoba or is this just an idea at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Transmission Line Pre-feasibility study was put in place to look at whether it was technically feasible to put a transmission line from Churchill, Manitoba into the Keewatin region.

With that Mr. Speaker, the report came back and said yes it is technically feasible but it didn't look at a whole range of other issues. On our further review from the Nunavut Power Corporation, from the Nunavut Government, we have said that there needs to be next steps and Mr. McLean has brought up some of those issues and we have committed to doing it, looking at alternative energy sources, hopefully setting up a new corporation and being able to explore those areas, looking at low head power technology as well as Mr. Speaker, looking at a transmission line feasibility study as the member has asked.

The power line, if it goes forward Mr. Speaker, will be in concert with at this time we believe Manitoba Hydro and as I committed to the member, hopefully later this week I will have an opportunity to speak with the Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro to see what our next steps with regards to a possible feasibility on the possible transmission line. That would be the logical next step. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Question. Mr. Haviyok.

### **Question 269 – 1(5): Federal Funding for Housing Programs**

**Mr. Haviyok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Housing. We are aware in Nunavut that the housing that is required by Nunavummiut won't be available this year or next year as mentioned.

She mentioned that she would be getting together with the minister responsible from the federal government on this issue. Will she be letting Nunavummiut know about the funding that will become available through that process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned before, we have met with our federal counterparts and CMHC officials have been meeting with my officials. Our officials have made it clear to them that new funding is required.

We actually have new funding in place, some of it in place at this time. I mentioned it this morning, and those funds could be used for housing in Nunavut and this coming August we will be meeting with Ministers of Housing in London, Ontario.

While I'm there, the Minister of Housing from the Yukon and myself and the NWT Minister of Housing will be meeting together to see how we can assist each other to relay our concerns to the Federal Government on housing.

Our President of the Housing Corporation Pat Hine will be meeting with the Canadian Housing Renewal Association and she has become a member. I have given her instructions to speak about our shortage of housing, along with relaying our message. We're working on those right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Supplementary Question.

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your answer, for those that have their own businesses, who want to lease units for public housing. Is money for that under discussion also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have mentioned this many times in the House as to how we can access more funding for those types of programs but the O&M dollars are not adequate for leasing houses at this time. But we have thought about those ideas and we have an open mind about it, as to how we can get, how can make our dollars count and those are the types of things we have thought about.

A little while ago I mentioned that some communities such as Iqaluit and Pond Inlet don't have adequate houses for staff. We have made some plans on those to see whether we can get those houses for staff and we are open to any ideas about leasing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your clear answer, in Kugluktuk we have a lot of young people, you are aware of that. When we were in Iqaluit I mentioned to you that there were 75 on the waiting list for housing.

Our youth require their own places as they want to be responsible for their own lives, so the future is more improved for those Nunavummiut. Is that type of housing need under discussion also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand the member's concern and his question about young people lacking housing in Kugluktuk. The population of young people is increasing, especially when they start having their own children.

I have mentioned that recently we met with the ministers from the provinces and the federal government and we were able to relay these concerns of members.

Before the new funding is in place, we can't really do anything and if they were to build houses in the communities they would just be paid for by the government through income support. There has to be some money from the people to pay for their own houses.

If they are not working then the Housing Corporation pays for their expenses through income support. If they can't pay their full amount of rent, then my department ends up paying for the rent. If there was to be some new funding to lease houses, then we could probably get more money for those homeownership programs.

I do understand the concern of the member and his concern about the increasing population of young people and the lack of housing in the communities. We all realize that and I know that there has to be some new funding put in to build more houses or to lease more houses and I have sent that concern numerous times to the minister in the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will ask this final question. She mentioned that she will be meeting with her counterparts in Ottawa, the territorial and provincial ministers.

For example, NTI, have they been approached to partner for our future in Nunavut so that NTI can begin to assist in the housing need so that the housing problem is rectified in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Inuit leaders have also voiced their concerns about the lack of housing for the past two years now. Organizations such as the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada also had a meeting about the lack of housing in Nunavut.

All those organizations know about the lack of housing. The President of NTI, Paul Quassa, is also very concerned and very responsive to the housing needs of Nunavummiut. I will be going with him to Ottawa this fall when I meet with the Ministers of Housing. All the provincial ministers will also be involved in London, Ontario on a housing meeting.

As well all the organizations in the Nunavut area have had concerns about the lack of housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

**Question 270 – 1(5): No Smoking Day**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. He mentioned a while ago about a smoking cessation day on May 31, which is in two days.

I just wanted more information about his statement. If it starts on May 31 how long does it last. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, World No Tobacco Day, no smoking day is officially recognized around the world and it is for one day. But Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to you that if we have learned anything in this last year here in this House, is that we need to be able to bring this message forward every day on no smoking.

The actual event is for one day Mr. Speaker, but the message will continue Mr. Speaker, every day. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in parts of his minister's statement he said that he would like to get some assistance from the Members of the Legislative Assembly when we get back home.

I will be going home after May 31 and I don't think I will be able to relay that message to my constituents right away. Perhaps if he could extend the dates to about a week. I just wondered if the minister is going to be bringing a date or a week for no smoking advertising in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the member has made an excellent suggestion, that instead of recognizing one day as Weedless Wednesday, or World No Smoking Day, I believe a week would be quite suitable for Nunavut.

That is something that I would be willing to look at Mr. Speaker, and hopefully bring into play in the next session. I want to add Mr. Speaker, that in my minister's statement I talked about the opportunity for each of the members here as elected leaders here in Nunavut, to bring forward this anti-smoking message, especially to our young people.

About the perils of smoking and the effects of second hand smoke. That's what I wanted the members to do. I believe last month Mr. Speaker, we provided every member with a package of non-smoking materials, including posters and so on, and the members will note that beginning this past week we have seen a new commercial on the air starring the well known director of Atanarjuat, Zacharias Kunuk, who is starring in a non-smoking video with a very attractive little girl about 10 years old, who seems to be my daughter.

I know that commercial has been airing now over the past week. So in conjunction with no smoking day, No Tobacco Day on May 31 Mr. Speaker, we would like to see this message continue every day. That's what I was trying to say. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Health and Social Services said that this is an international event on May 31. As people of Nunavut is it not possible to set aside three days for the World No Tobacco Day, which is May 31, 2001. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, municipalities and Hamlets are free to enact a continuance of May 31st to June 1, June 2 or any other set of dates, at the community level. We're recognizing as a government we're on World No Tobacco Day on May 31st like other jurisdiction across this country.

What I can say to the member, I think having his suggestion of having a week in Nunavut of non smoking and looking at some of the legislation that is in place right now Mr. Speaker, at our community level, where we can make more places non smoking, I think that's some of the things that we want to bring forward and that we're looking at Mr. Speaker in the fall session. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Final supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me an opportunity to ask one further question. Have you set aside this World No Tobacco day for one day only, just to be in sync with the rest of Canada. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are several days set aside by government for different things, National Immunization Week, Nursing Appreciation Week, No Tobacco Day, Weedless Wednesday, this is one of these days where we can bring awareness to different areas, different issues.

That's why Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut adopted and agreed to and are following other jurisdictions in this country and celebrating May 31st as no tobacco day and focusing on second hand smoke.

Mr. Speaker, I think the member has brought up an excellent idea of our government actually extending that ourselves and trying to incorporate maybe 3,4,5 days of non smoking week in Nunavut, and Mr. Speaker that's something I would be very interested in trying to bring forward this fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Picco. Question Period is now over. Returning to Orders of the Day.

Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. McLean.

### **Item 11: Reports of Standing and Special Committees**

#### **Report 009 – 1(5): Report of the Joint Standing Committees on the 2001-2002 Budget & Departmental Business Plans**

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my fellow Standing Committee Chairs, Mr. Iqaqrialu, Mr. Nutarak and Mr. Tootoo, I am pleased to present today the Joint Report of the Standing Committees of the Legislative Assembly on the 2001-2002 Budget and Departmental Business Plans of the Government of Nunavut. I would like to make some remarks at this point.

This is the second year in which the Standing Committees have presented a joint report of this nature. Members were pleased to note that many of the recommendations contained in last year's joint report were acted on by the Government. We look forward to the Government's response to our 2001-2002 report, which Committees have requested pursuant to Rule 91(5) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committees have presented over 45 recommendations for the Government's consideration. These recommendations flow from Members' review of the budget and business plans during Committee and during the budget session. We hope that

the Government will respond to these recommendations with the same constructive and positive spirit in which they were made.

Mr. Speaker, we are now in our third fiscal year as a new territory and a new government. At this stage, a number of trends have become clear.

- This year's budget makes a strong, strategic investment in education. Members support this commitment to the future of our youth.
- Housing remains in crisis. Although Members recognize that a long-term solution to the housing crisis depends on a genuine commitment on the part of our federal partners, Members continue to emphasize the need for our Government to make resources available in this area where possible.
- Members have noted that the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, Northern Development and Natural Resources, which is chaired by the MP for Nunavut, Nancy Karetak-Lindell, is presently undertaking a study on the crisis in aboriginal housing. We would urge our Government to use such vehicles as an opportunity to present our case.
- Expenditures on health remain essentially unchanged from when the government was formed.
- The cost of providing services to our communities in the country's harshest geography remains high. The challenges in the area of infrastructure means that our government often has less to work with in other areas, such as health. Members stand behind the Government in its call for federal investment in northern infrastructure.
- During the budget session, the Government announced that it will be undertaking a major program review exercise this year. Members support the basic concept of program review. Our report raises a number of specific observations, issues and concerns that we hope will be of use to the Government as this review unfolds. The importance of the program review exercise is considerable, and Members look forward to being involved with it over the coming year.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes my remarks on the Joint Report of the Standing Committees. I would like to move, seconded by the Member for Iqaluit Centre, that the Report be received and adopted by the House, and entered into the record as read.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. McLean. Do members agree that the report be adopted and read into the record.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

## Introduction

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This is the second year in which the Standing Committees of the Legislative Assembly have presented a joint report on the Government of Nunavut's annual budget and departmental business plans.

In Nunavut's non-partisan, consensus system of government, the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committees provide a mechanism for Regular MLAs to scrutinize in detail the spending, policies and programs of the Government. This report serves to articulate a number of concerns and issues raised by Members in Committee and in the House.

During the course of the annual budget cycle, Committees review, at an early stage, preliminary business plans and budget allocations with the responsible Minister of each department. In a number of cases, recommendations and comments made internally by Committees are reflected in the final budget package, which is made public through tabling in the Legislative Assembly after the delivery of the Budget Address. Reports such as this provide direction to the Government for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Further improvements continue to be made in the budget and business planning cycle. This year witnessed the presentation of the main estimates at the standard object level of detail. This provides a clearer picture to the Legislative Assembly and the public as to where public dollars will be spent.

The upcoming tabling of the first set of Nunavut's public accounts and the Report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly will allow for detailed, public, "down to the penny" scrutiny of the Government's fiscal management in its first year of operation. This process will be in itself extremely valuable, as detailed scrutiny of past spending patterns provide lessons for future budget management and priority-setting. As the Legislative Assembly is charged with reviewing the public accounts, Members will make an important contribution to the identification of where savings can be realized and funds re-allocated.

The Government's 2001-2002 estimates and business plans were made available on the Internet for the first time this year, enabling the public to read them from any community with Internet access. Acting on a recommendation made by the Standing Committees in their May 2000 report on the 2000-2001 budget, the Government plans to introduce the 2002-2003 capital estimates in the fall of this year. This has the promise of avoiding some of the past problems associated with considering capital estimates too close to sealift deadlines.

The introduction of the first Five-Year Capital Plan for the GN was welcomed by Members. However, concerns continue to be expressed at the community level regarding the adequacy of the consultation process undertaken by the Government. Members noted, for example, that formal consultation letters to Mayors were sent out only a few weeks before the introduction of the budget. Members look forward to continued progress in



such areas of capital planning as the completion of a 20-year needs assessment and new GN-wide standards and criteria.

## **The 2001-2002 Budget and Program Review**

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The most significant announcement made by the Government in both the Commissioner's Opening Address and the Budget Address was that the GN will be undertaking a major program and expenditure review exercise during the coming year.

This announcement came in the wake of two important developments: the forecasting of an \$11.9 million accumulated deficit at the end of 2001-2002, and the renewal of the Formula Financing Agreement for a three-year term, coupled with a commitment that the federal and territorial governments will undertake a joint review of Nunavut's "fiscal capacity and needs."

In December 2000, provincial and territorial Ministers of Finance publicly called on the federal government to restore the 5% cut made in 1996-97 to the expenditure base in the Territorial Formula Financing Program. While Members are disappointed that this was not acted on by the federal government, the willingness of Ottawa to recognize that Nunavut has legitimate concerns regarding the adequacy of funding arrangements is encouraging.

It is important to recognize that the 2001-2002 budget makes a clear and substantial investment in education. Not only does the Department of Education receive the largest amount of O&M funding of any department, almost 40 cents out of every capital dollar spent in the coming year will go to education facilities. Members are pleased with this demonstrated commitment to the long-term success of our youth.

Housing, the second core priority of the Bathurst Mandate, did not fare as well. Although the NHC received \$14 million in capital funding from the GN, this is still more than a 25% cut from the \$19 million received in 2000-2001. As the Government acknowledges, the ongoing housing crisis in Nunavut cannot be solved without a substantial commitment from our federal partners.

Health spending remains almost static from last year, and Members question whether the base funding for the Department of Health and Social Services is adequate to meet the needs of Nunavummiut. Members would note that in 1999-2000, Health and Social Service's share of total expenditures was just over 20%. In 2001-2002, it has fallen to 18%.

In their Report on the 2000-2001 Budget, Committees noted that, "without full staff and all programs in place, it is difficult to adequately assess how delivering programs in Nunavut may require adjustments in the budget. Members expect that this information will be more forthcoming ... and that we may see fuller discussions about relative priorities."

During the course of deliberations in the House on the 2001-2002 budget, little detail was forthcoming on the precise mandate, scope and timelines for the GN's program review. However, the experiences of other jurisdictions are worth noting as the GN begins its own process of program review.

In his final report to Parliament, the Auditor General of Canada made the following observations with respect to the major federal program review exercise of the mid-1990s:

*"As we all know, the government has made substantial gains in its ability to live within its means and is now achieving surpluses...Nevertheless, a lot more needs to be done to ensure that we do not put ourselves back in the same position. The government made its cuts through a one-time process it called Program Review. This process forced the politicians to choose the services they really wanted and could afford, and forced the public servants to find more efficient ways to do the job. The cuts were made, but poorer service often resulted."*

The Public Policy Forum has commented that:

*"...public managers relied too heavily on two techniques to achieve their targets - techniques that are not actually cost reduction activities. The first technique was program downloading which, in essence, allowed the federal government to pass on the responsibilities and costs of public programs and services to lower levels of government without compensation. The second was the introduction of user fees which require citizens to pay for services that were once seen as entitlements. Both these measures were relatively easy ways of avoiding a critical examination of the need and relevance of federal programs. Consequently, the two measures became popular ways for individual departments to meet their fiscal targets. More importantly, in the rush to meet the financial targets, more than 45,000 employees lost their jobs."*

These observations should not be interpreted as an argument against a major government-wide program review. Members support the basic concept of program review. Rather, they reinforce the need for such exercises to be well-defined, well-planned, and conducted in a manner that does not solve problems in one area by creating them in others.

Since the creation of Nunavut, many departments have commenced or planned to undertake a number of specific reviews which have clear budgetary implications. These include:

- School Formula Funding Review (Education)
- Municipal Finance Review (CGT)
- Review of Funding Formula for Student Financial Assistance (Education)
- Public Housing Rent Scale Review (NHC)
- Income Support Review (Education)
- Review of utility-rated subsidy programs (F&A)
- Review of Petroleum Products Division operations (PWS)
- Review of Harvester Support Programs (DSD)

- Review of Grants and Contributions (DSD)
- Staff Housing review (PWS)

To date, it is unclear what impact these reviews will have on departmental budgets and the Government's overall fiscal position. It is also unclear how or even whether the announced government-wide program review exercise will integrate the findings and recommendations of these initiatives into an overall process. Committees would suggest, however, that given the cost of these reviews (\$150,000 was set aside in CGT's 2000-2001 budget for the Municipal Financing Review alone), it would be undesirable to simply scrap work already accomplished.

Committees recognize that the capacity of the GN to increase its own-source revenues is severely and inherently constrained. Committees agree that all Nunavummiut already bear a substantial tax burden. However, it is important to take note of a number of sobering facts on the revenue side of the Government's fiscal equation:

- The 2001-2002 budget reflects a 4.9% increase in total revenues. However, spending is projected to increase by 6.3%. The long-term sustainability of this trend is dubious;
- Total own-source revenues have actually *decreased* from 2000-2001;
- The GN collects more net revenues from the Liquor Commission than it does from corporate income tax; and
- As progress is made in reducing the consumption of tobacco in Nunavut, revenues from tobacco sales will fall. It is difficult to quantify the concomitant cost savings in the area of health expenditures.

Members stand solidly behind the Premier and Minister of Finance as efforts are made to negotiate a devolution agreement with the federal government and a fairer share for Nunavut of income from the natural resources sector.

As ever-increasing numbers of our population find stable and rewarding employment, create businesses and generate growth, dependency on federal transfers can be reduced as the Government collects more of its total revenues from personal and corporate income taxes. At the front-end, our commitment to address education works towards this goal. However, the GN must work at the intergovernmental level to ensure that Nunavut is not penalized through the Formula Financing Agreement by having federal transfers cut dollar for dollar.

It is also important that start-up assistance to Nunavut's growing entrepreneurial sector continues, and that the needs of smaller and non-decentralized communities are recognized and respected. Although entities like the Nunavut Development Corporation can do a better job in evaluating their actual job creation (as was observed by the Auditor General's office in respect to the Development Corporation's first annual report) results, it

is important that the GN remain committed to fostering economic success throughout our communities.

Critical questions that the Government must ask itself as it embarks on a comprehensive program review include:

- The extent to which ongoing reviews of specific programs and services will be integrated into the process;
- The extent to which the announced Canada-Nunavut joint fiscal review will impact on the process;
- The extent to which municipal governments will be consulted and involved as the process unfolds;
- The extent to which the experience, knowledge and suggestions of front-line staff in the regions and communities will be drawn upon, as opposed to being solely a Headquarters-focused process;
- The limited capacity of most Nunavummiut to pay for further increases in costs and user fees for public services;
- The issue of whether an already-stretched public service will face job losses or eliminations of the 500+ currently unfilled positions; and
- The role that non-governmental players in the business and volunteer sectors can play in providing advice to the Government.

Clearly, the Government envisions this process to be far-reaching and comprehensive. It is important that it clearly define at the outset what is and is not "on the table" for review, whether the issue is the structure of government or options for alternative service delivery mechanisms.

As the program review process unfolds, Committees expect to be consulted and updated on an ongoing basis as findings are made and options developed.

The accompanying table and chart at the end of this report illustrates the tough constraints under which the Government operates. For example:

- In 2001-2002, capital expenditures account for 10.5% of total GN spending. In order to increase capital's share of total spending by just a single percentage point, \$6,794,430 would have to be cut from other areas.
- In 1997-98, capital's share of total GNWT spending was approximately 13%. In order to bring GN capital spending up to this level, a total of over \$17,000,000 would have to be cut from other areas. *This reinforces the need for the GN to*

***aggressively push for federal infrastructure investment that genuinely takes into account the cost of providing services to Canadian citizens in the most challenging geography to be found in the country.***

- As with governments in every other Canadian jurisdiction, education, health and social services spending accounts for the largest component of total government spending, with the exception of debt service costs.
- Nunavut remains in the fortunate position of not yet having debt service costs.
- In the coming fiscal year, 43% of all GN spending will be in the areas of education, health and social services. Compared to many other Canadian jurisdictions, Nunavut demonstrates leadership in its commitment to education funding.
- It is striking to note that health and social services' share of total government spending in the three northern jurisdictions is comparatively less than in southern provinces. ***The GN's program review must look closely at the area of health and social services spending and consider the extent to which such national initiatives as the Romanow Commission can be used as a vehicle to articulate the challenges facing health care delivery in the North. Replacing Nunavut's decaying health infrastructure is a priority -- the actual dollar costs to the Government for the three regional health facilities must be determined.***
- Almost 30% of total GN spending goes to compensation and benefits. Although this is substantial, the GN continues to face pressure in recruiting skilled and dedicated staff. ***Program review must ask whether the price of dealing with high staff turnover, such as removal costs and overtime, is affordable, as compared to providing compensation, benefits and professional development opportunities that build a stable, long-term workforce.***
- For every dollar spent by the GN, almost 20 cents goes to grants and contributions. Much of this spending is subject to forced growth, especially in the areas of municipal and school funding. The results and outcomes of grants and contributions spending must be evaluated.
- Out of every dollar spent by the GN, over 20 cents is in the area of contract services. While such major contracts as the \$13 million for RCMP services are relatively inflexible, program review must look at this area closely.
- Over the past two years, the GN has managed to realize one-time savings that result from unfilled positions. Given that it is not likely that the GN will fill over 500 currently unfilled positions in 2001-2002, and assuming that no existing staff leave during the period, it may be tempting to conclude that unfilled positions are, by definition, unnecessary ones. ***Program review must look at the structure of departments, but do so in a manner that draws on the experience and***

*suggestions of front-line staff, and not simply be an exercise in the manipulation of organization charts. In addition, the challenges facing departments in the area of staff housing must be addressed.*

Over the coming year, Standing Committees look forward to contributing to the program review process by asking the questions that will help to define and clarify issues and options; by articulating the needs of constituents and communities; and by providing the scrutiny necessary for those of us charged with governance in Nunavut to seek the best possible ways to meet the challenges ahead.

## **Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services**

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### **Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs**

The Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services has reviewed the business plan and main estimates for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs for the fiscal year 2001-2002. This budget was subsequently approved during the fifth session of the Legislative Assembly.

The Standing Committee makes the following comments, observations and recommendations with respect to a number of specific issues.

#### **Access to Information and Protection of Privacy**

The Committee was pleased to note in the 2001-2002 business plan that the establishment of an access to information network in the GN is a priority of the Department. This reflects a recommendation made in the first annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut and the Standing Committee's review of the report.

#### **Law Review Commission and Legislative Initiatives**

Members of the Committee were pleased to receive the Law Review Commission's first *Report to the Premier*, which has also been tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The Committee would observe, however, that the role of the Law Review Commission in relation to other bodies conducting legislative reviews could be better clarified. For example, the Law Review Commission has produced recommendations dealing with the *Vital Statistics Act* - a statute that has implications for issues of personal privacy. The Information and Privacy Commissioner should be consulted by the Commission as it deals with statutes of this nature.

#### **Intergovernmental Relations and Initiatives**

Members look forward to learning of the results of the first annual review of the operation of the Clyde River Protocol between the GN and NTI. The Committee also looks forward to reviewing the recently-released 1999-2000 report on the implementation of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

The Committee also looks forward to learning of specific initiatives and accomplishments stemming from the signing of MOUs during the past year with other jurisdictions, including Manitoba and Greenland.

Members noted with approval the strong land claims focus of the Department's business plan. However, the issue of co-ordination of initiatives between departments again presents itself. For example, the business plan envisions the department holding GN departmental workshops on NLCA obligations, including, presumably, Article 23 issues. At the same time, the Department of Human Resources also plans to hold GN departmental workshops on Article 23 issues (and has recently issued an RFP to deliver them) in relation to the implementation of the Inuit Employment Plan.

### **Decentralization**

Members remain pleased with the Government's continued commitment to implementing decentralization in a timely, co-ordinated fashion. Members note that the Decentralization Secretariat is undergoing a reorganization to better address recruitment and training needs. A continued commitment to local hiring and training is consistent with the aspirations of decentralized communities, and Members look forward to a close monitoring of progress in this area.

### **Transparency in Government**

The Committee was pleased to note the Department's commitment to such initiatives as translating and making easily accessible such materials as approved GN policies to MLAs and the public, as well as the tabling of intergovernmental agreements. The Committee would also recommend that the Department, as the GN's lead central agency, take responsibility for working to ensure that the numerous outstanding statutory tabling requirements for annual reports and other documents of GN departments, boards and agencies are met in the coming fiscal year, in addition to the requirement for the tabling of such annual reports from non-GN bodies as the Nunavut Social Development Council.

### **Utility Rates Review Council (URRC)**

During the fifth Session, the Committee was responsible for reviewing the Government's proposed *Utility Rates Review Council Act*. Given that the URRC is in its start-up phase, it will be necessary for the Department to provide strong administrative support in its initial months of existence, especially with respect to such provisions in the legislation as ensuring that there is a central location where members of the public can access records of the URRC's deliberations.

<b>Department of Finance and Administration</b>
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The Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services has reviewed the business plan and main estimates for the Department of Finance and Administration for

the fiscal year 2001-2002. This budget was subsequently approved during the fifth session of the Legislative Assembly.

The Standing Committee makes the following comments, observations and recommendations with respect to a number of specific issues.

### **Workers' Compensation Board**

The Committee has noted that the WCB will continue to be shared between Nunavut and the NWT until at least December 31, 2003.

The Committee has also noted that a Legislative Review Panel has been established to review the Act in its entirety. Concerns have been expressed by Members with respect to the issue of the Act itself being, in effect, also shared between Nunavut and the NWT. Members recall the situation that occurred during the 4th Session, when legislation was introduced in Nunavut to reflect a Bill passed in the Legislative Assembly of the NWT during the summer of 2000. Because the NWT introduced its legislation first, that Assembly had the opportunity to amend the original Bill, the final version of which subsequently received Assent. The Bill that was introduced in Nunavut was, as a consequence, a duplicate of the legislation that was *passed* in the west, and *not* the same as the original Bill that the Nunavut Minister responsible for the WCB presumably supported.

Given that the WCB will continue to be a shared body, it will be important to consider how this problem can be addressed. As it is not possible for one territorial Assembly to legislate on behalf of the other, it is possible that further difficulties will arise in situations where Members of each Assembly have differing views on the merits of the same piece of proposed legislation.

### **Devolution**

Members continue to support the Government's commitment to pursuing a devolution agreement with the federal government. Members would want to see central agencies to encourage line departments to work towards ensuring that Nunavut as a whole is ready to benefit from such an agreement, if reached, especially in such areas as training Nunavummiut for employment in the mining, oil and gas sectors.

### **Liquor Licensing Board**

Members look forward to the Board conducting and concluding its community consultations on issues of distribution and accessibility of alcohol in Nunavut. Given the sensitive and contentious nature of this issue, the Committee would wish to review any recommendations made by the Board prior to any fundamental policy changes being adopted by government. Members recognize that although the department is primarily concerned with taxation, administrative and enforcement issues related to alcohol,



broader social and health issues cannot be ignored. The input of such departments as Health and Social Services is important.

### **Transparency in Government**

Members of the Committee noted with satisfaction that the 2001-2002 main estimates were presented at the standard object level. This initiative is consistent with the business plan's statement that: "Residents of Nunavut have the right to open and full disclosure regarding the government's financial position, transactions and expenditures." The Committee would recommend that the Department continue to expand the range and amount of information that is made public, including a comprehensive list of payments over a certain minimum value for goods and services made by the GN to contractors and suppliers. The Committee would also recommend that next year's main estimates begin to include actual expenditures by standard object from previous fiscal years.

### **Decentralization of Baffin Regional Financial Services Division to Igloolik**

The Committee noted the Department's continued commitment to decentralizing Baffin operations. Members continue to encourage the Department to make every effort to recruit and train locally for these positions.

### **Informatics Expenditures**

Between the Departments of Finance and Administration and Public Works and Services, over \$57 million has been spent by the GN in this area since the passage of the 1999-2000 budget. Members have raised concerns that these expenditures not spiral out of control, and were pleased to note that the Government has established an IT Steering Committee to address this issue. Members note that spending for 2001-2002 in this area has dropped, and hope not to see large supplementary appropriations for IT spending in the coming fiscal year.

## **Department of Human Resources**

The Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services has reviewed the business plan and main estimates for the Department of Human Resources for the fiscal year 2001-2002. This budget was subsequently approved during the fifth session of the Legislative Assembly.

The Standing Committee makes the following comments, observations and recommendations with respect to a number of specific issues.

### **Recruitment and Retention**

A common theme in departmental 2001-2002 business plans is the difficulty presently faced by the GN in meeting its recruitment and retention goals, and the resulting morale and productivity problems.

Although the Department of Human Resource's business plan clearly identifies and articulates this problem, including such underlying factors as the high cost of living in Nunavut and the lack of affordable housing, the plan does not outline much in the way of specific strategies to address this challenge.

Members acknowledge that the necessary first step to addressing this issue is a collective bargaining resolution that recognizes the need for the GN to be more competitive with other Nunavut organizations in terms of compensation and benefits. A second step is clearly a strategy to make more housing available for employees, especially in the headquarters region. The issue of reliable and affordable childcare for employees is also important.

The Committee has noted that an RFP has been issued for the preparation of a recruitment and retention strategy. Members would note that morale problems in the public service are often linked to such issues as perceptions of unfair and inequitable treatment of employees in such areas as the allocation and condition of staff housing, the extent to which positions in the public service are filled on a fair and competitive basis, and the lack of resources and commitment on the part of the government to support professional development. The Committee would recommend that the Department take these factors into account when developing specific policies in these areas, and that proposals be brought to the Committee for comment prior to their adoption.

### **Building a Workforce Profile**

An area that the Committee feels is worthy of analysis by the department is that of retention patterns between male and female staff. Although the department's quarterly statistical publication of GN-wide employment data provides detail on the level of Inuit and non-Inuit employment across the Government, it does not provide a breakdown by sex. Members have observed that there appears to be a discernible retention problem facing Inuit males in the public service, and would recommend that the Department attempt to identify any specific factors that may be causing this. This may be a specific area in which *Inuit Qaujimaqatugangit* initiatives could be useful in fostering a workplace that meets the particular needs and aspirations of a diverse workforce.

Members also remain concerned that the Department may not be putting sufficient resources into compiling such basic GN-wide workforce statistics as the amount of overtime being paid across departments; removal costs and other measures of recruitment and retention success. Members are hopeful that this information will be forthcoming when the Minister tables the statutorily-required annual reports on the public service for the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.

## **Inuit Employment Plan, Training Initiatives and Workplace Wellness**

Members were pleased to note an increase in the funding for training and development, as well as separate contribution funding for NAC to deliver pre-employment programs in decentralized communities.

Members were pleased to note that the total number of GN positions has increased in over a dozen communities from the figures of March 31, 2000. Members also note that while the total number of Inuit hired has increased in about sixteen communities, there has been a decrease in others. Members also note that the share of total GN positions in the three largest communities has dropped to approximately 55%, a trend that suggests that decentralization is moving forward. The March 2000 figures indicate that 75% of a total of 2,664 positions were filled. The December 2000 figures indicate that 79% of a total of 2,789 positions were filled. While close to 200 people have been hired during the time, it would appear that it could still take a number of years to fill all of the vacant positions at the current rate of hiring.

Members are supportive of efforts being made by the department to remove artificial barriers to Inuit employment in the public service. The issue of excessive barriers to certification has been raised by Members. In view of the Law Review Commission's plans to review the *Apprenticeship, Trade and Occupations Certification Act*, the opportunity exists for progress to be made in this area.

Members have noted that the Department has allocated \$750,000 for its Workplace Wellness Program. The introduction of this program is a positive step. Members will wish to see the effectiveness of this program evaluated over the coming year, taking into account such factors as employee usage and satisfaction with the program. Members are concerned that the assistance provided to employees seeking help be delivered in a culturally sensitive fashion, and available in the languages of our territory.

Members were pleased to be advised that the Summer Student Employment Program will be in place for 2001. Given the mentorship goals of the SSEP, it is important that young Nunavummiut are attracted to participating in this program.

## **Size of the Public Service**

Members have noted during the course of their review of business plans that the number of positions in departmental organizational charts continues to expand each year, even while current GN job vacancy rates remain at or near the 20-25% level. While recognizing that there is not likely to be a "final" size for the public service as a whole, it would nonetheless be useful to establish a clearer picture of the size of the public service in the medium and long-term. Members also note continued inconsistencies between business plans, mid-year reports and GN-wide statistical reports on the size and number of positions in departments, boards and agencies.

**List of Recommendations**

- 1 That the work of the Law Review Commission be integrated into, and co-ordinated with, the Government's overall legislative agenda.
- 2 That the results of the first annual review of the Clyde River Protocol be tabled in the Legislative Assembly for consideration at the earliest opportunity.
- 3 That the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs take the lead in developing and making public its GN-wide strategy for the fulfillment of the Government's obligations under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.
- 4 That the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs take the lead in working to ensure that GN departments, boards and agencies fulfill their statutory tabling requirements.
- 5 That the recommendations of the Nunavut-NWT Legislative Review Panel on the *Workers' Compensation Act* be presented to all Members of the Legislative Assembly for review.
- 6 That the recommendations of the Liquor Licensing Board from its community consultations on alcohol-related issues in Nunavut be made public and presented to all Members of the Legislative Assembly for review prior to any fundamental changes in policy or legislation.
- 7 That the Department of Finance and Administration prepare and make public an annual list of payments over a certain minimum value for goods and services made by the GN to contractors and suppliers.
- 8 That the 2002-2003 main estimates include actual expenditures by standard object from previous fiscal years.
- 9 That the Department of Human Resources work to prepare a comprehensive workforce profile of the Nunavut public service.
- 10 That the effectiveness of the Workplace Wellness Program be evaluated at the conclusion of its first year of operation.

**Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health****Department of Health and Social Services**

The Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health has reviewed the business plan and main estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services for the fiscal

year 2001-2002. This budget was subsequently approved during the fifth session of the Legislative Assembly.

The Standing Committee makes the following comments, observations and recommendations with respect to a number of specific issues.

### **Capital Facilities**

Members continue to have many questions regarding the new regional health facilities which are planned for Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit. Members recommend that the Committee be provided with regular updates from the Minister on the planning and funding options under consideration, the scope of services to be offered in each facility, operational costs, staffing requirements and client boarding options.

**Members support the upcoming renovations to community health facilities but recommend that future renovation plans include staff residences, as well. In certain communities, accommodation arrangements for staff present difficulties when responding to emergency calls in a timely fashion.**

### **Departmental Budget**

Members of the Standing Committee recognize that serious financial pressures have faced the Department of Health and Social Services since the integration of the health boards. At that time, the Department inherited a deficit of \$8.9 million. Given the rapidly growing population and high rates of illness across Nunavut, the Committee understands that there are great pressures on the Department and that issues such as suicide, substance abuse and family violence increase the burdens for health and social service providers. The Committee feels that without significant increases to the base budget, the department may risk a deficit situation with resulting impacts on program delivery.

The Committee had recommended that the Minister make all efforts to access additional funding and was very pleased to hear of the recovery of funds through the Non-Insured Health Benefits program as well as of the access to further funding for the Nunavut Ikajuruti Inungnik Ungasiktumi Telehealth program.

The Committee recommends that the Minister continue to explore all possible avenues to access additional funding from outside sources.

### **Community-Based Initiatives**

In keeping with the principles underlying the Bathurst Mandate, the Standing Committee feels strongly that the path to self-reliance lies with encouraging community-based involvement and solutions to problems. Members are pleased with the department's success in establishing Health Committees of Council, although there continue to be concerns that the level of funding of \$5,000 for each community committee will not be adequate to address the increasing needs. The Standing Committee supports the initiatives taken by community Committees of Council to deliver programs at the

community level. The Committee recommends that the amount of funding allocated to Committees of Council be reviewed at the earliest possible opportunity.

Members feel that community-based healing programs will be most influential in dealing with some of the most pressing issues such as suicide prevention, but they require more support. The Committee encourages the involvement of Elders, especially in counselling and support programs in the area of mental health.

Members were pleased to hear of the Department's intention to incorporate traditional practices and knowledge into service delivery and *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* into the design of such programs and services. The Committee recommends that the Mental Health Strategy, which is currently being developed, be a priority for this type of initiative. The Committee further recommends that funding allocated for activities involving Elders and *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* not be categorized as "other" budget items. Funding for these activities should be specifically broken out in budget documentation to allow for greater transparency.

Members were pleased with the Department's health promotion campaigns, such as the tobacco cessation program, and fully support future initiatives in this area. Members were also pleased to hear that specific initiatives are being directed towards communicable diseases, such as tuberculosis control and surveillance. The Committee recommends that the Department set specific targets, such as reductions in youth smoking rates or incidents of tuberculosis to measure the success of both centralized and community-based programming. The Committee believes that by focusing on relationships between service delivery and health-status indicators the Department will be able to demonstrate the success of funding objectives.

### **Contracted Services**

Contracted boarding home services continue to be an area of concern for Members of the Committee. Members were pleased that the Department responded to their concerns by committing to a comprehensive review of boarding home contracts; a review covering both services and policies. Members recommend that Client Satisfaction Surveys be conducted on a regular basis in all such facilities in order to monitor the services provided and to increase the standard of accountability applied to boarding home management.

The issue of dental health in Nunavut has been recognized as a priority issue. Members have raised some concerns over the status of dental contracts and services across the region and encourage the Minister to seek increased federal funding for such services.

### **Staffing**

Staffing levels in health worker and social worker positions continue to be a serious concern in several communities. Committee members support the work of the Department's Nunavut Iluarsajit Action Team in its efforts to recruit and retain workers.

## **Training of Nunavut Health Workers**

The recently announced attrition rates in the Arctic College Nunavut Nursing Program are an issue of concern. The Committee was pleased to hear that, in co-operation with the Department of Education, increased support has been made available for students in the Health Education Program at Nunavut Arctic College, including access studies available for community health representatives and x-ray technicians. The Committee recommends that the Minister look into accessing sponsorship programs beyond the established Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students program to provide additional support to health students and their families during their time of study.

## **Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth**

The Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health has reviewed the business plan and main estimates for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth for the fiscal year 2001-2002. This budget was subsequently approved during the fifth session of the Legislative Assembly.

The Standing Committee makes the following comments, observations and recommendations with respect to a number of specific issues.

### **Capital Planning**

The Committee notes that the majority of the Department's capital funding will focus on three feasibility studies: a heritage facility, a language centre, and community youth and Elder facilities. The Committee recommends that the Department provide the preliminary results of these studies to the Standing Committee at the earliest opportunity in order that discussion may ensue in an open manner. Members further note that once the feasibility studies are complete, outside funding will need to be accessed to proceed with planning, design and construction. Members encourage the Minister to continue investigating opportunities for outside funding of such capital projects.

### **Grants and Contributions**

Members were pleased to learn that the Department made significant progress in allocating its grant and contribution funding over the past year. While the Committee recognizes the value of regional projects such as the Elders and youth conferences, Members feel that more support should be focused at the community level and were pleased to hear that the Nunavut Literacy Council will be focusing on community-based training to assist communities to access funding. Members recommend that the Department continue to work with other Departments, such as Health and Social Services, Education and Sustainable Development, to ensure the greatest possible effectiveness in program delivery.

The Committee was pleased to hear that the Department is refining its accountability process for funding allocations and looks forward to seeing the introduction of a comprehensive system that tracks spending on and evaluates the performance of projects

funded through its grants and contributions programs. As a first step, the Committee recommends that the department compile and make public a comprehensive listing of projects and programs funded through the grants and contributions programs.

### **Language and Culture**

Members are encouraged by the progress made in the staffing of the Language Bureau in Kugluktuk. The Committee recognizes that there continue to be capacity problems with providing interpretation and translation services and recommends that the Department collect baseline information on translation and interpretation resources available both within and outside of Nunavut.

Members were pleased to learn that the Minister has begun the process of discussion and negotiation with the federal government for additional support for Inuit culture and language programs. Last year, the Committee recommended that the department make public its draft *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* policy. Realizing that it will take time to incorporate principles of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* into operational policies and procedures of government, the Committee looks forward to hearing the results of activities and initiatives to support the integration of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* in government.

### **Focus and Support**

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth supports a number of advisory boards and councils such as the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Tunngaviksaliuqtiit Task Force, the Status of Women Council, the Council for the Disabled and the Nunavut Historical Advisory Board. Members were very pleased recently to finally hear of the new appointments to these Boards and Councils as well as the appointment of an Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Coordinator and a Senior Advisor for Women's Issues and People with Disabilities. Members look forward to seeing the statutorily required annual reports of these Boards and Councils tabled in the House.

Members have noted from their own families and experiences that many men in today's changing society are experiencing hardship and need support systems. The Committee recommends that the Minister consider establishing a body that would address the needs of men in Nunavut. Members further recommend that the Senior Advisor position be re-designated as an Equality Advisor position to facilitate the full participation of all elements of Nunavut's society – Elders, youth, women, men and the disabled - to address social problems and issues on an equal basis.

Members were pleased to hear that the Minister has followed their recommendation to investigate possibilities for providing additional support to Elders, following the example of support programs in other jurisdictions such as seniors' discounts for grocery purchases, local transportation and housing.



## **Department of Education**

The Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health has reviewed the business plan and main estimates for the Department of Education for the fiscal year 2001-2002. This budget was subsequently approved during the fifth session of the Legislative Assembly.

The Standing Committee makes the following comments, observations and recommendations with respect to a number of specific issues.

### **Capital Planning**

The Department of Education has been allocated over 40% of the Government of Nunavut's total capital spending in 2001-2002. Members support this strategic investment in Nunavut's schools as it is fundamental to achieving objectives laid out in the Bathurst Mandate. As a number of projects require capital investment over a period of years, Members urge the Minister to commit to future years' funding for projects that are currently in the planning and design stages. Despite the considerable investment in educational facilities, Members continue to be aware of difficulties faced by many community schools due to overcrowding and outdated facilities. The Committee looks forward to the result of the Department's comprehensive capital facilities review to be completed in the near future.

Members have raised concerns that the Department received and allocated additional capital funding for school buses in two communities without any established policy or criteria. Members note that the safety and security of students in several communities would be greatly enhanced by the provision of bussing services. Members recommend that policies and guidelines for the purchase and contracting of bussing services be established.

### **District Education Authorities**

The Standing Committee is pleased with the level of support and training that the Department has committed to the District Education Authorities. The Committee recommends that the Department support the establishment of a Nunavut District Education Authority Association to assist the DEAs in carrying out their responsibilities more effectively. Members were pleased to hear that the Department has followed their suggestion to allow DEAs more autonomy in the employment of language or cultural educators as part of their staffing allocation.

The Committee understands that audits of the three dissolved District Education Councils have been finalized and look forward these documents being made public. The Committee applauds the Department's decision to invest the surplus from the dissolution of these Councils into Inuktitut curriculum and trades education.

## **Curriculum and Inuit Qaujimaqatunqangit**

Members appreciate that the Department has long-term goals for the development of a curriculum, resource materials, employing language and culture specialists but remain concerned that progress in implementing *Inuit Qaujimaqatunqangit* has been slow. The Committee feels that *Inuit Qaujimaqatunqangit* must be integrated as soon as possible in the learning process, beginning with daycare programming.

Members look forward to seeing the results of the Language of Instruction study when it is tabled in the House. Members recommend that materials collected in the process of developing the Inuktitut Curriculum be compiled and distributed to educators for their use and evaluation at the earliest opportunity.

## **Student and Teacher Development**

Committee members feel that support for post-secondary students deserves serious review. The Bathurst Mandate commitment to lifelong learning must be supported through as many means as possible. The financial support system, while better administered now, has not been significantly increased from last year's allocated amount and students studying both within and outside of Nunavut continue to face difficulties. Increased funding allocations for trades development has been most welcome, especially when it is based at the community level. The Committee recommends that the Minister continue efforts to investigate options such as interdepartmental programming or accessing outside funding for training and student support.

Committee members are pleased with the Department's progress in supporting Inuit teacher education training, leadership and development and with the support for elder roles as educators in schools.

Following the review of the Department's 2000-2001 Budget and Business Plan, the Standing Committee recommended that the Department assess the needs of students with special needs and develop new initiatives to meet those needs. While the Department has made some initial efforts in this area, Members recommend that these initiatives be incorporated into base programming instead of one-time funding. Members further recommend that the Department work with the Department of Health and Social Services to establish programs to measure the health status of children entering the school system in order to establish a baseline of needs and anticipate future needs.

The Committee was pleased to hear of the recent appointments to the Apprenticeship, Trades and Occupations Certification Board. Members hope that the Board will give full consideration to the skills, traditions and culture of Nunavut's residents and advocate for the removal of unnecessary barriers that prevent otherwise skilled and competent workers from receiving certification. By having a strong voice in issues relating to apprenticeship and trades training, Board members will play an important role in the successful development of Nunavut's labour force.

## Income Support

The Committee is pleased with the Department's efforts to provide trades and training programs at the community level which assist people in moving from dependency to self-reliance. The Committee looks forward to seeing the results of the Income Support Review when it is complete and made public.

### List of Recommendations

- 11 That the Minister of Health and Social Services provide regular updates on the three new regional health facilities including information on the planning and funding options under consideration, the scope of services to be offered in each facility, operational costs, staffing requirements and client boarding options.
- 12 That the amount of funding allocated to Health Committees of Council be reviewed at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 13 That funding allocated for activities involving Elders and *Inuit* Qaujimaqatuqangit be specifically referenced in budget documentation to allow for greater transparency.
- 14 That the Department of Health and Social Services set specific targets, such as reductions in youth smoking rates or incidents of tuberculosis, to measure the success of both centralized and community-based programming.
- 15 That Client Satisfaction Surveys be conducted on a regular basis in all health boarding facilities in order to monitor the services provided and to increase the standard of accountability applied to boarding home management.
- 16 That the Minister of Health and Social Services look into accessing sponsorship programs beyond the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students program to provide additional support to health students and their families during their time of study.
- 17 That the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth provide the preliminary results of the capital feasibility studies to the Standing Committee at the earliest opportunity.
- 18 That the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth continue to work with other Departments such as Health and Social Services, Education and Sustainable Development to ensure the most effectiveness in program delivery.
- 19 That the Department compile and make public a comprehensive listing of projects and programs funded through the grants and contributions programs.
- 20 That the Department collect baseline information on translation and interpretation resources available both within and outside of Nunavut.

- 21 That the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth consider establishing a body that would address the needs of men in Nunavut.
- 22 That the Senior Advisor position in the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth be re-designated as an Equality Advisor position.
- 23 That the Department of Education establish policies and guidelines for the purchase and contracting of bussing services.
- 24 That the Department of Education support the establishment of a Nunavut District Education Authority Association to assist the DEAs in carrying out their responsibilities more effectively.
- 25 That materials collected by representatives of the Department of Education in the process of developing the Inuktitut Curriculum be compiled and distributed to educators for their use and evaluation as soon as possible.
- 26 That the Minister of Education continue efforts to investigate options such as interdepartmental programming or accessing outside funding for training and student support.
- 27 That the Department of Education's initiatives for special needs programming be incorporated into base programming instead of one-time funding.
- 28 That the Department of Education work with the Department of Health and Social Services to establish programs to measure the health status of children entering the school system in order to establish a baseline of needs and anticipate future needs.

## **Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development**

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### **Nunavut Housing Corporation**

The Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development has reviewed the business plan, capital plan and main estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation for the fiscal year 2001-2002. This budget was subsequently approved during the fifth session of the Legislative Assembly.

The Standing Committee makes the following comments, observations and recommendations with respect to a number of specific issues.

### **Disclosure of Funding Sources in 2001-2002 Main Estimates**

The Standing Committee was pleased to see the Corporation provide a complete listing of its sources of funding in its main estimates for the 2001-2002 fiscal year. As the Minister stated in her opening comments before the Committee of the Whole, this disclosure provides an accurate picture of the Corporation's activities and the Committee would like to see this practice continued in subsequent years.

### **Nunavut Housing Crisis**

The Committee continues to stress the need for more social housing units in Nunavut. As the Corporation's own business plan acknowledges, the housing shortage is at crisis levels and demand for these units will only increase over the next five years. The Standing Committee would like to encourage the Corporation to continue to lobby the federal government to access funds for social housing in Nunavut.

The Committee noted that the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, Northern Development and Natural Resources is presently conducting an inquiry into aboriginal housing and has recently heard from representatives of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada. Members would recommend that the Minister and the Corporation make a presentation to the federal Standing Committee to illustrate, first-hand, the desperate situation that exists in Nunavut and to lobby the federal government to work with the Corporation to assist in addressing this issue.

### **Recommendations of the Minister's Task Force on Housing**

The Standing Committee was pleased to note that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has adopted several of the recommendations that were made in the final report of the Minister's Task Force on Housing. The Committee would like to stress the need for public consultation when implementing these recommendations, such as the pursuit of new and innovative housing designs.

The Committee read with interest the report on the Nunavut Public Housing Rent Scale Review that was recently tabled in the Assembly. The Committee looks forward to reading the final report of this review and seeing the introduction of a rent scale that accurately reflects the needs of Nunavummiut.

The Committee was also encouraged to hear the Minister indicate during proceedings in Committee of the Whole that her office is exploring the possibility of selling public housing units to tenants. The Committee would like to recommend that the Housing Corporation pursue this initiative and provide a framework for its implementation in the near future, should it prove to be a viable option.

## **Department of Public Works and Services**

The Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development has reviewed the business plan, capital plan and main estimates of the Department of Public Works and Services for the fiscal year 2001-2002. This budget was subsequently approved during the fifth session of the Legislative Assembly.

The Standing Committee would like to make the following comments, observations and recommendations with respect to a number of specific issues.

### **NNI Policy**

The Standing Committee noted with interest that the first anniversary of the implementation of the Nunavummi Nangminiqatunik Ikajuuti (NNI Policy) has recently passed. As indicated in the policy and by the Minister, a review of the NNI Policy is to take place after the completion of the first year since implementation. The Committee looks forward to reading the results of this review when it is tabled in the Assembly.

The Committee also noted that the policy mandates the appointment of a Contracting Policy Review Committee and a Contracting Appeals Board with representatives being named from the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and, in the case of the Appeals Board, the Nunavut Chamber of Commerce. Members recognize that there is more than one representative party involved with the appointment of the Committee and Board. However, the Standing Committee is concerned with the lack of progress that has been made to date. The Standing Committee would like to recommend that the Government of Nunavut and the other representative organizations move forward on these appointments and make these announcements public as soon as possible.

### **Nunavut Sealift**

The committee was pleased to hear that the Government of Nunavut is taking over more responsibility for the delivery of services in Nunavut. The devolution of the Eastern Arctic Sealift from the Canadian Coast Guard to the Government of Nunavut has the promise to enable the government to better serve its people.

During the budget session, the Minister indicated that contract negotiations were being finalized for the provision of this service to the Government of Nunavut. The Minister also indicated that considerable savings would be realized. The Committee would like to recommend that a review of the upcoming eastern arctic sealift season take place - once all costs have been calculated - to confirm that the cost savings envisioned by the Department have been realized and that the findings be reported to the Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

### **Petroleum Product Division's Operational Review**

The Committee noted that during the last sitting of the Assembly, the Petroleum Products Division Operational Review had still not been tabled. The Committee also noted that this particular division has been mentioned in several other reports. The 2001-2002 business plan of the Department of Finance states that it will be undertaking a review of subsidy programs for various utility services, one of which will be the fuel subsidy program, and the Ikuma Report makes several long-term recommendations for changes to the Petroleum Products Division.

There appears to be an overlap between the Department's review and the others that are mentioned above. The Committee would like to recommend that these previously mentioned reviews be co-ordinated and that the Petroleum Products Division be included in the government's major program review exercise with a view to developing a long-term plan to establish a more efficient and effective PPD operation.

### **Informatics and Telecommunications Operations**

The Committee noted in its review of the Department's budget estimates that the total expenditures of the Informatics Branch from April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2002 exceeded \$37 million. This figure comprises budgeted amounts plus supplementary appropriations since the government's creation in 1999. The Committee is concerned with what appears to be a lack of thorough budget planning for IT operations. The Committee was encouraged to hear the Minister state during Committee of the Whole that the Department anticipated that they would be able to remain with their estimated budget for IT in the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

<b>Department of Justice</b>
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The Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development has reviewed the business plan, capital plan and main estimates of the Department of Justice for the fiscal year 2001-2002. This budget was subsequently approved during the fifth session of the Legislative Assembly.

The Standing Committee makes the following comments, observations and recommendations with respect to a number of specific issues.

### **Legal Services In Nunavut**

During its meetings with the Department, the Standing Committee brought forward the need for Nunavummiut to be aware of their legal rights. Discussions took place regarding the 1-800 law line service currently provided in the Northwest Territories. With this system, residents can call in and seek general legal advice that is both anonymous and free from a lawyer who has volunteered his or her time.

The Committee feels that providing such basic, but important, legal information and assistance to residents such as the drawing up of wills and other documents are essential. The Committee would stress the fact that any program put in place must be able to meet the needs of unilingual Inuit who would be accessing such legal information. Assistance with the preparation of a last will and testament, for example, would alleviate many of the complications that can arise when an individual dies intestate. A will gives the individual the power to choose how his estate will be disposed of. The Standing Committee would like to recommend that the Department of Justice come forward with initiatives to ensure that the public has free access to basic legal information such as a 1-800 law line service.

### **Akitsiraq Law School**

The Standing Committee fully supports the Akitsiraq Law School and is anxious to see the law school and its future lawyers succeed in Nunavut. The committee noted that the Akitsiraq Law School intends to offer additional courses in the areas of the law that are relevant to Nunavut. This is a bold approach and we applaud it.

### **Holistic Approach to Justice in Nunavut**

The Committee was pleased to hear the Minister report on the success of the single-level trial court system that was established to meet the unique needs of Nunavut. During its meetings with the Minister, the Committee stressed the need for a holistic approach to the legal system. This approach needs to be incorporated into the Nunavut justice system in part through the roles of the Community Justice Committees and Justices of the Peace. An effective justice system must look at the whole and not simply focus on the crime.

The committee noted that the 2001-2002 capital plan allocates \$100,000 to continue the planning and design stage for the new courthouse. The Standing Committee would recommend that the Department of Justice incorporate the holistic approach to the legal system into the design of the new courthouse by allocating space for not only legal professionals, but also Community Justice Committees.

### **Backlog of Court Cases Across Nunavut**

During its meetings with the Department, the Standing Committee brought forward concerns regarding the continued backlog of cases in the courts. This backlog has put an added emotional strain on all those involved, from victim to offender. The Committee was pleased to hear the Minister state in the Assembly that his Department is making attempts to alleviate this problem and has approached the federal government for the appointment of a third judge for Nunavut.

### **Policing Levels in Nunavut**

In light of recent tragedies, the Standing Committee has expressed concern to the Minister over whether the police presence in our communities is sufficient to meet the



public safety needs of our residents. Members are aware of the many challenges that the men and women working in the RCMP detachments face and they deserve our support. The Standing Committee would like to recommend that the Department work with the RCMP in conducting a formal assessment of policing needs in the communities. This assessment should incorporate both the Community Constable Program and Inuit Policing Program with a view to determining what would best address the issue of public safety in our communities.

### **Department of Community Government and Transportation**

The Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development has reviewed the business plan, capital plan and main estimates of the Department of Community Government and Transportation for the fiscal year 2001-2002. This budget was subsequently approved during the fifth session of the Legislative Assembly.

The Standing Committee makes the following comments, observations and recommendations with respect to a number of specific issues.

#### **Community Consultation on Multi-Year Capital Plans**

The Standing Committee noted that local government officials from several communities have indicated that the Department has not been responding to the priorities that they had identified with respect to capital planning. This situation does little to instil confidence in the consultative process that this government has placed so much emphasis on.

The Committee also noted that the Minister stated in his opening comments to the Committee of the Whole that his Department will lead a capital planning consultation process during the 2001-2002 fiscal year. The Standing Committee would like to stress the importance of consultations and would like to recommend that the Department ensure that these consultations take place in a manner that allows time for an effective consultation and feedback process so that community needs can indeed be addressed in future GN capital plans.

#### **Transportation Strategy**

The Standing Committee is pleased to see that the Department is moving forward on the Transportation Strategy for Nunavut. As there is a consultative aspect to this project, the Committee would strongly encourage the Department to ensure that consultations are thorough and seen to be beneficial for all those involved.

#### **Municipal Financing Review**

The Standing Committee was pleased to see that the Department has increased funding to community governments over the next two fiscal years as a result of forced growth. The Committee noted that the Minister indicated that the Department anticipates that they will be able to implement the recommendations from the Municipal Financing Review for the

2002-2003 fiscal year. Members also noted that during the budget deliberations the GN indicated that a major program and expenditure review exercise will be taking place over the next year. The Committee would like to emphasize the need for those conducting these two reviews to be cognizant of areas of mutual concern and work co-operatively to ensure that both reviews complement one another.

### **Harbour Program**

During its meetings with the Minister, the Standing Committee raised the issue of the need for improved docks and safe harbours in the communities. Further discussions brought about the possibility of accessing funding through the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans' Small Craft Harbour Program.

Most of Nunavut's communities are situated along the shoreline of this vast territory, and many Nunavummiut own boats both for personal and commercial use, and a safe and reliable dock and harbour system would assist greatly in meeting the needs of the private sector, commercial fishermen and the tourism industry.

As one of the long-term goals of the GN's Transportation Strategy is safe harbours, the Standing Committee would like to recommend that the Department of Community Government and Transportation continue to work with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans to ensure that the Small Craft Harbour Program is indeed implemented in Nunavut in the near future.

### **Recreation Facilities**

The Standing Committee continues to assert the view that recreation facilities are an essential element of healthy communities. The Committee was pleased to see that the Department has set aside funds for training in facilities management as well as funds to enhance sport coaching in Nunavut.

The Committee was also pleased to see that the Department has committed to developing standards and criteria for recreation facilities as well as an inventory of what facilities currently exist in Nunavut. The Committee also noted that the Department has allocated \$1.5 million in capital over the next five years for "various" recreation facilities across Nunavut. \$300,000 has been allocated for this particular line item in 2001-2002. The Committee would like to strongly encourage the Department to ensure that these standards and criteria are developed in a timely fashion so that they can be applied to the above-mentioned funds in a consistent and fair manner providing all communities with an equal opportunity to access the funding.

The Committee continues to emphasize the need to ensure that the non-decentralized communities have adequate facilities. The Standing Committee would like to recommend that in its review of standards and criteria, the Department be sensitive to the situation facing smaller, non-decentralized communities.

## **Department of Sustainable Development**

The Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development has reviewed the business plan, capital plan and main estimates of the Department of Sustainable Development for the fiscal year 2001-2002. This budget was subsequently approved during the fifth session of the Legislative Assembly.

The Standing Committee makes the following comments, observations and recommendations with respect to a number of specific issues.

### **Tabling of Business Plans**

The Standing Committee was pleased to see the Department follow through on the Committee's recommendation to table the 2001-2002 business plans for the Nunavut Development Corporation, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and Nunavut Tourism. This demonstrates a genuine willingness by this government to promote transparency and accountability.

### **Nunavut Development Corporation**

The Standing Committee was pleased to hear of the success of the Nunavut Development Corporation's subsidiary companies. The Committee was also encouraged to hear that NDC will explore possible economic ventures in non-decentralized communities. The GN has responded to the Committee's concerns and demonstrated a commitment to non-decentralized communities by providing funds to the NDC that are earmarked for stimulating economic growth in those communities.

The Standing Committee noted in the Nunavut Development Corporation's 1999-2000 Annual Report that the Office of the Auditor General indicated that NDC has not collected information necessary to determine the number of jobs that resulted from its investment in business enterprises. The Committee believes that this information provides a substantive measure of the success of NDC's investments. The Standing Committee would like to recommend that the Department ensure that NDC collects this data from the creation of Nunavut to the current day and on into future years.

### **High-Speed Internet Access**

The Standing Committee has stressed the need for affordable high-speed Internet access across Nunavut. High-speed Internet access has made the outside world all the more accessible to those people living in isolated communities. Through access to the Internet, individuals can obtain goods and services as well as participate in various aspects of distance education. Access to this service is becoming an essential element for Nunavummiut as the world is beginning to rely more and more on the information highway.

The Committee was pleased to hear that the Department has established a Nunavut Broadband Task Force which will provide a submission to the National Broadband Task Force on the development of a strategy to bring affordable high speed internet access to all Nunavummiut.

### **Training for Employment in the Mining Industry**

The Standing Committee feels that it is important to reiterate the need for the implementation of training programs for Nunavummiut to prepare for employment in the mining industry. The Committee was pleased to hear of the success of a recent training program through the Kitikmeot Employment Training Partnership and looks forward to hearing of the implementation of similar programs in the other two regions.

The committee also recognizes that as part of its overall goal to become more self-sufficient, the Government of Nunavut is pursuing a devolution agreement with the Government of Canada for managing subsurface rights in Nunavut -- a major commitment of the 2000 Budget Address. The Committee would like to strongly encourage the Department of Sustainable Development to work with other departments to prepare the people of Nunavut for the day when this agreement is in place. The Committee looks forward to hearing an update on the progress made to date and seeing the details of this plan in the near future.

### **Climate Change**

The Standing Committee was pleased to hear of the progress that the Department is making toward the development of a climate change strategy for Nunavut. Tremendous impacts will be felt in Nunavut as a result of climate change and there is a pressing need for Nunavummiut to prepare adaptation plans. The Committee has also expressed the need for an energy conservation strategy for the Government of Nunavut.

As one of the largest consumers of energy in Nunavut, the GN can lead by example and reduce energy consumption thus saving much needed dollars that can be used in other areas. The Standing Committee would like to recommend that the Department work in consultation with other government departments to develop a GN-wide energy conservation strategy to be implemented in conjunction with the climate change strategy.

### **Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and Wildlife Research**

The Standing Committee was pleased to hear that the Minister has committed to incorporating *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* into wildlife research projects that are being conducted by the Department. Members have expressed concern that local hunters with traditional knowledge of migratory paths and animal behaviour have not been adequately consulted throughout GN wildlife research projects. The incorporation of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* into the wildlife research program is an excellent opportunity to blend traditional and contemporary wildlife management practices.

## **Nunavut Tourism Association**

Members noted that both the 2001-2002 Budget Address and the Minister's opening comments before the Committee of the Whole recognized the important contribution of the tourism sector to the Nunavut economy. The Standing Committee believes that in order for the tourism industry to thrive, there must be strong and unified support for its operators.

The Standing Committee was pleased to hear that the Department and Nunavut Tourism have moved forward on the development of a "made in Nunavut" tourism strategy. Stakeholder involvement is essential in the development of this strategy and the Committee was also pleased to hear that several meetings with stakeholders have taken place.

The Committee is still concerned, however, with what appears to be insufficient funding levels for Nunavut Tourism. The Committee noted that funding for the tourism sector in the Yukon Territory, a similar and competing jurisdiction, is much greater at \$11.5 million. Members are aware of the current fiscal position of the GN, however, the development of a solid infrastructure and marketable product is imperative for the survival of this vital sector of Nunavut's economy, a sector that has the potential to generate real economic returns. The Committee would like to encourage the Department and Nunavut Tourism to pursue alternative funding sources to continue the development of a solid tourism infrastructure for the territory.

During its meetings with the Department, the Committee noted that the division of roles and responsibilities between the Department and the Association appeared to remain unclear. As a new tourism strategy is currently under development, Members would like to recommend that the Nunavut Tourism Strategy include a clear assignment of roles and responsibilities to the Department and Nunavut Tourism.

<b>List of Recommendations</b>
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- 29 That the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Minister make a formal presentation to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, Northern Development and Natural Resources to illustrate, first-hand, the desperate housing situation that exists in Nunavut and that the Corporation lobby the federal government to assist in addressing this issue.
- 30 That the Nunavut Housing Corporation pursue the possibility of selling public housing units to tenants and provide a framework for its implementation in the near future should it prove to be a viable option.
- 31 That the Government of Nunavut and the other representative organizations move forward on the appointments of the Contracting Policy Review Committee and a

- Contracting Appeals Board and make these announcements public as soon as possible.
- 32 That the Department of Public Works and Services conduct a review, once all costs have been incurred, of the upcoming eastern arctic sealift to confirm that the cost savings envisioned by the Department have been realized and that the findings be reported to the Assembly at the earliest opportunity.
- 33 That the Petroleum Products Division of the Department of Public Works and Services be included in the government's major program review exercise with a view to developing a long-term plan to establish a more efficient and effective PPD operation.
- 34 That the Department of Justice come forward with initiatives to ensure that the public has access to legal information such as a 1-800 law line service.
- 35 That the Department of Justice incorporate the holistic approach to the legal system into the design of the new courthouse by allocating space for not only legal professionals but also community justice committees.
- 36 That the Department of Justice work with the RCMP in conducting a formal assessment of policing needs in the communities. This assessment should incorporate both the Community Constable Program and Inuit Policing Program with a view to determining what would best address the issue of public safety in our communities.
- 37 That the Department of Community Government and Transportation ensure that the capital planning consultation process take place in a manner that allows time for an effective consultation and feedback process so that community needs can indeed be addressed in future GN capital plans.
- 38 That the Department of Community Government and Transportation continue to work with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans to ensure that the Small Craft Harbour Program is implemented in Nunavut in the near future.
- 39 That the Department of Community Government and Transportation be sensitive to the situation facing smaller, non-decentralized communities in its review of standards and criteria for recreation facilities.
- 40 That the Department of Sustainable Development ensure that the Nunavut Development Corporation collects information necessary to determine the number of jobs that resulted from its investment in business enterprises from the creation of Nunavut to the current day and on into future years.

- 41 That the Department of Sustainable Development work in consultation with other departments to develop a GN-wide energy conservation strategy to be implemented in conjunction with the climate change strategy.
- 42 That the Nunavut Tourism Strategy include a clear assignment of roles and responsibilities to the Department of Sustainable Development and Nunavut Tourism.

## **Standing Committee Ajauqtiit**

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### **Office of the Legislative Assembly**

The Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* has reviewed the business plan and main estimates for the Office of the Legislative Assembly for the fiscal year 2001-2002. This budget was subsequently approved during the fifth session of the Legislative Assembly.

The Standing Committee makes the following comments, observations and recommendations with respect to a number of specific issues.

#### **Legislative Assembly Building**

Improvements to the Building continue in such areas as Chamber lighting. It is expected that the Interpreter booths in the committee rooms will be improved to accommodate both Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun interpreters.

Members were pleased to learn that the Building has hosted over 600 visitors and dignitaries over the past year. The Committee was impressed with the permanent display of Nunavut's Official Symbols and the unveiling of these symbols was attended quite well by the public. As well, artwork by such renowned northern artists as Germain Arnatauyok continues to be shown in the foyer of the Assembly. Exhibitions like this serve to raise the profile of Nunavut's artistic community.

#### **Public Affairs and Information Technology**

Members acknowledge the efforts of the Assembly to ensure that information is readily available to members, GN officials and the public. Members are pleased with such initiatives as the finalization of the Nunavut Automated Library System; developing procedures for cataloguing Inuktitut materials; developing a portal to offer access to full-text GN publications; developing standards for the electronic archiving of GN publications; developing appropriate protocols concerning the privacy and management of information in Members' offices; finalization of the installation of the Chamber Digital Audio System; and regular updates to the Assembly's website. The website provides an important source of information for the public on Assembly activities.

The Committee noted that planning is still underway for a Speaker's Youth Assembly and look forward to this going ahead, as it will provide an opportunity for Nunavut youth to learn about their government.

### **Officers Appointed by the Legislative Assembly**

The Standing Committee itself has been charged with the task of recruiting a permanent Chief Electoral Officer for Nunavut. This will follow on the recommendations made by the Committee in its final report on elections in Nunavut. The Committee looks forward to the participation of NTI in the process, given the long-term goal of achieving greater co-operation in the area of elections administration in Nunavut.

### **Tabling Requirements**

The Committee was very pleased that the Office of the Legislative Assembly completed all of its statutory tabling requirements during the 4<sup>th</sup> Session, including the annual reports of the Languages Commissioner, the Information and Privacy Commissioner and the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. The committee noted that the Office of the Legislative Assembly has made public the incremental costs of holding the February 2000 Rankin Inlet sitting.

The Committee looks forward to the introduction of the new *Integrity Act* during the current Session.

### **Expenditures and Capital Plan**

The Committee was pleased to hear that the Office of the Legislative Assembly is within its budget envelope for the year and that the amount for the hiring of Constituency Assistants was increased, as this was an area where Members have expressed concern, given the important role CAs play in helping members of the public with inquiries and problems.

The Committee made input into the selection of a landscaping design for the Assembly grounds. An Ulu design has been selected, and the Committee looks forward to the Assembly playing its part in working towards a more attractive and people-friendly seat of government for all Nunavummiut.

<b>List of Recommendations</b>
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- 43 That the Legislative Library continue to work towards establishing a comprehensive collection of Inuktitut-language materials.
- 44 That the facilities management and janitorial services functions be transferred to the Legislative Assembly from the Department of Public Works and Services.



- 45 That one Standing Committee reviews the Business Plan and the Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner, so as to avoid duplication and overlap.
- 46 That improvements continue to be made to the Legislative Assembly Building and grounds with a view to creating a people-friendly space that celebrates Nunavut's culture, art and diversity.
- 47 That the Assembly review the results of the 2001 Nunavut Household Survey in planning for the broadcasting of House and Committee proceedings.

**Speaker:** Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Report 010 – 1(5): Permanent Chief Electoral Officer**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. as Chair of the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit, I am pleased to rise today to inform Members of the Legislative Assembly that a Selection Sub-Committee, consisting of Ms. Rebekah Williams, Mr. Ovide Alakannuark and myself, has been struck to initiate the recruitment of a permanent Chief Electoral Officer for Nunavut.

As Members will recall, the Standing Committee tabled its final report on the administration of elections in Nunavut during the 4th Session. One of the Committee's key recommendations was that efforts be made to establish a central elections office for Nunavut. I am also pleased to inform Members and the public today that an Innuinaqtun translation of the Committee's report has been produced, and is available for the public. Later today, I will be tabling this document.

The appointment of a CEO will be the next important step in this process. Over the past year, the Committee has held productive discussions with such key partners as NTI and Elections Canada. The Selection Sub-Committee has invited NTI to nominate a member of its Board of Directors to participate in the interview process for a new CEO.

Mr. Speaker, the appointments of such statutory officers of the Legislative Assembly as the Languages Commissioner, the Conflict of Interest Commissioner and the Information and Privacy Commissioner have been conducted in a competitive and transparent manner. We look forward to selecting a CEO in the same way. In the next few weeks, the position will be advertised to the public.

Mr. Speaker, we anticipate being in a position to recommend the name of a successful candidate for appointment during our next sitting. Over the coming weeks, we will keep Members informed of our progress.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Iqaluit Centre, that the Report be received and adopted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Do members agree to adopt the report as read into the record.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** Agreed. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 034 - 1(5): Ajauqtiit Report - Chief Electoral Officer for Nunavut**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to table the Inuinnaqtun translation of the Standing Committee of Ajauqtiit's review of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut.

Copies of this report are available in the entrance of the assembly, I would encourage the public to take a copy to read. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Ng.

#### **Tabled Document 035 - 1(5): Public Accounts March 31, 2000**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to table the first Public Accounts for the Government of Nunavut for the year ended March 31st, 2000.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ng. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Akesuk.

#### **Tabled Document 036 - 1(5): Nunavut Economic Outlook Report Summary**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the Nunavut Economic Outlook, the executive summary, from the Conference Board of Canada.

I don't have the translation yet but as soon as we get the translations, I'll hand it out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Kattuk.

#### **Tabled Document 037 - 1(5): CLEY Capital Expenditures 2000-2001**

**Hon. Peter Kattuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document Department of Culture, Elders and Youth, Capital Expenditures for 2000-2001, community summary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Item 20. Report of Committee of the Whole. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister Picco.

### **Item 21: Third Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 8 - An Act to Amend Certain Acts Concerning Health Professionals -Third Reading**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet South and the beautiful Whale Cove, that Bill 8, An Act to Amend Certain Acts Concerning Health Professionals be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. The Bill has had third reading. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

#### **Bill 10 - An Act Amend the Labour Standards Act, Parental Leave – Third Reading**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to close off the session in Cambridge Bay by moving, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hudson Bay. that Bill 10, An Act Amend the Labour Standards Act, Parental Leave be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Ng. Motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. The Bill has had third reading. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills.

Before we proceed to Item 22. Orders of the Day. I would like to thank all the people that were involved in preparing and running the Assembly in Cambridge Bay. Special thanks to the people in the community and also the school here that gave up their time, to the children who gave up their time and their gymnasium to us to have the Assembly and special thanks to principal Dawn Wilson.

As a token of our appreciation, we'd like to present to each of the students and the staff and the teachers a t-shirt and at the back of the t-shirt, it indicates the school and the location of the Assembly.

>>Applause

Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

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

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

Orders of the Day for Wednesday November 14, 2001:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

### **Assent to Bills**

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Clerk. Members, before we adjourn I have a document here from the Commissioner of Nunavut, Mr. Irniq. It states " I am pleased to provide Assent the following Bills:

**Bill 8 - An Act to Amend Certain Acts Concerning Health Professions - Assent**  
**Bill 10 - An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, Parental Leave - Assent**

Signed Commissioner of Nunavut, Peter Irniq"

Members, that concludes the session. I wish all members a safe trip home and Godspeed. This House stands adjourned until November 14, 2001.

Sergeant-At-Arms

>>*Applause*

