



**Nunavut Canada**

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**5th Session**

**1st Assembly**

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Official Report

**DAY 50**

**Wednesday February 27, 2002**

**2619 – 2681**

**Iqaluit**

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

# Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

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(Iqaluit Centre)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Wednesday February 27, 2002**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Irqittuq, Honourable Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Glenn McLean, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Jobie Nutarak, Honourable Kevin O'Brien, Honourable Paul Okalik, Honourable Ed Picco, Honourable Manitok Thompson, Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, Mr. Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker:** Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 157 - 1 (5): Community Land Administration Certificate Program**

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce to the Legislative Assembly the start of the Community Lands Administration Certificate Program.

This training program was developed to provide training to Community Land Administrators working in the communities. The program will give them the basic knowledge required to administer municipal lands. This will ensure that development and management of municipal lands happens in an orderly fashion and respects the interest of the community.

This training opportunity is being funded by the Department of Community Government & Transportation and was developed in partnership with Nunavut Arctic College. Thirteen students from across Nunavut began attending the year long course in Cambridge Bay on February 18<sup>th</sup>. We wish them success with their studies.

Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to ensure that we make these types of training opportunities available to the communities to improve their abilities to manage their affairs. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. Minister's Statements. Minister Kilabuk.

**Minister's Statement 158 - 1 (5): Announcement of a Joint-use Research Laboratory**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to announce today that the Nunavut Research Institute in conjunction with the Federal Department of the Environment is currently finalizing arrangements for the location of a portable laboratory in association with the Iqaluit Research Centre.

This temporary facility will be fully equipped and staffed by Environment Canada, and will provide testing for the Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program. Mr. Speaker, the new facility will not only provide opportunities for training and capacity building but it will also provide a state of the art laboratory for northern research.

The construction of this facility is timely, given the growing concerns about environmental testing and contaminants that may be present in our oceans. The Iqaluit Research Centre of the Nunavut Research Institute is one of the oldest government buildings in Iqaluit. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development turned over the research centre to the GNWT in the 1980's.

The building has served many purposes and currently serves as an office, laboratory and research library. The changes I am announcing today will provide Nunavummiut with access to new technology and modern equipment, and will allow testing to take place in Nunavut, rather than in southern Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Item 3: Members' Statements****Member's Statement 441 - 1(5): Clarification of Mr Nutarak's Member's Statement**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the statement made the other day by the Member for Tunnuniq and to help clarify it. Mr. Speaker, we are not opposing any women going to safe shelters anywhere in Nunavut.

We are looking for ways to make the system better for those couples who break up and those individuals that go to the safe shelters. I would like to say that these individuals go to the shelter and their children are left behind, so they are hurting as well. Once these children grow up they will repeat the same behaviour.

We need to rectify this because if this young person repeats the same behaviour when he or she grows up, whether it is physical or emotional abuse, this will have to be improved because it is very important to us. Even though, as Nunavut residents, we would like to see the youth in social programs, our children will be raising their own children. When

we hurt our children they in turn repeat the same behaviour, whether it is the mother or the father.

We don't want to see this continue. We want to see the problem eradicated and at the appropriate time I will raise questions about this. I was thinking about asking the minister responsible to reply to the questions but he is not here, but at the appropriate time I will raise this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 442 - 1(5): Issue of Health Care on East Kitikmeot**

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the issue of health care for my constituents in the eastern Kitikmeot.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken before on several occasions in this House about the need for the long awaited improvements to the Kitikmeot Boarding Home to move forward. This week I received a disturbing letter from one of my constituents in Taloyoak. In February a group of people from Taloyoak encountered a number of problems while trying to seek care at the boarding home.

The problems started at the Yellowknife airport when nobody from the home met them at the airport. Mr. Speaker, one of these people is disabled, he is deaf. They were then informed that the home was full and they would have to stay overnight at a hotel. Although they were eventually admitted to the home, it was a bad experience for them.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard too many stories about unilingual Inuit encountering difficulties while travelling to Yellowknife to seek care. I have heard too many accounts of patients being dropped off at the airport and left to fend for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I call on the Minister of Health and Social Services to strengthen the standard of care and compassion for my constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At an appropriate time during question period I will be asking questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 443 - 1(5): Passing of Father Franz Van de Velde**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to talk about the passing of a well-known and respected individual who resided in Nunavut.



His name is Father Franz Van de Velde, an Oblate Missionary who spent over 30 years in Kugaaruk passed away this month. Mr. Speaker, Father Van de Velde had a very generous spirit. He tended the sick and was the advisor to many residents. He helped everyone in many ways in Kugaaruk.

Mr. Speaker, I ask those who knew him to pray for his family and friends. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Members' Statements. Mr. Nutarak.

**Member's Statement 444 - 1(5): Day-care Centre in Pond Inlet**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to express my appreciation to the hardworking people from Pond Inlet who run the day-care centre. Although it is overcrowded, it's operating very well and it's been running this way for about two years. The board and the staff should be recognized for running a successful day-care centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*>Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you. Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

**Member's Statement 445 - 1(5): Support for Canadian Rangers**

**Mr. McLean:** Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti, today I would like to raise the issue of northern security in an uncertain world. Uqaqti, the events of September 11th have shaken us to our core and have refocused our attention on the needs to safeguard our sovereignty. In Nunavut we all depend on air travel.

Uqaqti, I was pleased to see Canada's Minister of National Defence indicate this week that there will be a review of northern security needs. There is a tremendous shortfall of resources and financial support for defence in the north.

This is long overdue, in today's uncertain world we need to ensure that unique northern issues and needs are adequately addressed. Uqaqti, security means more than just military preparedness, we also need to push the Federal Government into dealing with the issues of environmental security.

We need to ensure the health of our residents and protect them from pollution. We need to safeguard our natural resources so that we can control their use.

Uqaqti, some members of this House are decorated veterans of the Canadian Rangers and I applaud them. We need to work with the Department of Defence and provide adequate resources for our Rangers.

In my community of Baker Lake, we have a sizable Ranger contingent of 28 and they deserve the best possible support for the important roles that they play. I ask all members to join me in pushing the Federal Government for more training and financial support for our Canadian Rangers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 446 - 1(5): Family Violence**

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to make a brief statement on the issue that we've been discussing during the week. This is in regards to family violence.

Yesterday, I made a member's statement in regards on that and I would like to make a statement about women that are abused physically and mentally. This is a difficult issue to deal with.

Mr. Speaker, I have seen cases where when an abuser is left behind by their spouse, many of them realize their need for help and start seeking it. This happens. Often they will try to change their ways and start going to church regularly, for example. Some couples do resolve their differences, even after a separation like that.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague was talking about this the other day and he was telling the truth. Yes, the children involved do get hurt when the parents are not getting along. We have to find ways and programs to help these families before someone has to be sent to a shelter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Williams. Member's Statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Member's Statement 447 - 1(5): Chesterfield Inlet Facility Proposal**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my Member's Statement today is regarding the Chesterfield Inlet home-care facility.

I spoke to the Chesterfield Development Corporation and they told me that they have yet to get a response from the Nunavut Government for the revised new facility. They asked representatives to go to a meeting in Rankin Inlet on December 8, 2001.

They told them in the meeting that the regional proposal was too big, 20 beds. So Chesterfield went back to the drawing board and they cut down to 10 to 13 beds. Yet it's been three weeks since they have sent back the revised design. To date, after three weeks,

the department has still yet to respond to the proposal. They are running out of time, Mr. Speaker, if the building is to be constructed this summer.

I will be asking questions to Mr. Picco as to why there has been no response from the department to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Member's Statements. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Member's Statement 448 - 1(5): Relocation of Hall Beach Graves & Compensation for Workers**

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I was elected I told my constituents that I would not give up on important causes. Since I became a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I have been requesting assistance for this issue and the government has been responding by being difficult. The issue that I have been pressing for is the relocation of the graves in Hall Beach.

When I met with the minister, I was told that they would be able to get paid. I became happy at the time. We ran into a problem, the Hamlet of Hall Beach gave a letter of support for the Federal Government to pay the workers rather than the GN.

The relocation of these graves was back in 1960, but Minister for Health and Social Services wanted to get a letter of support from the Municipality of Hall Beach. The Municipality of Hall Beach thought that they were requesting a support letter to get funding from the Federal Government. They misunderstood that. If they had approached me, I would have given them more information. I am standing up to give my apologies to my constituents.

This mistake of the Municipality was used by the Nunavut Government to refuse the funding they promised previously. We won't be able to get the funding to compensate these individuals who relocated these gravesites. Also, I have seen victim support services even though the government can't give compensation for issues that happened many years ago. I will not give up until my term is up. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 449 - 1(5): Homelessness in Nunavut**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the Members of this House of an important meeting that will be held here in Iqaluit next week on the issue of homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken out on many occasions about the need for government at all levels to tackle homelessness head on. It is an outrage that we have constituents in this day and age...

**A Member:** Shame. Shame.

**Mr. Tootoo:**... who have no permanent housing. We are one of the wealthiest people in the world and there is no excuse for us to have people on the streets. Mr. Speaker, the face of homelessness in Nunavut is uniquely painful.

Traditionally homelessness was never a problem in our communities. It is a recent problem that only now are we beginning to recognize. In Nunavut homelessness is hidden from view in the form of severe overcrowding. Mr. Speaker, the City of Iqaluit will be holding its second stakeholders meeting on homelessness on March 4 at 3 p.m. at the City Council chambers.

The City administration has been working hard to bring together key stakeholders in this area. Although the resources that are being devoted to this issue are inadequate, Iqaluit residents are thinking creatively to find solutions.

Mr. Speaker, homelessness is something that we can't afford in Nunavut. We cannot afford the human misery that it brings and we cannot afford the problems that it brings to our communities. Mr. Speaker, I also look forward to our Homeless Minister either attending or having one of his staff attend the meeting on his behalf. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Members' Statements. If there are no further Members' Statements we will move on to item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister Kilabuk.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I would like to welcome and recognize the Grade 9 students from Inukshuk High School and also their teacher, Favi Godine. Also I would like to welcome all the students to the gallery and also Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and welcome the job entry class students from Nunavut Arctic College and one of their instructors, Moe Kilabuk. Welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to the Gallery. I note I can see some former pages that are here today. So welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an individual that was living in Rankin Inlet but now lives in Cambridge Bay. He is visiting Iqaluit, Jennifer Anawak. She is behind me.

(interpretation ends) She is my first cousin's daughter. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

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

#### **Question 450 - 1(5): Chesterfield Inlet Care Facility Commitment**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Picco.

This question is about the time when the minister came to Chesterfield Inlet and agreed to the building of a new handicapped home. Do you still agree that this building should go up? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said in Chesterfield and said in this House, and as the Premier has reiterated, and again last week in questioning in this House, Chesterfield Inlet is recognized as a have not community and smaller. This home is a major employer in that community, St. Theresa's Hospital.

Because of the problems with the facility itself, we need to be able to put a better facility in there. That's why we did the RFP. The government still maintains and stands by the RFP that was issued and the collaborative and the good work that has been done with the Chesterfield Development Corporation on the building of a new facility in Arviat.

So yes, Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad he is still committed to that. Can he tell us that, is there still a danger of the Fire Marshall closing the existing facilities down. Qujannamiik.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that there is still a window available to us on the facility itself. We are working towards that timeline. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. Just a caution to the members about hypothetical questions, unless you have facts to support the question that you are asking. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This one is not a hypothetical question. Mr. Speaker, why hasn't there been a response from your department, especially from the Rankin Inlet office about this requested revision to a ten to thirteen bed facility. When the Chesterfield Development Corporation did that, why haven't you responded to that design yet?

The time is becoming very short for this summer's sealift. Qujannamiik.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we said last week in questions that the member had asked. The original proposal that was sent by the Chesterfield Development Corporation was above and beyond the scope of the project that we are envisioning.

Therefore and thus Mr. Speaker, negotiations had to take place between the proponents and the Department of Health and Social Services on the RFP. As a result of those meetings and negotiations, as the member has just said, the proponents have sent a different floor plan and that floor plan has been received by the Department of Health and Social Services.

Now it has to be costed out. We need to be able to do the financials and the logistic as well as the administrative work on that floor plan. As soon as that is complete we will have a better idea of the dollar value that needs to be spent. That's the work that is going on at the present time Mr. Speaker. So it is not because we don't like the plan or anything like that. We need to be able to cost the plan out itself and see if there are available funds available for it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regardless what has to be done with the costing, design approval etc, can the minister assure us that the materials will arrive during this summer's sealift so that it can be built this fall. Qujannamiik.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I can assure the member that the department is working as expediently as possible to be able to meet the time frame and the time lines.

At the same time Mr. Speaker, we have to look at the dollar values of this, of the program itself and the leases that would have to be put in place for the new facility. That's something that I'm not able to commit to before I have this year's budget approved in this House and that Mr. Speaker, the member knows and the members of this House know.

So, we're hoping Mr. Speaker, that we'll be able to have an acknowledgement to the Development Corporation in Chesterfield before that time frame.

I'm optimistic Mr. Speaker that we'll be able to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Question 451 - 1 (5): Assistance for People with Special Needs**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

This is subsequent to my Member's Statement on people with special needs in my communities. There are people with handicaps and some of them tend to stay home because of their handicap.

Mr. Speaker, what programs and services are available to help families with special needs in Nunavut? For example, like respite care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, successful negotiation with the Federal Government has brought over the past several months now an excellent plan to sponsor over 4 million dollars to the Government of Nunavut to begin the process of training community homecare workers in all communities in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, to date we've trained, I believe it's over 44 people throughout Nunavut to be homecare deliverers delivering services for the handicapped, for the disabled, for shut ins, and for elders at the community level.

And Mr. Speaker that's the plan and that's the program that is, that will be rolled out over the coming months, and in some communities we already have it in place. That type of program Mr. Speaker, will be in place to help the member's constituencies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much for your response to my question.

Could the minister tell us if there is going to be any funding made available so that these people with special needs can be taken out on the land for out on the land programs. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, under the community homecare program we provide, we hire people at the community level. We train them to be able to work in the community with the shut ins and the disabled.

Mr. Speaker, there may be an opportunity within that program to take people, where possible out on the land. But Mr. Speaker, I don't know specifically if that is a component of that program we just spoke about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that there are monies available for people with special needs. When will we see these programs take place in communities? That is my final supplementary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker in most cases those programs are occurring right now in the majority of Nunavut communities. Specifically in the member's two communities. I don't have that information with me. That's something that I'll be able to get for the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqittuq.

#### **Question 452 - 1(5): Letter Regarding Compensation for Grave Workers**

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to my dear friend, the Minister of Health and Social Services.

At times unexpected things happen and we hear unexpected things. At times we understand from the responses to our questions that particular things or events are going to be happening in the future and sometimes those things don't actually happen.

Mr. Speaker, this is a question that I directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services and it is about the relocation of graves in Hall Beach. Is everything you said was going to happen still going to be happening. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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



**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to sincerely say that I appreciate the member's comments. I think that I can say that it's the dogged determination that he has shown moving forward on this issue, which should be well noted by his constituents.

Just before Christmas Mr. Speaker, this past fall, I was in Hall Beach, I met with the Mayor and Council and indeed, we discussed the situation on the graves being moved. At that time I committed to providing a wellness counselling workshop as well as providing money for a feast in the community.

Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that has taken place. At the same time Mr. Speaker, I committed to the Mayor and Council and we had a good discussion, not only in Hall Beach but also the Mayor met with me here in Iqaluit in my office about this situation on the graves. We had a good discussion and Mr. Speaker, after further investigation into this matter, a letter was written from our department, from me, to the Minister of DIAND, the Honourable Robert Nault, who subsequently responded with a letter that was also sent to Nancy Karetak Lindell, who is our MP for the Government of Nunavut.

It actually ascertained who the persons were that had ordered the graves to be moved. It is a long story Mr. Speaker, so to keep my answer short Mr. Speaker, the Department of DIAND came back and indicated that one of the potential people that were being looked at had died, another person I believe who was involved and was named in the letter, suffers from Alzheimer's and can't recall the event.

Mr. Speaker, it also points out that the events had occurred as the Premier has said as the Minister of Justice, prior to the Government of Nunavut or even indeed the Government of the NWT being formed. Therefore and thus, it would become a federal responsibility.

So the things that I have said would occur, have occurred in the community, and now Mr. Speaker, we need to aggressively follow up with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and Minister Nault as well as our MP, Ms. Karetak Lindell. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the people in your department for having that feast in Hall Beach. I don't know if this wellness program that you mentioned occurred. But the person that is the oldest one involved in exhuming these bodies is now in his 70's.

For myself, I am not highly educated, nor am I a counsellor, but to try to counsel a 70 year old is ... that person knows more than I do. I am very glad and grateful that you did have a community feast. That feast probably had a price tag of five hundred dollars.

I'm representing the people that had to go through this ordeal, because of course, that is my job, this is not for me personally. They are not looking for a five hundred dollar feast. They want something worthwhile to compensate them for exhuming the bodies.

This is an old case and they are looking at approximately 5 thousand dollars. There are very few living people now who were involved. I do know what kind of response you are going to make. There was a time that we could have done something about this, then one department said no, and all of a sudden there was this blockage. What department was that? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this issue that the member has raised in the past, and I remember many times it having been raised in Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories with Mr. Evaluardjuk, Mark Evaluardjuk, who was the MLA also for Amittuq prior to division.

At that time, the GNWT of the day, after a lot of research in the Premier's Office, Premier Don Morin had looked at the responsibility being DIAND because there was no Northwest Territories Government.

When the member brought the question up in this Assembly and I said to the member, and I frankly said to him, "I would love to have paid the people that were involved in the removal of the graves". I think anyone who is associated with and knows about the traumatic events that occurred, would agree with that statement.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, the government can't set itself up. That's been explained in the past by the Premier, who was also the Minister of Justice. We have, Mr. Speaker, taken the case on as a government. The Premier's Office has been involved in the work with Intergovernmental Affairs, with our federal partner. Mr. Speaker, as I said, I have written the Federal Minister who has responded. Again, Mr. Speaker, that is where the compensation should be coming from. We have done everything in our power to facilitate that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister in his previous responses, in the beginning, told us that there was an agreement between the two departments, Justice and Health & Social Services. And that there was going to be 35 thousand dollars was set aside. But it wasn't in writing.

We had a meeting between myself and the Minister of Health and Social Services, also with Mr. Anawak, who was then the Minister of Justice. During the meeting with these two ministers, I was told that there was money set aside, ready to compensate those people who were involved in this ordeal.

But then one of the departments turned around and decided that they weren't going to go ahead with it. I would like to know which department that is so that I can do a follow-up on it. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the discussions that took place, I guess it is safe to say they were overridden because of the situation with precedence.

As a government we have to make sure that when something is done that it doesn't set a precedent for other types of cases that are brought forward. That is a legal matter. Mr. Speaker, that was the case in the discussions that had taken place. That is why, Mr. Speaker, we are seeking redress from the Federal Government because they are ultimately the ones that should be responsible for the decision to move the graves and for the compensation to be paid.

That is the position that the Government of Nunavut has taken, that was the discussions that had taken place after the initial discussions with the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question was, which department turned around and decided not to go through with this. Which department was it, your department or the Department of Justice? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Indian Affairs was the department that still hasn't decided to issue the payments. Under this government, again Mr. Speaker, the government is not a department, it is a government, the government can't be put into a position where it pays, to my understanding and I am not a lawyer, for a precedent situation.

That's what I am saying, this government can't be...why would this government want to pay for something that happened forty years ago when there was no Nunavut Government, when there was no Government of the NWT. That was the responsibility of the Federal Government in case law and in case history, precedent is made by the case at that point in time.

In this case Mr. Speaker, the operative word would be before the date, and in that case the guilty party, or the party that should pay the compensation is the Federal Government. Not the Government of Nunavut, we weren't even in existence. Not the Government of the NWT, they weren't even in place. That's why there was no compensation paid. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Question 453 - 1(5): Staff Guidelines - Kitikmeot Boarding Home**

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon in my Member's Statement, I spoke about a disturbing letter that I had received from a constituent of mine.

When we have to go to the hospital for medical attention, the Kitikmeot residents often encounter obstacles and that is not that first time that they've encountered problems when they've been sent out for medical attention and Mr. Speaker, they have concerns. So Mr. Speaker, the Yellowknife Boarding Home, I am wondering if they have guidelines that they need to follow to transport people from the airport to the boarding home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I haven't seen the letter that the member is talking about but on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Services, I apologize for any inconvenience that the patients have experienced in Yellowknife and I am sure after question period today the member will provide that letter to me so that I could do a follow up.

On the specific question Mr. Speaker, the member is correct, there are guidelines, there are regulations that in the contract with the operators of the boarding home, specifically what is entailed in that specific contract. That does include Mr. Speaker, the picking up of the hospital patients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will meet with the minister but the Lena Pederson Boarding Home that the Kitikmeot residents go to needs to be expanded and this is something that I have raised in this House in the past more than once. The patients that are going to that boarding home, when they are at the airport, they often aren't met. When this happens, they are told that they should take a taxi to a hotel as there is no room in the boarding home.

Mr. Speaker, the Kitikmeot residents have asked about the boarding home called the Lena Pederson boarding home, that it is quite small now, we have asked from about 2001 to date on whether or not the minister's department has any goals or objectives on the expansion of the home.

So could I get an update from the minister as to what's happening with that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the member is correct. We feel as a department that the current facility that is being used as the boarding home in Yellowknife is not up to standards.

Mr. Speaker, we're in the process now of doing an RFP for the operation of a boarding home which would increase the bed capacity to 40 beds for the patients that are coming from the Kitikmeot Region and going to Yellowknife.

At the same time, we did an RFP for the operation of the current facility in Yellowknife, that's contracted for one year and was just recently awarded. Mr. Speaker we are moving towards the replacement of that facility and I hope to be able to have that RFP in place in the next several weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response Mr. Minister. The Kitikmeot Boarding Home I think have their own vehicle to transport patients from the airport to the boarding home. But quite often the patients will get into Yellowknife and have to wait at the airport for a long time, and as patients going to the hospital they shouldn't have wait for a ride. Also when the patients are asked to, when the boarding home is overcrowded they often send patients to a hotel and they are asked to take a taxi.

So I think this is something the minister needs to look into. Would he take the time to look at the problems that I'm raising? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker we will follow the member's suggestion and follow that up. And I think it's important to note that the member is correct as well as the member from Kugluktuk in the past as well as the member from Repulse and Arctic Bay. They have made some points and they're correct.

Right now the facility houses I believe it is 20 patients. It has room for 20 patients. Any numbers above that Mr. Speaker have to be housed in the local motel. That's the reason why we're moving aggressively on the RFP to be able to put a better facility or a newer facility in place in Yellowknife for those patients and Mr. Speaker we take the member's word.

And again, I want to sincerely apologize for any inconvenience that his patients have experienced at the home in Yellowknife over the past week. I look forward to seeing the letter of complaint. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this concern is not just for patients travelling to these centres but also for the patients that are cared for by the staff.

This is a responsibility of this minister. Have you ever visited these boarding homes to discuss these concerns that are arising and when was the last time the minister visited the Lena Pederson Boarding Home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity to be in every boarding home that the Department of Health and Social Services operates in Alberta, the NWT, in Manitoba and so on.

Mr. Speaker, the last time I was in the facility in Yellowknife I was with the operator and that was about a year ago and I haven't been in the facility since. I was in Yellowknife this past Christmas when I was in Kugluktuk coming through but I didn't have an opportunity to go to the boarding home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

#### **Question 454 - 1(5): Update on Grizzly Bear Survey**

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Sustainable Development and another one of my favourite topics in this House, regarding grizzly bears.

Mr. Speaker, I heard my colleague last week from Pelly Bay talk about grizzly bears being sighted in Pelly Bay and then last summer we heard about the grizzly bears being spotted in Cambridge Bay for the first time and the biologists still seem to think there is no increase in the population.

The minister committed to doing a survey, using the elders and Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, to me last year in the House. Can he update me on the status of this study? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. McLean. The Minister responsible for Sustainable Development. Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is an increase in grizzly bears in Nunavut, according to reports of problem bears that we hear about. The survey that is being asked about is being started and we are looking at what

we can do to deal with the problems that are arising due to increased encounters with grizzlies.

We will continue to seek solutions through our department to deal with this problem. I will get an update but I do know work is being done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. Supplementary question. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, could the minister be more precise on when they are going to start this survey and when it is going to be completed. Because there are pressing issues in my community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will get back with a date as to when it should be completed. And on the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit side, we really want to include this as well which should help out a lot. With the elders helping the research, I believe in that and also balance both the scientific research and also the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit research.

I will get back to you on the dates that we should be done with this survey. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's good that the minister responds this way, that's the type of answers that the people in my community and constituency are looking to hear that they are going to use the elders in the consultation process.

Because myself, I was talking to elders just before I came over here on the grizzly bear issue, and they said, most of them said that they have never seen a grizzly bear up until about the last ten years. So I would like to commend the minister on that. In the meantime the damage that these bears have been causing in regards to cabins, digging up a lot of caribou caches and so on.

Can the minister let me know if there is going to be any kind of compensation for the damage that these animals have caused in the past? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The equipment or other things that have been destroyed by grizzly bears is something that we are looking at as to what more we can do to assist the hunters.

Through the Hunters' Support Program, we are looking at how hunters could be compensated when their property has been damaged. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Ma'na, Uqaqti. Mr. Speaker, I have pressing issues in my community with a lot of people and the issue is that it has been a long, long tradition of people caribou caching in August and September so that they can feed their families throughout the winter. They go out, dig it up, and feed their families.

They spend a lot of money on gasoline, oil and bullets and stuff like that so they can prepare for the winter. And like I said it has been going on in my community for thousands and thousands of years as I have been told. A lot of people are going out there and looking for their caches, they are gone, and it puts undue hardship on them.

Can the minister be more precise on whether he is going to help these individuals through the HTO or through the Wildlife Management Board or through his department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. McLean's questions are very clear. The hunters often cache their meat for the winter and a lot of money is used for hunting. This is something that I could look at as to how they could be compensated under the Community Hunt Program.

If the community needs assistance on this that is what the Community Hunt Program is for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

#### **Question 455 - 1(5): Iqaluit Positions Advertised - Unavailable Staff Housing**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Human Resources. Mr. Speaker, I was looking through the paper that we get every week, not only here in town the Nunatsiaq News, but also the News North and I couldn't help but be somewhat alarmed or wondering why we are seeing a lot of Government of Nunavut positions being advertised for here in Iqaluit that don't come with staff housing.

I am just wondering if the minister could explain to the House why those positions aren't eligible for staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.



**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are over five communities and Iqaluit that have a big problem with staff housing. We have been advertising positions, but there is no housing available.

So if there is a staff house available, we will try to provide it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess the reason is that there is no staff housing available for these employees. I think no one here is unaware of the problems and the high cost of housing and the shortage here in Iqaluit as well as in all of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister give an indication as to whether any of these jobs that he has advertised that are not eligible for staff housing have been successful and if any people are coming from somewhere else other than in Iqaluit to apply for these jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If for instance a job that is advertised for Iqaluit, if there is a job opening here and we advertised for people and no staff house is available then there are usually people hired even though there is no housing available for them.

I don't have the written information available with me at the moment about how many people have been hired even though there is no housing in the community at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know or I believe that I have raised in this House in the past and other members have been asking whether there were jobs that weren't being filled because they didn't have staff housing. Now we have jobs being advertised with no staff housing.

I don't know if that is in response to that or not, but I look forward to getting information from the minister to show how successful that has been, where those people are coming from. All of our departments are short staffed, some of these are very technical positions, are we just taking and looking to attract employees from other government departments or are we looking at bringing on new employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say that I will give him information about the five communities that have been advertising for employment within the government.

For the people that we really need for the government jobs there are contingent plans for them, but I am sorry at this time we don't have any staff houses for the people that are hired. Perhaps if there are more staff houses built this will encourage people to apply more for government positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, maybe just to narrow it down for the minister. I am not interested in any other communities, I am just interested in seeing what the stats are on the positions that were advertised without staff housing here in Iqaluit. Not the other five communities, that should hopefully help expedite the process of the minister being able to get that information.

What I am looking for I guess, is how successful are we in filling those positions and if we are getting no one applying for them, we can't hire them because they don't have staff housing, how much are we spending in advertising these jobs that we know people aren't going to apply for. So I am just wondering if I could get that kind of an analysis, that is the kind of information that I would like to see.

Mr. Speaker I guess the other thing is, I know that the minister isn't the minister responsible for staff housing.

But does the department have any plans on working, what plans or suggestions they have for the minister responsible for staff housing, for information to try and help solve some of the problems we see with staff housing here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to make a note to the member that I mentioned the five communities because we don't much staff housing available in them. As to how many people we have hired so far or how many applied for the positions, I will give that information out to the member.

I would also like to say that Public Works will work closely with the Department of Human Resource in regards to getting more staff houses in each community and we will be working with them to also make available the existing housing that we might be able to provide to staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 456 - 1(5): Expansion of Pond Inlet Day-care Centre**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Education.

I made a statement earlier about the day-care centre being too small in Pond Inlet and there is a waiting list of children.

Would the minister look into getting an expansion for that day-care centre in Pond Inlet because it's operating very well at the moment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the member that we don't have any funding available for the expansion of daycares although we have money for the O&M part of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): The Minister of Education also has the portfolio of the Department of Human Resources and he must want people to be employed. Many of your present and future employees need access to day-care facilities.

I wonder if the minister could look into options to make sure that the daycare centres get expanded so the GN employees could have the access to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to tell the member that the question he's posing is a good one.

We have a meeting planned with the Inuit organizations to see how they can also help with the daycare centres in Nunavut communities. I will notify them about the problem that the Pond Inlet daycare centre is having during that meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Question 457 - 1(5): Member's Statement on Safe Shelters**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I will be directing my question to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

Subsequent to my Member's Statement, first of all I would like to ask the minister if he understood what my statement was about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** I would just ask the member if he would actually repeat the question so that the minister will know exactly what the member is requesting as relates to your Member's Statement.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made a Member's Statement subsequent to the Member for Tunnuniq's Member's Statement. In my statement I was wondering if I could ask the minister if he understood my statement when I first made it today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. You have a choice to answer the question or take it as notice, or to refuse to answer the question. Those are your choices.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't think it would be appropriate to take the question as notice. I believe Mr. Speaker that I understood what the member was trying to say in his statement and I would be prepared to try to answer any questions following from that statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Picco. Supplementary question. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad that you understood my Member's Statement. The first question I would like to pose is, women, when they go to a safe shelter, their spouses or their boyfriends, they leave them in the community. What kind of support, assistance or programs do you have for these individuals who are left behind at the community level? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we said earlier in this House, each case is different. After saying that Mr. Speaker, a person who is left behind when a woman who has been taken from the community, who has elected to leave because of emotional and/or physical abuse to their person and the concern is for the safety of that person.

The abuser, Mr. Speaker, the person who has assaulted the persons who has left the community, depends Mr. Speaker, on what has occurred. If they have been charged, in many cases, Mr. Speaker, under the judicial system that we have Mr. Speaker, they would have to seek counselling. The counselling services are available through the Social Worker, through the Community Wellness Worker, through the Nursing Station, Mr. Speaker, in some cases through Church groups, there are a variety Mr. Speaker, of avenues for that person to access counselling help. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister states, he said in response to my question, that the abuser has to seek counselling. Perhaps the Department

of Social Services should find some way to give support or some form of assistance to help these individuals. I was wondering if your department has any kinds of programs or services for those abusers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker specifically under the job description of the social worker, under regulations as well as legislation and the job itself, counselling and family services are part of the responsibility of the social worker.

So that's one area that a person could access, at the same time Mr. Speaker we have different other resource people in the community like the nurse, like religious services, Mr. Speaker, like our wellness workers who are also available to provide that type of one on one counselling and support and help to the abuser. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): That was pretty fast. Mr. Speaker to state again perhaps since this is my last supplementary question. What have you done with the legislation of social services today?

In respect to individuals going to the safe shelters, are you reviewing the Act or legislation so that it could be more Nunavut relevant. Are you reviewing the Acts or legislation or have you done nothing on the social services regulations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker first of all the department has completed a very comprehensive mental health strategy that includes issues around family violence and that's being reviewed right now. Several recommendations have been made.

At the same time Mr. Speaker I think it's important to point out that when we're looking issues of family violence there are different stages that family violence takes. The member is correct. The first point of contact usually after a physical incident may be the police authorities.

For example because it's against the law to abuse someone, when that happens Mr. Speaker the judicial system is involved and that brings us all different instances and circumstances that need to be followed.

Before that happens Mr. Speaker if a couple is having problems within their relationship, they have the opportunity as a couple to seek help, assistance, guidance, and counselling.

Mr. Speaker that falls outside the regulations of statutory regulations for example our social workers work under.

So Mr. Speaker I guess the short answer would be that the mental health strategy that we have just completed will help us in identifying some support mechanisms for social workers and other counsellors at the community level for issues of family violence.

In the long term Mr. Speaker it's something that we need to be able to discuss openly in this forum and other forums and to support victims of family violence not just the physical violence Mr. Speaker, but also the emotional abuse that many men and women go through in relationships. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

#### **Question 458 - 1(5): Staff Housing Policy**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been requested to ask prior to going into my questions if we can move to extend the question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** I don't think the time is appropriate right now Mr. Tootoo as question period is not over yet. Perhaps at the end of your question if you wish. Proceed.

**Mr. Tootoo:** As long as I get an opportunity to speak. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister Responsible for Public Works I believe.

Mr. Speaker, earlier I was asking the Minister of Human Resources about the staff housing and he indicated he's working with the Minister of Public Works who I would assume is the Minister Responsible for staff housing at the time. I know on numerous occasions in the past Mr. Speaker, I've asked if the government has a staff housing policy and to my recollection Mr. Speaker, we still haven't been provided with what the staff housing policy of the government is.

I know in my last request I believe, I was given a copy of what was called the Staff Housing Allocation Policy. Other than that my question is do they have an actual staff housing policy other than just an allocation policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To date we are still in the process of dealing with it, but we expect to table it on April 1, 2002. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Wow, at long, long last finally a policy developed by this government. I look forward to seeing what it looks like. It must be a very, very comprehensive policy as it has taken almost three years to develop.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister if he would be willing to meet with the appropriate Standing Committee to review that policy and seek input from the regular members on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the process that we use and the steps that we have to abide by, we will follow the proper procedures. So my answer to your question is yes. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it has been so long since I have asked questions about the staff housing policy, maybe I would ask the minister if he could briefly give us an outline as how and who developed this policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I don't have the detailed information in front of me. I want to give you a proper answer so I can't respond to your question now, but later I will respond when I have the documents in front of me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just a question, at this time I should be asking to extend, or after my question. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the minister and I understand that the staff housing issue has been a very complex issue that this government has been facing over the last three years. I look forward to getting an update from the minister on how that policy was developed.

I know I can go back and check in the Hansard as far as what happened up to the development of the allocation policy, but Mr. Speaker, what I would really like to ask the minister is to focus on what happened since the development of the allocation policy and the actual policy that has come out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know if this is the time to ask for consent, but I have been requested by one of my colleagues to request consent to extend question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Tootoo. We will allow the minister to answer your last supplementary, and then we will go back to you for your request to extend. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear a question from the member. I wonder if could he re-phrase his question for me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister if he could focus his reply to me more on the information of what happened since the development of the staff housing allocation policy that was tabled here in the House and the actual staff housing policy if those are in fact two different things.

Because I remember asking about it before and was given an explanation as to who was developing this policy in the past, so I just wanted to make sure if they are both the same thing, if this one is in addition to the other, that's the area that I would like to find out the information on. The development of the policy not the allocation policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Yes, first of all when the member asked his question, I don't think I understood the question at that time. I can't respond to your question and I will take it as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The question is taken as notice. Members will note that Question Period is now up. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been requested by another member to ask for an extension to Question Period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays?

**Some Members:** Nay.

**Speaker:** There are nays, Mr. Tootoo, so your request is denied. Returning to the 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 & Special Committees.

Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tootoo.



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

#### **Tabled Document 081 - 1(5): Commission on MLA Compensation**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a document called the "Commission on MLAs Compensation" that was done in 1996. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Tabled Document 082 - 1(5): 1996 Excerpts from NWT Hansard**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish also to table some excerpts from Hansard in 1996 that relate to the previous document that I just tabled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to table a document regarding the Chesterfield Inlet Development Corporation. It is in regards to the RFP for the Chesterfield Inlet Home Care Facility. There are questions in there. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Mr. Arvaluk, in reference to the document that you just tabled. We have noted that it's unsigned. There is a typed name here but it has to be signed as per the ruling that we just passed last week. At a later time if you would like to come back with this as a signed document we would be glad to accept it. Item 13. Petitions. Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents.

#### **Tabled Document 083 - 1(5): Pension Administration Report, March 31, 2001**

I have a document members that I would like to table. Pension Administration Report March 31st, 2001. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Ms. Williams.

### **Item 14: Notices of Motions**

#### **Notice of Motion 21 – 1(5) TD 80 – 1(5) to Committee of the Whole**

**Ms. Williams:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, March the 1st, 2002, I will move that the following motion;

Therefore I move, seconded by the Member from Akulliq that the issue of the quality of the gasoline in Nunavut be further pursued in the Committee of the Whole, and that Tabled Document 080-1(5) be referred to the Committee of the Whole for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

**Item 17: First Reading of Bills****Bill 21 - Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act - First Reading**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Amittuq that Bill 21, Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Ng. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Point of Order.

**Speaker:** Point of Order. Mr. Tootoo.

**Point of Order**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had my hand up and I want to ask for a recorded vote on the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The member has asked for a recorded vote on this item and if the member would just allow us a minute to get organized to actually do this.

The member has requested a recorded vote and we'll start with Mr. Ng. All those in favour, please stand and as your name is called by the Deputy Clerk please sit down.

**Deputy Clerk:** Mr. Ng., Mr. Kattuk, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Puqiqnak, Mr. Alakannuark, Mr. Irqittuq, Mr. Arvaluk, Mr. McLean, Mr. Nutarak, Mr. Iqaqrialu, Mr. Picco, Ms. Thompson, Mr. Akesuk.

**Speaker:** All those opposed.

**Deputy Clerk:** Mr. Okalik. Mr. Tootoo.

**Speaker:** Abstentions. Is that everybody? The result of the recorded vote is 13 for and 2 against. The motion is carried. The Bill has had first reading.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

**Bill 22 - Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act - First Reading**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Mr. Speaker I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 22, Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act be read for the first time. Thank you.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 22 has had first reading. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

**Bill 23 - An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act - First Reading**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 23, an Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act be read for the first time. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ng. Motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. The bill has passed first reading. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

**Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to give second reading of Bill 22, Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. The minister is asking for consent to proceed to second reading. Are there any nays? Proceed Mr. Ng.

**Bill 22 - Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act - Second Reading**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Amittuq that Bill 22, Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill establishes a new Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. The bill incorporates amendments made since April 1st, 1999. The bill clarifies the rights, powers, and responsibilities of the Legislative Assembly, the members, and the Management and Services Board. The bill also sets out the indemnities, allowances, and benefits payable to members and provides for the appointment of a Deputy Premier.

In addition, the bill provides criteria of eligibility for the appointment of persons to the Executive Council who are not members, but mandates that the Premier shall be chosen from among the sitting members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The bill has had second reading. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 67(2) and have Bill 22 moved directly to the Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. The minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 67(2) and have Bill 22 moved to the Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. The bill stands referred to the Committee of the Whole. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to give second reading to Bill 23, an Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Ng. The minister is seeking consent to proceed with second reading. Any nays? Please proceed, Mr. Ng.

**Bill 23 - An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act -  
Second Reading**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 23, an Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act be read for the second time.

This bill makes changes to the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act. Some changes are necessitated by the enactment of the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act. Others are required for Members of the Legislative Assembly to be registered under the Income Tax Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ng. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. The bill has had second reading. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 67(2) and have Bill 23 move directly into the Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister. The minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 67(2) and have the Bill moved into Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill stands referred to the Committee of the Whole. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Picco. Mr. Picco, it looked like you had your hand up.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Tabled Document 67, Bill 22 and Bill 23 with Mr. Puqiqnak in the chair. Before we proceed members, we will take a short break. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 3.21 p.m. and resumed at 4.09 p.m.*

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

**Chairperson** (Mr. Puqignak) (interpretation): Thank you for returning. We are in the Committee of the Whole. We will be dealing with Bill 22, Tabled Document 067 – 1(5). What is the wish of the committee? Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee would like to start with Bill 22. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Do we agree that we will be dealing with Bill 22? I would like the Speaker to begin his opening remarks. Mr. Speaker, you can take the chair at the witness table with your officials. Thank you. Welcome, Mr. Speaker. You can invite your officials also.

Mr. Speaker, you can begin with your opening remarks. Mr. Speaker.

**Bill 22 – Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act - Consideration**

**Speaker**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to have the opportunity today to appear before the Committee of the Whole to introduce Bill 22, Nunavut's new Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act.

I would like to begin by thanking all members for their contributions during the development of this legislation.

As members know, the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act is the statute that establishes the parameters within which we operate as a legislature and a government. Since April 1, 1999, a number of amendments have been made to the statute, all of which have enjoyed unanimous support from all members in this House.

Introducing a new Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act ensures that the statute is fully up-to-date with respect to these amendments. I am pleased to say that it has been translated fully into Inuktitut, thereby increasing the number of Nunavut's laws that are available in Inuktitut, English and French and Inuinnaqtun translation will be prepared after the Bill receives Assent. Thank you, Ms. Thompson.

Mr. Chairman, the Act does not alter any of the basic principles of consensus government or parliamentary democracy as they exist in Nunavut today. The Premier and Cabinet will continue to hold office at the pleasure of the Legislative Assembly. The Integrity Act, which this House debated and passed last May, remains in force.

A number of the Act's provisions have also been clarified or strengthened.

The rights and powers of the Assembly, its members and committees are set out more clearly. For the first time, IQ is explicitly recognized in law as something that the Assembly and its members may take into consideration during deliberations. I would like

to make it clear to all members today that it is up to all of us to decide how IQ can be used. The statute does not tell us as elected members what IQ is, it simply makes it clear that we now have the authority to apply it to our work.

As members will recall, this House unanimously passed an amendment at our last sitting to tie any increases or decreases to the indemnities payable to Members of the Legislative Assembly to any increases or decreases to the rates of pay of members of the public service of Nunavut.

This provision is maintained in the new Act. Furthermore, the Act introduces a new provision that allows for the appointment of an independent commission to review the compensation provided to MLAs. This is consistent with our commitment to transparency in this government.

I would like to add, Mr. Chairman, that all of the tabling requirements presently in the Act have been fully maintained in the new statute.

Mr. Chairman, the new Act strengthens the eligibility requirements for membership in this House. For example, it is made very clear that sitting members of any body elected pursuant to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement cannot simultaneously sit as MLAs. This will avoid potential conflict of interest situations. In addition, the provisions dealing with criminal convictions in the Legislative Assembly Members Removal and Disqualification Act have been fully maintained. Members will recall that this Act was introduced by the Premier in Committee of the Whole and was passed unanimously.

Finally, the Act makes it clear that the Premier must be selected from among the Members of the Legislative Assembly, while allowing the flexibility, in extraordinary circumstances, for the Assembly to appoint a non-Member to the Executive Council. The ability of the Premier to designate the Deputy Premier is also clarified.

That concludes my opening comments, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to responding to any questions or comments that the members may have. Thank you. Ma'na.

At this point I'd like to ask my Clerk, the Clerk of the Assembly, one of my witnesses Mr. John Quirke to come over and take a seat.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): I would like to ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to bring in the witnesses. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, will Mr. Pollock be joining you at the table.

**Speaker:** Mr. Chairman, we have decided that we will invite Mr. Pollock to come and join us at the table here.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would you please introduce your witnesses. We are not sure who they are.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is our trusty clerk. John Quirke. Clerk of the Assembly. To my left, your right, Mr. Steve Pollock, Director of Corporate Services for the Assembly

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Before we go on to questions, on Bill 22, before we go clause by clause, do the members have questions or comments to the bill? The members will have 10 minutes to make opening comments. They will each have 10 minutes for opening comments. Are there any opening comments? Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you Mr. Chairman and good afternoon to the committee and to the Clerk and his able staff. Mr. Chairman, I think it's very important to note that this is the first opportunity that we've had at the Legislative Assembly to take this piece of legislation which provides us with the parameters the legislature has to work within and differentiate ourselves from the GNWT from which most of the genesis of this Assembly first came forward.

I believe Mr. Chairman, the major thrust of this legislation being the incorporation, as members have brought up several times, and that is the acknowledgement in legislation of Inuit Qaujimagatugangit. That's not a definition Mr. Chairman of Inuit Qaujimagatugangit but having the legislation directing members and the Assembly to incorporate IQ in the decision making process is a fantastic first step, unprecedented in any legislature of this country or any other country that I'm aware of.

Where traditional knowledge is actually enshrined in a piece of legislation and I think that is very important to note. Mr. Chairman, I do have one specific question for the witness and that is concerning the designation of the Deputy Premier's position and I haven't had an opportunity to ask the witness previous to this opportunity about that position.

So if I could Mr. Chairman, with your indulgence I would like to ask a specific question on the legislation that's before the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. If you would like to raise your question you are welcome to raise your question at this time. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in this legislation that is before the committee for the first time in this type of legislation we have a designation officially of the position of Deputy Premier.

It is now Mr. Chairman, officially in the legislation and that itself is a precedent of legislative assemblies and legislatures.

I have a specific question on the position and my specific question Mr. Chairman, if I may, is if the position of Deputy Premier as designated in this legislation includes specific designations or duties within the body of the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. If you would like to respond Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we do not set out the responsibilities or the duties of the Deputy Premier. We felt that would be better left to the Premier to do so. I think it is understood that the responsibilities of the Deputy Premier are to act on behalf of the Premier when the Premier is away from the chamber or away from Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in some circles, it was only in 1987, I believe, not that long ago, when Dennis Patterson, at that time the Government Leader of the Northwest Territories, again the genesis for this territory, and this legislature, began the designation of Premier instead of Government Leader.

At that time there was no Deputy Government Leader and there was no Deputy Premier. In the Northwest Territories government in which I had an opportunity to sit in the Thirteenth Assembly, Mr. Kakfwi, or Mr. Morin began the first designation of a Deputy Premier and at that time, it was Mr. Goo Arlooktoo.

Now Mr. Chairman, we have moved forward here in this Assembly and have actually put the designation of the Deputy Premier within the legislation itself. At the same time Mr. Chairman, for whatever reason, and maybe according to the witness it is a good reason, that the specific duties of the Deputy Premier position be allowed by the Premier to designate.

I am wondering in the creation of this legislation if the witness could inform the committee and this House what type of information they had garnered from other jurisdictions as well as the precedents and the history of the designation of the Deputy Premier. I know Mr. Chairman, there is no knock on our current Deputy Premier, who is quite well and able to fulfill the role that he has been given. But at the same time Mr. Chairman, once you put the legislation like this into place, you make a ruling or position designated within the body of the legislation and a precedent has been set for the first time.

So with any type of responsibility comes compensation and so on. So I would like to know what types of precedents you looked at, where the information was garnered from in the creation of the position itself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. O'Brien.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The role of Deputy Premier was announced by the Premier and Cabinet, which Mr. Picco is a part of, and therefore I assume it was supported by Cabinet. We certainly don't feel that we should question the Premier on his



decision to have a Deputy Premier, or question his thoughts on what responsibilities the Deputy Premier should take on.

I guess I would suggest if you have strong concerns about that, you may want to discuss it with the Premier. As far as our work on this piece of legislation, I believe the Clerk did do some canvassing across the country to get some background details on our decision to include it in this document. Mr. Clerk.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Picco, do you have any further questions.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all let me clarify for the record that I take my job as a legislator very seriously. I have an opportunity in this committee to ask questions, like any other member. Sometimes Mr. Chairman, you ask questions for the ability to have the public to find out why the reasons for a particular piece of legislation are being brought forward.

At the same time, Mr. Chairman, I know that the Premier has designated a position as Deputy Premier. My question was, on what precedent when we brought this legislation forward, was the position created.

What type of research was done? I know the history of the position, I know in the first time that the elected leader of the Government of the Northwest Territories in 1987 began calling himself the Premier at that time, and I know that in 1995 the first time that a Deputy Premier position was actually put in place was by Mr. Morin, who was Mr. Arlooktoo.

But it was never put in legislation. So that's my question. It was concerning the precedents and the information that they had garnered from other regions. I wasn't questioning the Premier's right to designate that position. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think the minister or the member is asking important questions, but he has already answered the question by stating that the Premier made the decision to select and appoint a Deputy Premier. At that point the Premier, by doing this, put this precedent forward.

So the precedent was established by the Premier of Nunavut. Not by the Legislative Assembly or by our department. Mr. Clerk has done some canvassing for background information and Mr. Chairman, he would be glad to provide that to you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am not trying to...

**Chairperson** (interpretation): I am sorry, just before I recognize Mr. Picco, I think the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly has some information that he would like to provide. Thank you. Mr. Clerk.

**Clerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Research was done by the Office of the Clerk. We examined every piece of legislation across the country that dealt with legislatures. First of all, recognizing that only Nunavut and the NWT have a consensus government, when we looked at the provincial legislatures, they have something similar but somewhat different. They have legislation that designates the Premier, or they have legislation that deals with the Leader of the Opposition, House Leader.

They are much more exacting in their definitions of who they put in legislation. So they have Premiers, Opposition Leaders, House Leaders and etc. So there is quite a bit of background information on those types of positions. In looking at the NWT, and the member is correct, but the Northwest Territories also in its new Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act has codified or put in legislation the position of Deputy Premier and the language is somewhat similar, may appoint a Deputy Premier.

So if this legislation is passed, both Nunavut and the NWT will be similar in that respect when it comes to the Deputy Premier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Any more questions Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I believe the Hansard will show that was the question I had asked a little bit earlier. It has now been answered by the Clerk of the Assembly and I appreciate his answer.

I want just one short clarification. That is the designation in the legislation that is being brought forward, I know for example Mr. Chairman, when Mr. Morin was removed from the position of Premier in the GNWT that Mr. Arlooktoo who was nominated and named previously by Mr. Morin as Deputy Premier, in de facto became the Premier.

I want to congratulate the Clerk and his staff for actually having the opportunity and the foresight for putting the Deputy Premier's position in the new Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, so that you would not have that type of grey area if something happened to the Premier, you would actually know who to go to officially and legislatively.

With that Mr. Chairman, I will allow other members to ask questions and comments on the bill. At the appropriate time I will be supporting Bill 22 when it comes to a vote. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Just before I recognize another member I would like to recognize a visitor in the gallery. Mr. Commissioner Peter Irniq and beside him is an individual that I know very well and worked with. They went to school in Chesterfield Inlet, welcome. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to say when I was nominated and when I was campaigning I used to say that I would like to be elected so that I could help amend the statutes were not relevant to our way of life in Nunavut.

I would say that we would like to see legislation that would be Nunavut friendly and I'm very glad that we're doing it here in this House also. I know that in the north it's very hard to survive in this harsh, cold environment. It's difficult to survive because in our way of life today we don't live traditionally now and many have almost forgotten our traditional ways.

Today we now live contemporary lives and we should be using, we should make the legislation reflect our way of life. As our Speaker had stated in his opening comments, that Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit would be used as a foundation and I'm very glad to hear that. I've never heard that before so I was very glad to hear that mentioned in the house.

When I heard that for the first time in the House today and when we're dealing with the bill and that this bill would be friendlier to our way of life.

And we all know that in Nunavut goods and services are becoming more expensive and the regular members of Legislative Assembly during the session can't stay home because we've already committed ourselves to this job and we have to keep commuting back to the communities to see our children, our family of mothers. We would like to be able to provide for them and this is a very, I didn't realize this is very difficult to deal with now that I'm experiencing it.

When you leave your family behind we don't want to leave them hungry or we don't want to leave them out in the cold so therefore I'm very proud to say that we're dealing with this Bill 22.

And now we'll be in support with the passage of this Bill 22. For that reason, even though, for those of us who did not grow up in with the proper education, even if I don't speak English according to the rules and regulations that if I want to get job I won't be able to get a job if I'm an Inuktitut unilingual speaking person and this has had an impact on me and it has had an effect on me and also, I would like to say that its going to touch this bill.

According to the statutes we live by, yes they have an effect. A negative effect on us. Many of our children commit suicide and even though we love them. The individuals commit suicide and the staff works according to the guidelines that are not reflecting our way of life. As Nunavut residents that's how we see it and experience it, and I am very proud to say that, as Nunavut residents we can make legislation that can closely reflect our way of life.

In view of that, I believe that in our future our younger generation will live in very difficult times because of the contamination and pollution of the world, things are changing in the world. I know with all these things they will have difficult challenges to face in the future, even though it would have very good purposes.

So therefore we have to make a road for the younger people and we have to continue to work towards things that they can effectively use. I wanted to make that comment, I don't have many questions at this time because I don't see any problems with this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. I understand you, thank you. We understand. I didn't hear a question, but that was a good general comment. Member for the Legislative Assembly, Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have any questions, but I do have general comments to make. Although I am very pleased to see the bill, I should mention first of all in regards to the Speaker's opening remarks, I thank you for that.

It says in his presentation that this is the first time that they will include Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit as a foundation and it will be explicitly recognized in law as something the Assembly and its members may take into consideration during their deliberations and also that we can decide how Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit can be used.

Mr. Chairman, I want to say that the Nunavut Government functions with parliamentary procedures and rules that were made overseas. When we use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, I don't know if we will use it in the parliamentary rules and procedures, but I am very glad to see it explicitly recognized in law. Even for the public to understand how the government works as the ministers here when the regular members ask us questions during question period, but we can't question the regular members as cabinet members.

If we had followed Inuit culture and traditions we would be asking questions of each member and have more negotiations between the Cabinet and the regular members. The public doesn't understand the system because the Inuit way of life, according to the Legislative Assembly's rules and procedures is foreign to the Inuit way of life. We have not used Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit as a foundation, we are using the parliamentary rules and procedures that were made in England.

Perhaps we should be asking the question why does a Member of the Legislative Assembly become a Speaker. I like our Speaker and he is working very well, and I am very pleased with him. But since we became the Nunavut Government and since we split from the NWT, we have been thinking about the Speaker and why does one of the Members of the Legislative Assembly become a Speaker.

That question has been posed by the public. When he sits on his chair, he doesn't sit with the other Members of the Legislative Assembly. If we are going to be using Inuit

Qaujimajatuqangit, we should get an individual who knows traditional knowledge. That individual could be trained in the parliamentary procedures. Why can't we get a Speaker who is not a member of the Legislature?

These kinds of questions pop up. Mr. Chairman, when I was a teacher at the high school, I taught civics where you teach about different forms of government. When we were forming the government we should probably have asked people like Tagak Curley and Peter Irniq who have been members of the previous Legislative Assembly, and Mark Evaluardjuk. If we could have asked these individuals, what kind of system would you like to see the Legislative Assembly using? What are the rules and procedures? Perhaps we would see different rules and procedures for the House.

We have never had formal government, our elders were our government traditionally. Our elders' council were the like the legislature before the Europeans arrived. It is very hard to understand as an Inuk individual when you see federal parliamentary debate on TV and they are disrespectful to each other. It is very hard to know if they are acting like adults, when you watch them. They point fingers at each other and they look immature. Sometimes they have to tow the party line.

These are foreign ways to us as Inuk people. I don't have a question, Mr. Chairman, when NIC started working on this maybe they should have asked these questions. We did not have a way of life like that because, myself, I am still a bit too young to understand the elders system.

Inuit elders communicate with each other to bring out all their ideas and suggestions and come up with a solid consensus, Mr. Chairman. When we talk about men and women, they should be able to talk on an equal level for a better understanding of what each person is saying. I just wanted to point that out. If it was up to the Inuit, I am sure that we would have a different system, if we had asked our elders. I am not saying that I oppose this bill but I just wanted to make my point. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. I think it is a little different today, usually it is only regular members that have an opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions. I am very glad to see that everyone is able to participate at this meeting. Any general comments or questions. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as the members know I also sit as a member of the Management Services Board and I have worked with the Speaker and the Clerk's Office reviewing the drafts coming up to the thing that we have here the final product of the new Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act.

I just want to commend the staff for their work, a very thorough and comprehensive review and research into developing a piece of legislation that does more accurately reflects our needs and circumstances that we face here in Nunavut and Mr Chairman, that's all I wanted to say for general comments.

I have three clauses that I'll be asking some questions on and I'll wait until then to do it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. In regards to the opening comments of the speaker, I would like to touch up a little bit on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is a new saying of the government but there were some references to members of the previous NWT as the genesis but I don't believe that. It is the ITC, NTI, who have been working a long time to integrate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into their system. But at times it's hard to know how we're going to implement that into the Nunavut Government.

We have our system now, which is different from the days before the Europeans came. I think that we have to work a little bit closer together so that we can integrate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into the government system and into the pieces of legislation. That's what I wanted to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. The floor is open for general comments. If there are no further comments, we will then go clause by clause. Bill 22. Clause 1. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 2. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 3. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 4. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 5. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 6. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 7. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 8. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 9. Agreed. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, I have a question. The population in Nunavut is growing. During the OIC days, they made some suggestions based on the population at the time. Is this in agreement with that recommendation that was made by OIC?

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu has a question. Response, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, can I ask the member to repeat the question or rephrase the question.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu, please rephrase your question. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The electoral districts were decided based on the population and they came up with 19 ridings. Is there an opportunity to amend this portion to keep up with the growing population?

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu, your question is in Clause 3, which was agreed to. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will read number 9 in Inuktitut. It says, a majority of members including the Speaker, constitutes a quorum of the Legislative Assembly. I am just basing my question on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Clause 9 talks about the quorum in the House. In Clause 3, it says there will be 19 electoral districts. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I misunderstood the clause. I apologize.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): We are on Clause 9. Agreed. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So do I understand that in Clause 9, we are speaking about the quorum in the House, including the Speaker?

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Yes. I can respond to that, I don't have to have the Speaker respond, that is a clear yes. Clause 9. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 10. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 11. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 12. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 13. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 14. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 15. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 16. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 17. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 18. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 19. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 20. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.



**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 21. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 22. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 23. Agreed. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is on Clause 23. I believe we're talking about committee meetings according to this Act. Are we talking about all committees?

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. O'Brien.

**Speaker:** Yes, we are.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk, anything else. Clause 23. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 24. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 25. Just a minute. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Mr. Chairperson, Clause 25 makes reference to Schedule C. It's on Page 39 in the bill and the first one there talks about the indemnity of the members, entitled to a number per year and I know that this increased from the existing number.

I would just like to ask the Speaker, as he indicated in his opening comments that these increases coincide with increases that our public service has received. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's correct. It's the same.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Clause 25. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 26. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 27. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two questions on 27 (a) and 27 (e).

Mr. Chairman, it says here that the indemnity set out in Section 3 of Schedule C shall be paid to every member who attends the meeting of a special or standing committee at the Legislative Assembly, of which he or she is a member.

I think we all know that at times we cannot make it in due to weather and the alternates are then asked to attend meetings. As alternates or even if they're not alternates, they attend those standing or special committee meetings because a member of a committee cannot come in because of weather. Is that going to create a problem as 27 (a) stands?

It says here of which he or she is a member. Will that not create a problem? Thank you.

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask the Clerk to address that question. The money issue.

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

**Clerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is one of the main reasons why when the Assembly strikes a standing committee or special committee that they have alternates. And if there is a member can't make it and the committee can't function because there is not a quorum we can call in the alternates to participate in that meeting and the alternates would be paid per diem rate that is in force that is assigned to the committees.

So weather conditions do play havoc with our work but that's why we have alternates and if alternates are needed for a quorum and they are asked to participate they will be paid for work performed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** I hope the lawyers will agree with that particular 27(a) with the Clerk's explanation. The second question that I have is 27(e), attends the duty of the Regular Members' Caucus. I thought this was a voluntary thing that we attend. Is this new? I didn't think we got paid for that.

If it's not in the session or for example, Baker Lake Retreat, is that the kind of a Regular Members' Caucus, or Cambridge Bay Regular Members' Session or workshops,

something along those lines, because I thought Regular Members' Caucus which we hold every second day was a voluntary thing. Qujannamiik.

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The short and simple answer is yes. Mr. Clerk also wishes to add to this particular concern.

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

**Clerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct, this is new. As the Speaker and other members said in their opening comments on the bill. This is new, this is a first and this reflects the important work that non-members of cabinet do and in part it flows one could say from Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and the work of members that is valuable for all members.

The rules apply to Regular Members' Caucus from the point of view that if regular caucus meetings occur during session time it is not payable. But when regular members meet outside of the session they are worthy of payment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Do you want to continue Mr. Arvaluk? Clause 27. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 28. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 29. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 30. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 31. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 32. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 33. Agreed. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this clause in here I would just like to first off ask the Speaker, is this something new in the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The answer is yes. It is new.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, could I please ask the Speaker if he could give an explanation as to why it is included and what it is for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will allow the Clerk to provide some information on that item. Thank you.

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

**Clerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Speaker mentioned this is a new clause. This new clause actually keeps Nunavut in stride with all of the other jurisdictions across Canada where members are paid transitional allowances after serving a term or more.

The transitional allowances in the private sector or the government sector goes by the term of severance pay. Members will get a severance pay when they complete their services. So first of all, as I said, the transitional allowance paid to members is new and it is consistent with what happens across the country.

When we did our research we found all the other jurisdictions across Canada pay their members a transitional allowance which is no different than when an employee for example, from the Government of Nunavut resigns, he gets a severance pay based on the number of years service etc. So it is also tied into that concept too. So it is consistent with the rest of the country and with what we pay in terms of benefits provided to employees, the same way that members' indemnities are tied into the collective bargaining process in terms of increases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am glad to hear that we are falling in line with the rest of the country and I think if I am interpreting what the Clerk is saying correctly, that this is something that is, I don't know, maybe he didn't say it, but is it a new phenomenon across the country that has been in place. Or is this something that

the other jurisdictions have always had for a long time or is it something new. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Speaker:** Mr. Chairman, it's a combination I guess of both. A number of provinces had it for many, many years and some are just adopting it and our sister territory, the NWT, have adopted this practice also in recent years. So we are for the most part falling in line with the other provinces.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do you wish to continue? Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Clerk also indicated that this is basically falling in line with what our public servants get in the way of a severance package. In the research that they did, does it show that members of the public service receive a severance allowance after four years of employment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that it depends on the level of the position the person holds. In some cases it can be two years that they are eligible for severance in the management field of course.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Tootoo do you want to continue?

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess just looking at the name of it on top of the severance one would assume that the purpose of having this clause in here is to assist members in the transition once they retire or if they don't get re-elected from public life back into the private life. So I just would like confirmation that's what one of the purposes behind this clause being in the Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Would you like to respond, Mr. Speaker?

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, basically what the member stated, it is the adjustment for a member. That's correct.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Ma'na Itsivauta. Mr. Tootoo just woke me up here. We going a little quick clause by clause and I want to ask some questions and I want to ask the Assembly here to forgive me if my questions are a little naïve.

Being new this Assembly and our third anniversary is fast approaching us. I thought that you know, politicians in general were very well taken care of and I can't dispute that but on an issue of transitional allowance and a severance package after four years.

If we don't get re-elected we're basically fired, aren't we. That's my interpretation of it. And anybody that has four years work in any industry in this territory the first thing they do if they're fired is run to a lawyer and they have a very nice severance package and I know in this government there's quite a few, not quite a few, but there are people in this government that walk away with excellent severance packages that I heard through the grapevine.

I would never ask the question in the House because I'd probably be aghast. You know, but I know in the GNWT some Deputy Ministers walk away with two and three hundred thousand dollars after 2 or 3 years.

And you know, I'm looking at our retiring whatever we call it here. But on the transitional allowance. I look around this room, it's not too many of us, if we got fired at the end of our term are going to walk into another job.

We can't go to our lawyer and say ha, I was terminated here and I'm not looking for sympathy at all because we are ultimately responsible for the electorate. But if we are fired at end of our term then we're out in the street and a lot of us, are lucky to have what we have in this territory now.

Some of us don't have spouses working, some of us do have spouses working. So we get fired at the end of our term, we basically have to live off of our spouses, if they're working. And the thing that kind of disturbs me a bit is that, you know, we get a little severance package, it's going to be difficult for the next MLA and cabinet minister, more so for the cabinet ministers. Because I think they have a clause where they're not allowed to get government contracts or work for the government for a certain length of time. Six months.

And the Speaker for six months after they get fired to me that's a little unfair in this time and age, so, you know, I don't want to say that I'm looking for sympathy here, I'm not. But I'm just saying there should be equality in Canada. That's what we strive for is a little bit of equality.

And if some civil servant gets fired after 2, 3, or 4 years, they also get something called UI that MLAs are not eligible for. And that could be anywhere between 20 to 30 thousand dollars along with their generous severance package. And I'm not saying it's wrong, I think it's great in this country today that people are treated like human beings.

So anyhow, there is just a little question here. What I'm getting to here is my question. Is the face of this Assembly is going to change and it will probably change after the election in October. Whenever it is. Next year some time.

And I don't want to say the wrong thing here and I don't want to sound like a male chauvinist. But something just comes to mind here. What happens if we have some more ladies elected into the Assembly and after the first year they have to take maternity leave? How are they taken care of because they don't get EI benefits? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a question I don't think I can answer but I believe Mr. Quirke has a lot of experience in that area so I'll let him address it.

>>*Laughter*

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

**Clerk:** Thank you Mr. Chairperson. The easy answer of course you have to plan on this and from the administration point of view, you would still get paid. The only provision, which we have within the Act I believe for any type of wage recovery, is during session time, but it would have to be a good reason why we would deduct pay for a missing a session.

I guess if we have a recess situation then obviously the Management Services Board may have to rule on that. But right now the Act is silent and it just says that you are paid per Schedule 1, Part 1 of Schedule C, 70 thousand or 60 thousand a year. There is no provision for any type of recovery like that and so we still pay the way the Act is written right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I am of the understanding then that if there is a lady elected to the Assembly, and she has to take 12 months maternity leave and not show up for the sessions because she can't find a sitter, or because of the newborn baby and things like that. She is taken care of or the member is taken care of and this member doesn't have to worry about having to go out and get a part time job while she is raising her child in her community, to pay the bills.

So it's all taken care of. By missing six or twelve months of the Assembly she is not penalized or she can't lose her seat in the House or something like that. So is this all taken care of in the Act? That's my question. Thank you, that's it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as the Clerk indicated the Act is silent at this time. Mr. McLean poses a good question, I wouldn't want to think what that would do for somebody's re-election or whatever, but I would say, or suggest that the

Clerk would review and do some research on this to see what other jurisdictions do in this case, if anything. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am not going to go on much longer here, it's just that if a member and it doesn't necessarily have to be a female. But if a male member like the Premier, wants to adopt a child and take a year to raise his child, he is covered off also so he doesn't have to worry about pumping gas or running out there to find a part time job to pay his mortgage and food bills.

So I am hoping that after this sitting today, that these are all considered because we are a new jurisdiction and a lot of us don't think about what will happen a year from now. I know as far as one being on the MSB that things pop up, in the last three years that we were totally unaware of or had to deal with in a crisis situation.

We all know what those situations were. So I am kind of hoping that this will be brought up and taken care of so this doesn't put any undue hardship on members or the constituents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Speaker, do you wish to respond.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Clerk will do some due diligence on this, some research and report back to the Management Services Board and move it along from there. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ms. Cooper would like to make a comment on that section. Ms. Cooper.

**Ms. Cooper:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could just refer Mr. McLean to section 25(5) of the Act that is the provision that allows the Management and Services Board to establish by regulation basically deductions from indemnities for a member's failure to attend session.

However, it goes on to state that if the member provides the Board with an explanation, that in the opinion of the Board is reasonable, then no deduction may be made. Hopefully our Management and Services Board would consider maternity leave, perhaps a reasonable explanation.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Cooper. Mr. McLean, any more.

**Mr. McLean:** No, Mr. Chairman. The only thing that I would say to that is that it is covered there but then again sometimes it's hard to get the Management Services Board together as a quorum for a meeting, as a member that sits there.



But I would like to see it. We talk about Nunavut and equality and things like that. I would like to see something in the Act specifically spell that out because like I say, there are more people, and like in Nunavut we all know today that there are a lot of custom adoptions, there are a lot of large families and things like that.

I am a member of the Management Services Board and I know that if Mr. Picco or somebody like that was in the situation that I would look kindly on them and help them all I could. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, that's all I had.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. I didn't hear a question. Just a comment. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to extend Mr. McLean's comments a little bit, especially on the Clerk's answer that this is already practiced in other jurisdictions across Canada. I think when we are talking about Mr. Speaker's opening comments on page three, also reflected in this bill about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

That explanation I think should also be included in this section 32. Section 32 and 33. That is I support this because Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is when your father or mother raises you until you are able to fend for yourself, able to hunt for yourself and you learn to become a hunter or sewer, then when your parents get old you turn around and look after them.

I have seen too many exercises recently in the last 25 or 30 years that every time we use our leaders, whether it is ITC or NTI or other capacities like regional organizations, that after we finish with them we dump them. I have seen ex-leaders, former leaders that are not being hired by the government, very capable people. Why because they are scared of them. Maybe they have too much experience with the public life.

They negotiated the land claims agreement with the Federal Government, tirelessly, we use them and we dump them. I don't think Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is represented by that. I think Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is to look after those who looked after you. I think this clause here is a reflection of that. Qujannamiik, Itsivautaq.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): I didn't hear a question, just a comment from Mr. Arvaluk. That's a good comment. Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Clause 33. Agreed. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under clause 33, I have a question. I don't understand something. If not elected as a member of a subsequent Legislative Assembly...

I guess it's the Inuktitut that I am having some confusion with. If the member is not elected in a subsequent Legislative Assembly. Can you give a short explanation on that please?

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

**Clerk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Section 33(a), if the present member runs for re-election in the next Assembly and he's not elected by the people that member will get the transitional allowance.

In Section (b). If the member in the present Assembly here chooses not to run in the next election that member still will receive a transitional allowance. So you get it whether you choose not to run or you're defeated in the next election. You will get the transitional allowance. No matter what. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Alakannuark. Clause 33. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 34. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 35. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 36. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 37. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree that this is again something that's new in this legislation. It wasn't there before and I think it's great to have this in there but it does call for the Speaker after consultation with the MSB may in turn establish an independent commission to make recommendations on indemnities, allowances, and expenses and benefits paid to the members of this Assembly.

It has "may" in there. Maybe, if I could just ask the Speaker, you know there is a lot of times when you look at legislations little words like "may" or "shall" make a big difference and I just like to ask if we can get an explanation as to why the words "may" was used for this particular section in the clause. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, to my mind it just allows flexibility to the members of the government as to when they, when they may like to do it. If they want to do it and when they want to do it. So it just allows that flexibility and members, any member is at liberty to raise this issue in the House for debate or for questions or motions pertaining to this, so on and so forth.

So, it's just basically to allow the members flexibility on this particular issue.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think it's great again that we see legislation that allows flexibility. I know that often has been the problem with a lot of legislation in the past that it is too rigid and doesn't allow having that flexibility.

But on this particular instance with this, the Speaker after consultation with the Management and Services Board, may appoint, and the Speaker had indicated that any member could go to the MSB and request this.

How many members, would it have to be a majority of the members or a majority of the MSB or just a request from one member to be able to set this process in place or before it happens? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I believe an issue like this where it affects all members and their benefits and so on and so forth, that it probably would flow from full caucus. So it could be brought from full caucus by any member for discussion and to see where they wish to proceed from there. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So it would be a majority decision of full caucus would be the only way to have something like this done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Given that this is consensus government and this particular item does affect all members, I thought it only fair that we got a full caucus, but that doesn't stop a member from bringing up an issue, a formal motion in the House.

My point was in reference to the fact that it impacts on all members and it would only be fair I guess, to bring it up in full caucus with all members present to discuss it. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess what it boils down to would be that a majority of the members in the House would have to approve something like that before it would happen, regardless whether it was through a formal motion in the House or raised in full caucus. Is that what you are saying? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's correct and I guess that would be another use of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit as far as the democracy goes and what the discussions and debates would be about. So yes. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Continuing on. Clause 37. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 38. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 39. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 40. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 41. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 42. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 43. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 44. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 45. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 46. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 47. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 48. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 49. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 50. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 51. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 52. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 53. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 54. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 55. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 56. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 57. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 58. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 59. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 60. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 61. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 62. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 63. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 64. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 65. Agreed. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Duties of the Deputy Premier. If, say after an election year, six months into the election, six months after the Premier is picked by the Members of the House, he resigns for personal reasons or whatever and the Deputy Premier assumes the role because the Premier appointed him.

He was an appointment. There is going to be a by-election, definitely will be a by-election right. And the by-election could be anywhere from past experience, six months. So the Deputy Premier would assume the responsibility of the Premier until the by-election and then there would have to be another leadership review to replace the Premier. Is that correct?

That is correct, because it is a consensus government. My question is, we could be served by a Deputy Premier for up to six months. So are we aware of the process, is it covered in the Act that okay, there has to be a full caucus decision and we have to go through another election among ourselves for a Premier. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the answer to Mr. McLean's question part of it would be yes and part would be no. There is no requirement that you have to wait six months to select someone from within, you could do it right away or you could wait until you had the by-election.

But I guess that could go on longer than six months. So it could happen but I think not. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. McLean do you have any further comments or questions.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you. We went through this in a different capacity on a lower level that we just went into full caucus and elected through motion in the House to elect. So that would stand, there is no difference to that, so if the Premier did go out for some reason, whatever, resign or move to another territory, or something like that, that we could do what we did before for the Speaker and the Cabinet members and just do a re-election, without the elected member being here like we did last time.

So is that the procedure that goes on and on and on. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct. We would just go through the same process that we used before which is through the leadership process and once again, this would all come through full caucus before we get to that point. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Going back to Clause 65. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 66. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 67. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 68. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 69. Agreed. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just need clarification on this one. A person other than the Premier who is a member of the Executive Council at the time of the expiration or dissolution of this Assembly shall continue to be a Member of the Executive Council.

What you are saying is that after dissolution, the ministers continue to be ministers until the new selection process has taken place after the next election. Is that the correct interpretation of this clause? Qujannamiik.

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that is correct. The Premier, the Speaker and all the ministers would remain in this capacity up until the next election, just to make sure there was continuity and no void of authority and responsibility for the people.

Yes, we would remain until the first day of the session, of the new session. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Arvaluk do you have any further comments. Thank you. Clause 69. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 70. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 71. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 72. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 73. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 74. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 75. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.



**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 76. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Schedule A. Do you agree with Schedule A.?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Turning the page to 44 in Inuktitut, page 38 in English. There is no chapter. Schedule B. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Schedule C. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Schedule D. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Bill 22, Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. Bill as a whole. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Does the committee agree that Bill 22 is ready for third reading.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank the Speaker and his officials and our legal counsel Sue Cooper. I would also like to thank the Clerk and Mr. Pollock. The Speaker can vacate the witness table now.

What is the wish of the committee?

**A Member** (interpretation): Thank the witnesses.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Yes, I did thank the officials. I'll let the Speaker say thank you instead, to us. Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to thank the staff and Sue Cooper the legal staff and Alex Baldwin for their help on this document. Also all the members for their questions and comments during the process. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. What's the wish of the committee? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to report progress. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor to report progress. All those in favour. Opposed. Carried. Thank you.

I would like to ask the Speaker to return to chair.

**Speaker:** Returning to Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Puqiqnak.

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

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker your committee has been considering Bill 22. I would like to report that Bill 22 is ready for third reading and Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**Speaker:** There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Kilabuk is the seconder. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

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

#### **Bill 19 - Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3, 2001/2002 - Third Reading**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 19, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3, 2001 / 2002 be read for the third time. Thank you.

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

#### **Bill 20 - Interim Appropriation Act, April 1 to June 30, 2002 - Third Reading**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that Bill 20, Interim Appropriation Act, April 1 to June 30, 2002 be read for the third time. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ng. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and the bill has had third reading.

Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

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

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Meetings for tomorrow morning. Meeting of the Special Committee at 9 o'clock in the Tuktu Room, followed by a meeting of Ajauqtiit. Standing Committee of Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development in Natsiq at 9 o'clock. Meeting of Regular Caucus at 11 o'clock in Nanuq.

Orders of the Day for Thursday February 28:

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
  - Bill 21
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Tabled Document 067-1(5)
  - Bill 23
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
  - Bill 22
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until February 28, 2002 at 1.30. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 5.51 pm.*

