



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

5th Session

1st Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 54

Tuesday March 5, 2002

2796 – 2911

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Tuesday March 5, 2002****Members Present:**

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

>>Prayer

Speaker: Good afternoon members, Mr. Premier. Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Kilabuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 166 - 1(5): Inuit Employment - Article 23 Bilateral Working Group with NTI**

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to inform my colleagues of the establishment of the bilateral working group with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on Article 23, Inuit Employment within Government.

The government is committed to increasing Inuit employment within the Government of Nunavut public service to a representative level. Mr. Speaker, under the Clyde River Protocol Agreement the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated agreed to work co-operatively on issues of mutual concern.

We recognize that the task of developing and maintaining a representative public service is very complex and challenging. We also recognize that this will only be accomplished if we all work together co-operatively. The Government of Nunavut has approved the Terms of Reference for the establishment of the Article 23 Bilateral Working Group.

The Terms of Reference were developed in co-operation with NTI. The bilateral group is to be advisory in nature. Its broad purpose is to provide recommendations and advice to the Government of Nunavut and NTI on matters relating to increasing and maintaining Inuit employment in the government to a representative level. The Article 23 Bilateral Working Group will also serve as a forum for discussions of issues and initiatives related to Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, we anticipate that the Article 23 Bilateral Working Group will commence its activities in the next month or so. I would like to take this opportunity to thank

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated for their co-operation in establishing this Article 23 Bilateral Working Group.

Mr. Speaker, it is through this kind of co-operation that we will achieve our common goal of a representative public service in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Ministers' Statements. Minister Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 167 – 1(5): Update on Nanisivik Mines Closure

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I would like to update the members on developments regarding the Nanisivik Mine closure near Arctic Bay. Breakwater Resources Limited announced last October 29th that it would close its zinc mine at Nanisivik in September 2002.

There were a series of telephone conferences and meetings in November and December, in which the Premier spoke with company officials and met with federal ministers about the respective obligations for the closure and about possible alternate plans for site.

I was in Arctic Bay in early January with officials from my department, the Department of Community Government and Transportation, the Nunavut Water Board, the Premier's Office, and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. We joined the MLA there and met with the Mayor and residents to discuss the closure.

The residents' concerns were that a proper environmental reclamation takes place, that an alternative viable use be found for the site and that transportation services to the community be preserved. We committed to ensure full community involvement in the review and planning process.

We also established the GN Nanisivik Working Group, which has representation from all the departments in the GN and is chaired by my department. (interpretation ends) The groups meets weekly to identify and act upon all GN related issues pertaining to the Nanisivik Mine closure and reports to a Steering Committee of senior GN managers.

My department has hired, in partnership with CG&T and the Nunavut Water Board, a Community Liaison Coordinator in Arctic Bay to work on these issues. The coordinator is a major bridge between the community, the GN, the Water Board, the company and other regulators. The coordinator will ensure that everyone is informed and participates in this process of this closure.

(interpretation) Last month, the Premier met with the federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada who has undertaken to fulfill the federal obligations for the reclamation of the site and has offered to work with us in addressing the employment related issues of the closure. (interpretation ends) On the recent Team Canada mission,

the Premier had an opportunity to speak with the Prime Minister about all our efforts with INAC and the Department of National Defence for a cooperative solution to the reclamation and rebuilding of the Nanisivik Mine site. I am hopeful that we will be in an excellent position to ensure that this mine leaves a positive legacy.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Rebecca Uqi Williams, the Member for Quttiktuq, for her commitment and involvement in this process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 168 – 1(5): Nunavut Marine Transportation Program Funding

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to announce the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Marine Transportation between the Department of Community Government and Transportation and the Canadian Coast Guard.

Marine Transportation is of great importance to Nunavut. Because of the lack of road links to the rest of Canada and the expensive airfreight, the bulk of the territory's supplies arrive by boat.

This agreement will provide Nunavut with 500 thousand dollars in each of the next five years to maintain, preserve and enhance marine infrastructure. This includes marine re-supply sites, community docks and breakwaters.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, 35 thousand per year will also be used for the Small Boat Safety Program. This program provides training and information to Nunavummiut for safe boating.

This agreement also provides us an opportunity to apply for larger projects once a year such as the Kugluktuk marine re-supply site, which is currently under way.

Mr. Speaker, this agreement will help Nunavut develop its marine transportation infrastructure for the benefit of all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Minister Picco.

Minister's Statement 169 - 1(5): Nunavut Food Guide Unique to the North

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today during National Nutrition Month to introduce to this House and to the public, the first ever Nunavut Food Guide.

Mr. Speaker, the pride of the people of Nunavut and our ties to the land and sea, the animals and plants is captured in this unique-to-Nunavut guide to nutritional and traditional eating.

Mr. Speaker, earlier today I had the honour of showing the new food guide to a group of elders at the Elder's Centre here in Iqaluit. I wanted them to be among the first to see it because it is through the elders that the knowledge of traditional food has been passed down to us.

Mr. Speaker, they have kept alive the knowledge of how to preserve and prepare the rich and nutritious country food that has allowed people to live and thrive on our land for centuries. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, my department and the Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment, will feature the Nunavut Food Guide, in an hour long nutrition education course being presented to community project staff of the Canadian Pre-natal Nutrition program.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, this Friday, Arctic Co-ops will feature the food guide in its regular back cover add in Nunatsiaq News. Also, Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Food Guide is now being distributed throughout the territory for use in health centres, schools and in the communities. In the health centres, nurses and CHRs will use it as an attractive and colourful guide to promote healthy eating.

Mr. Speaker, it will be used in the schools to support the nutrition portion of the health curriculum. Also, Mr. Speaker, it will also be used in community wellness programs such as those funded through the Aboriginal Head Start and the Canadian Pre-natal Nutrition Program.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Food guide will be an important health tool that will provide guidelines for combining traditional foods with store foods for a healthy way of eating and incorporating Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 170 - 1(5): Sealskin Rebate

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have good news. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that my department has made significant strides over the past two years in revitalizing the sealskin industry within Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) The department currently operates a program known as the Fur Price Program. This program provides assistance to harvesters who wish to sell their furs for

competitive prices at auction, as well as providing individual harvesters with quick, up-front cash advances provided to individuals for their skins.

Under this program, seal skins harvested within the community are collected by the community's wildlife officers and sent to North Bay, Ontario to be marketed through the Fur Harvesters Auction Inc. The objectives of this program are to introduce Nunavut sealskins into both the Canadian and the world fur markets and to promote Nunavut sealskins as a sustainable by-product of traditional harvesting practices.

(interpretation) Since the implementation of this program the “at-auction” price for Nunavut sealskins has increased significantly. From an average price of less than twenty dollars in the mid-1990’s to the December 2001 fur auctions held in North Bay, the average sale price for Nunavut sealskins was approximately 67 dollars per pelt, up by 45% from the year 2000.

We are hopeful the sealskins will continue to bring in good prices. Much of the credit for our current achievements must be given to our community Wildlife Officers who have worked very hard to make this program successful.

(interpretation ends) Due to this success, the department has realized a significant profit from the sale of Nunavut sealskins for the first time ever. As a result, I have obtained authorization from the Financial Management Board to provide Nunavut’s seal harvesters with a one-time rebate of 20 dollars for every sealskin that was delivered to our wildlife officers for the 2001 North Bay auction.

(interpretation) I fully expect that we will have the rebates out to the harvesters by April of 2002. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers’ Statements. Are there any further Ministers’ Statements? Item 3. Members’ Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 3: Members’ Statements

Member's Statement 479 - 1(5): Bad Gasoline

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because we hear a lot about this issue in the Baffin Region. A popular topic these days is the bad gasoline. We hear interviews on the radio and through other media about the quality of gasoline that we use up here in Nunavut.

There are some people saying that the gasoline is good and others are saying that it’s bad. When we were first elected in 1999, the community of Uqsuqtuq in the Nattilik riding first experienced bad gasoline. Of course the end result was the government saying the gasoline was of good quality.

From what I am hearing today, it has recurred and questions are being posed as to whether the quality of the gasoline is good or bad. I will try to make it brief Mr. Speaker, let me know when my time is up. I will try to keep my comments short.

In my riding, I think it has been over two years now that we have been talking about the quality of the gasoline. In the community of Gjoa Haven, the Mayor and the Hamlet Council have been insisting for two years that the quality of the gasoline is bad, but we kept being told that the gasoline is good.

We tried different ways of finding out about the quality of the gasoline and I have made numerous statements in the House about the quality. I kept being told that my comments were wrong and the previous Minister of Public Works & Services responsible for Petroleum Products told me that I was wrong and the quality of the gasoline was good. Perhaps the same thing is being said to my colleagues.

Today we know that there was something wrong with the gasoline. We had to fly in fuel...

Mr. Speaker, I would like to unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Do I have any nays? There are no nays. Proceed Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, we've had more than one analysis done on the quality of the gasoline. The final result came in and we were told that the quality was good. At that time the hamlet of Gjoa Haven got a Hercules and brought in 25 forty-five gallon drums from Hall Beach.

They decided to do their own independent analysis. Only then did we find that the gasoline was of poor quality. At that time we were told that it wouldn't do any good to finish that batch. We were told that we had to use that gasoline in the summer and not in the winter.

Mr. Speaker, we weren't told anything negative about the quality of the gasoline but there is something wrong with the gas. Mr. Speaker, the gasoline is used in the summer. The contractors in Uqsuqtuq forgot to close the pumps on the old gasoline and started using the new gasoline. Then the harvesters thought that the new stuff they were using was of the same poor quality. When we started using the new fuel, it was okay.

I can talk about this for a long time Mr. Speaker. If you should want to get further information on what we did to get an independent analysis on the gas, you can talk to the Municipality of Gjoa Haven. You have that option. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Just to caution the members when you are asking for additional time to conclude your statement the intent of that is you have a few lines left, probably up to a minute, not to do another statement. Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 480 – 1(5): Process – Disagreement on Bill 21

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of process. Mr. Speaker, the word process often conjures up images of endless meetings and bureaucratic excuse making. The word and concept is often dismissed as being irrelevant to the lives of real people in real communities. However, Mr. Speaker, process has another meaning, that of doing things in a way that is inclusive and respectful to all views.

Mr. Speaker, later today at the appropriate time, I will be tabling a document. A set of remarks that I had prepared to deliver in this House on the issue of ensuring that Bill 21 receives full debate, and most importantly that Nunavut residents be provided the opportunity to appear in front of committees of this House, to give their views.

Mr. Speaker, I regret not having the opportunity to speak to the motion that was passed yesterday in which Bill 21 was referred directly to the Committee of the Whole, as a result, eliminating the opportunity for public consultation.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is clear to my constituents that I stand for processes that are open and inclusive. I believe that there are matters and issues that need to be given a full public hearing.

For the record, Mr. Speaker, I do not support this process and I look forward to all members publicly stating their views on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Iqittuq.

Member's Statement 481 – 1(5): Future of Nunavummiut in Regards to Bill 21, Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased with my colleague's comments that he just made. Mr. Speaker, the topic that I want to talk about is complex and I'll probably be asking for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Mr. Speaker, it's in regards to Bill 21, which we have been dealing with in the House. I'm also very glad to see the students of Arctic College who are here listening to the proceedings in the House. I'm very pleased that the people out there are listening to the proceedings and especially Bill 21.

Mr. Speaker, in talking about this proposed bill I want to make it clear that it is part of the way where we are joining the rest of the world, as we continue to develop our

government. For clarification, this proposed bill is not just for these present Members of the Legislative Assembly. It's also for the up and coming Members of the Legislative Assembly, perhaps it will be you.

Just to backtrack a little, and looking back to the days of our ancestors, we survived in a harsh environment. If it were not for our parents, their survival, their instincts, and their knowledge, we would not be here today, whether we are Inuit, Qallunaaq or any others.

We are just starting to get on our feet to become independent, to have our own government, to have our own land and we have to not only look at this present legislature but also the future that is up and coming. This is just the initial stage and of course right now at the beginning we have to take the brunt of the reactions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, colleagues, Mr. Premier. At times it's very challenging. I know some people might think that we have to take it as is because this is what we ran for. We have to be out of our communities for many, many, weeks and live here and also keep up our house and family in the other community at the same time.

We are not only doing this for ourselves. We are trying to plan for the future. We have a lot of responsibilities. There are many things that we have to do.

Our ancestors were very intimidated by the missionaries, the RCMP and other people. They were ordered around and weren't able to do what they wanted.

Today we are becoming independent. There would be nobody here in Iqaluit, if this had not been a military base. The reason why we are here, all of us, all people, is because our parents survived and what we're doing today is not just for today, it's for as long as the world is here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 482 – 1(5): Mining Employment & Training Opportunities

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to address an issue that is close to the hearts of residents in the Kitikmeot Region. I know that the Members of the Legislative Assembly share with me great hopes for the economic opportunities that could develop in the Kitikmeot and the increased mining activity, which could open the doors for many Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that we are not being proactive enough in preparing ourselves for the opportunities that may be opening in the near future. There are residents in my community of Kugluktuk who are walking around with their hands in their pockets and nothing to do. They would be ideal candidates for jobs opening up in the mining sector...

A Member: Hear, Hear.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): ...if they had relevant training to prepare themselves for those jobs.

Mr. Speaker, a number of mining companies are exploring potential near the community of Kugluktuk. I would like to encourage the government to approach these companies and explore options such as joint venture programs to identify and develop training opportunities for Nunavummiut.

In the near future I will be reviewing the department's business plan and main estimates. I look forward to seeing some of the creative options being proposed to address the issue of training and preparation for future economic development.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 483 – 1(5): Keewatin Wildlife Management Board Meeting
Recognizing Elders**

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I couldn't agree more with my colleague from Kugluktuk about the inaction of this government on being proactive towards mining.

But first of all Mr. Speaker, I'd like to apologise to the Mayor, Dave Webster, from Baker Lake and Joseph Nulalik for missing the opening of the art show last night but due to the favourable weather in the Kivalliq, the planes weren't flying.

Out of a cloud comes a silver lining Mr. Speaker, because I was stranded in Rankin Inlet for a night and I got to go to an event I wish to speak to today which was the Keewatin Wildlife Management Board meeting in Rankin Inlet on the weekend. At this meeting, this is the first time they have ever done this, they wanted to recognise some elders from the Kivalliq Region for their contribution to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and harvesting and helping their community as a whole when times were pretty tough in the old days.

Like I say, Mr. Speaker, they were going to recognize and they did recognize and hand out some certificates and I've got pictures of what happened over there on Saturday. I'd

like to commend Luke Tunguak, from Baker Lake, Titus Niego from Baker Lake, Robert Tatty from Rankin Inlet, Annie Tatty from Rankin Inlet.

And I don't want to get these names wrong, Toni Ottok from Arviat and Elizabeth Nivirauti from Arviat. I don't want to offend that name in Arviat because they're great people and I know them. But it's nice to see somebody other than the Nunavut Government recognizing elders and people for their past contributions, their help with the less fortunate and their significant achievements over the years.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Member's Statement 484 – 1(5): Help with Growing Up & Teaching Different Skills

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I deeply care the people of Nunavut and I'm glad to see we have a lot of people visiting in the gallery. I want to work for their future so they could participate in the workforce in Nunavut. In the past we often tried to survive on our own and as Inuit we had to start to learn different skills.

When I was younger I remember my father was treated like a slave and I was always concerned about how he was treated and he was the youngest child in his family. When his older brothers died his father didn't know what to do. I often told myself that I would try to work my hardest to get through each day. I want to show my appreciation for the visitors and I want to encourage them to work hard. I realize that people might go through hard times but we are able to understand that people are working towards our future.

In the past money was not important to us and we used to try to survive on hunting but today it's different. We have to do what we can to survive in today's world, today's economy. I want to encourage the students to work hard, complete their courses, and make the best money that you can. Mr. Speaker, I have more to say but for now that is my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 485 – 1(5): A Better Future for Nunavummiut

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is presently meeting in Coral Harbour, we welcome them to the community, the community I'm sure is giving them a warm welcome.

They have a new president and it is my sincere wish that things go well for them. Sometimes it makes you wonder why we work so hard for Nunavut and I want to remember the hard work that ITC did, the hard work that they did in trying to reach their goals.

Initially their office was located in Edmonton and then it moved to Ottawa. The President was Tagak Curley at the time and our first General Meeting was held in Pangnirtung in August.

During that time we discussed how Nunavummiut could take more control of their future and how Nunavummiut could have more self-esteem. Those were some of the issues that we discussed during the first general meeting. Some of the concerns that we discussed included parenting skills and how our young people had to survive when they were taken away from their homes to go to residential schools.

Some of the children that were taken away from their homes were six years old and this was really hard for the parents. At that time our grandparents went through hard times when the missionaries and the RCMP came to the North. So I would like my community of Coral Harbour to welcome Nunavut Tunngavik into our community during their meeting. I hope the meeting goes well.

I would like to remind Nunavummiut that we work here for you and not for personal gain. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 3. Members' Statements. Ms. Williams.

Member's Statement 486 – 1(5): Help the Future Leaders of Nunavut

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize I have a cold and my voice isn't very clear.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about how well Members of the Legislative Assembly work together. When we have a common goal, we can achieve a lot. The students that are here visiting in the gallery, some are from Iqaluit and some are from other communities.

I noticed that on Saturdays some go to the food bank to get food. They try to spend their money wisely. As a government we work together for the betterment of Nunavummiut and the students. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I want to assist these individuals because they are our future and they are working towards getting more skills so that someday they will have a career or be sitting here in the Legislative Assembly as we are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 487 – 1(5): Working Together with Youth

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a positive issue. The young people are our future and we are working towards the betterment of their future.

I realize now that they are taking training and hope that they will be able to complete their programs. Our elders worked hard in the past and I try to think of ways to help our young people because they are our future.

There are a lot of young people in Nunavut and there are a lot of people visiting in the gallery so I'd like to welcome them and the people that are watching the televised session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Premier.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Question 410 – 1(5): Responses to After Hours Calls

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On February 20, 2002, the Honourable Member for Amittuq asked about RCMP responses to after hours calls. I wish to advise the member that all calls from communities to RCMP detachments after hours are handled through the telecommunications centre here in Iqaluit.

All calls are assessed as to the seriousness of the call and other demands on the RCMP at the time of the call. If it relates to a serious crime or emergency, the calls are referred to the detachment serving the community and are responded to as soon as possible.

If a call relates to a minor matter, it will be responded to the next day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Thompson.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognise the Mayor of Whale Cove, David Kritterdlik who is visiting in the gallery. He's visiting Iqaluit and meeting with my colleagues.

I would also like to recognise Louis Taparti from Rankin Inlet, he's a council member in Rankin Inlet. David Ningeongan, Jack Kabvitok and Ollie Ittinuar are also here to meet with my colleagues. I appreciate the welcome they've received. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irgittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognise some people from Igloolik and Hall Beach. Perhaps when I call out their names, they could stand.

First a student, I'm not sure what course they're taking but a lot of them are taking the Teacher Education Program. I'd like to recognise Sheepa Pikuyak, Meeka Angutijuak, Sarah Arnatsiaq and Elijah Kupaaq from Hall Beach. On this side, Alice Kanatsiaq from Hall Beach and lastly, my niece, Lisa Kamokak.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today it gives me great pleasure to recognise a couple of elders from our community. The two of them are quite dynamic in their own way. Mr. Webster, who is currently the mayor, was also one of the big pushes behind creating the Inuit Heritage Centre in Baker Lake along with the elders.

The other individual, Joshua Nujalik is a well-known carver in Nunavut. He's still an active hunter and he has one of his carvings out on display there so if anybody needs a carving from Mr. Nujalik, contact me and I'll make sure that he gets it for you.

I thought I'd get that plug in. I'd like to recognise both these gentlemen from Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to recognize those individuals but Mr. McLean beat me to it. I would like to recognize the Mayor of Baker Lake, David Webster who I have known for many years. We have been involved on the same committees in the past.

I'd also like to recognize the elder from Baker Lake. I am related to him, we are cousins. If he didn't mind, I would call him my cousin but he doesn't like me to call him cousin. Joshua Nuilalik. Welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I recognize a lot of the people here but I am not too good with names. I will recognize two individuals, Thomasie Panikpak and Terry Kadluk from Clyde River. I recognize a lot of people here but I am not good with names so I would like to welcome everybody. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know quite a few people here so I am not going to hold up the session. I will try a couple.

I would like to welcome some of my wife's relatives from Clyde. Good friends of mine. Mr. Thomasie Panikpak, who Mr. Iqaqrialu introduced earlier and my wife's nephew Mr. Terry Kadluk who is also a student at Arctic College. Almost right behind me Mary Arnakaq. Mary was an employee of mine almost 12 years ago. But I don't think that was too long ago, I am not that old. Mary worked for me before at the BBDC and I would like to welcome Mary to the gallery.

I would also like to join Mr. McLean and welcome to the gallery Mayor David Webster from Baker Lake. I am glad that you are doing better. I know after the break we will talk about some of the Baker Lake issues. I look forward to that with the mayor. Also Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce some of my constituents. There are quite a few of them here today. So I'll try a few of them.

Mr. Gordon Barnes is here with us today, the long time manager of the Okota Homeless Shelter. I would like to welcome Gordon to the House. Near Gordon is Kerry McCluskey who is also a constituent and a reporter with News North. Next to Kerry is Madeleine Redfern, a constituent of mine from Apex, a well-known community activist and an organizer at of the event at 12:00 o'clock this afternoon outside the Legislature. I'd like to welcome Madeleine here to the gallery. Also Mr. Speaker, I'd like to welcome Neevee Hanson, whose family are long time residents of Apex, which is in my riding. I'd like to welcome Neevee Hanson to the gallery.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to welcome a person from Cape Dorset who also has worked for Hansard, Kilaja Simeonie. Also, from my other community who is here and will be on the Team Nunavut, Arctic Winter Games, Ulitua Judea

>> *Applause*

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Out in the lobby are a couple of people from Rankin Inlet, Jack Kabvitok and David Ningeongan. I think they're out there because there are no seats left in the gallery but I'd like to welcome them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hardly ever recognize anybody here so I would like to recognize someone from Kugluktuk, Robert Ayalik. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are some students that haven't been recognized. So I'd like to recognize the ones that haven't been recognized who are here from the Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize the Business Development Officer for KEDC. George Bohlender from Cambridge Bay. Thank you.

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Well, I have somebody I'd like to recognize and that's my former Constituency Assistant, a long time friend of mine and she's attending Arctic College here and hopefully will be one of the first graduates of the Environmental Technology Course that's being offered here. Annie Koksuk. Stand Annie please.

>> *Applause*

I would also like to recognize two former constituents of mine, David Webster, a good friend, Meredith Webster and Joshua.

>> *Applause*

And all those who have not been recognized, welcome to the gallery.

Sergeant-at-Arms, do you want to notify the people in the chambers that there is seating here for another seven or eight people. Item 6. Oral Questions. Item 7. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 491 - 1(5): Any Plans to Support Unilingual People Towards Maintenance of Homes

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation a question about the Homeownership Program. This is regarding Inuktitut unilingual speaking individuals who access Homeownership Programs.

There is not enough support given to the Inuktitut unilingual speaking people. They have to operate and maintain their home by themselves and at times when the furnace breaks down or if anything breaks down in their utilities, whether it is frozen pipes through the plumbing, they have to order all these parts from outside of the community.

We don't have any entities that sell parts like that and I would like to ask the minister if he has any plans in regards to this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: New Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we try to assist clients depending on their needs and each community of course is different depending on if it's a larger community. There may be an enterprise that is already established to do that kind of maintenance. There might be smaller communities where that might not be as readily available. Certainly if there is a problem out there in respect to that area, it is certainly something that we could assist specific homeowners or that community, a group of homeowners in that community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I understand that, I would like to get further clarification because the parts for furnaces are not available at the local level. I was wondering if the Housing Authority could assist those clients before these parts come into the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, certainly in the situation where a part may be required, say for example to keep the furnace going in that individual's home and that part is not readily available in the community. If it is available at the Housing Authority certainly some accommodation can be made to make sure that individual's house is not in jeopardy. They could replace that part whatever it may be when it was to arrive into the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 492 – 1(5): Decentralize Jobs Where Housing is Available

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today my question today is to the Minister responsible for Decentralization. Mr. Speaker, the Premier has done an excellent job in my opinion on decentralization for Nunavut. I don't think the citizens of Nunavut are aware how fast under him that decentralization came into place. There was a long-term plan but he dealt with it very fast.

We seem to be up to speed on decentralization. I have to thank the Premier for putting the Nunavut Power Corporation into Baker Lake because it meant 15 local jobs in my community that were badly needed. But my question today to the minister is, as a result of decentralization in my community, Nunavut Construction constructed 20 government staff units in the community. As of this date there are 15 empty staff houses plus there is a surplus of office space in the community. Can the Premier tell me if he has any plans for this? Thank you.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am short of houses in some communities maybe we can move them to those communities. That would be economical. We set the target for each and every community to try and hire the set number of individuals and we are continuing that exercise. So I believe we are still a bit short in Baker Lake. We are continuing to find additional employees or positions that could be relocated to those communities where we are still short in terms of employment. Koanaqtit, Uqaqti.

Speaker: Supplementary question. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good to hear the Premier say that. We know when we talk about surplus housing in communities, it is probably the only community in Nunavut is Baker Lake at this point that has a surplus of housing.

I hear there are a couple in Arviat also. But the question that I want to get to the minister today is that, every time I open a newspaper and jobs are advertised in Iqaluit, there is no housing. When the jobs aren't filled there are opportunities that are being missed.

I wonder if the Premier would consider moving some temporary jobs into Baker Lake to take care of these jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this point we haven't planned on creating, in some cases the jobs are required to be in Iqaluit and it is difficult trying to relocate them in terms of opportunities and in terms of the position that is required.

So it is something that is perhaps worth looking at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Supplementary question. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't want to keep pushing the minister for an answer on this, but Mr. Speaker, the community has a high unemployment rate, there are lots of young people that are calling me looking for job opportunities.

It's no secret Mr. Speaker, that the government, our government is paying a lot of rent on these empty units for the last two years. Plus the surplus office space is costing this government anywhere from 4-500 thousand dollars a year, in empty staff houses and office space.

I know moving jobs into communities is a difficult situation. But I like I said, I commend the minister, the Premier for moving the amount of jobs he has into the decentralized communities in Nunavut. But the fact of the matter is, is that it's costing the government hundreds of thousands of dollars to have these units empty for the last two and a half, three years.

So that's my question today, would we consider moving some jobs into the community because we have a surplus of staff houses and office space even if it's just on a temporary basis until there's other accommodations made for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. I believe the minister has already answered that question but if he wishes to answer it again. Proceed Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member has a very good point that there's a real shortage of housing throughout the territory and it's great that there are surplus units in Baker Lake. Perhaps we can look at utilising those resources, perhaps for public housing or for additional requirements that have to be met. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 493 - 1(5): Assisting Dog-team Races through Funding

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing my question to the Minister for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. In Nunavut we have dog team races and it's part of our culture. Soon there will be a dog team race from Clyde River to Pond Inlet and we're proud to see dog team races because they show our traditions.

Today, if we don't have funding, we can't go ahead with these things. I was wondering if the dog team racers require funding assistance, would the minister be willing to assist them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to promote Inuit Qaujimagatunqangit, we'd like to see the promotion of these activities.

When I was the Minister for Community Government & Transportation, this was under the Recreation Division. Although for me it is just recreation, it is part of the Inuit culture. I will anticipate a request for funding for this project that he mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For recreation, I know that some events are recognised by the government especially if it's going to be a competition. The dog team races are more than recreation, more than competition.

I was wondering if the minister has any plans about the future of dog-team events. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I've stated before, we've never really considered this aspect but when the member asked that question, in view of the fact that it touches on the promotion of our culture and tradition, then I would expect to see an application for funding.

Although we've never really considered it in our department, according to what the member has stated it's self-explanatory and I'm sure we can consider it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): My question, although your department has never really considered that, I'm sure the department will consider it now. Is there a deadline as we are nearing fiscal year end at March 31, is there a deadline for them to follow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, many of us have had to deal with deadlines, and we have to apply prior certain dates. If we are going to consider this through Culture, Language and Elders and Youth, we would have to be mindful of the fiscal year end but it is only one of the factors.

We would look at the validity of the application and view the cultural and traditional aspects of it. So I wouldn't be too overly concerned about the fiscal year ends but it can be a factor with the government.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Anawak. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 494 - 1(5): Update on Formula Financing Agreement

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, as all members are aware the minister indicated that they were in negotiations with the Federal Government to try and improve or renegotiate our Formula Financing Agreement. I'd like to ask the minister if he could update the House on where things are at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Finance. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the officials first met in the last week of January to begin the initial discussions and negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated that there was just an initial meeting in January. Does he have an idea when they plan to meet again? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe the next one is a couple of months away. They have both taken away some requests to develop timelines and understandings of what would take place once they get back together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the minister, in their approach to this are they looking at trying to find some additional funding through our Formula Plan and Agreement with the Federal Government for the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the obvious goal would be to try to ensure that there is as much possible funding that we could get for our territory to operate our programs.

At the same time, let's not forget we also have the fiscal review initiative that's been undertaken in conjunction with Federal Finance. Right now that's coming near its end as far as trying to put together a presentation that both ministers we hope to sit down and discuss it sometime in the immediate future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Mr. Speaker, I'd like ask the Minister of Finance, he indicated that they're looking for, does he anticipate, in light of comments identified by the Auditor General in her report that the government will be moving towards the objective of being able to access additional funds for the government through our Formula Financing Agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the goal of any Finance Department is to maximize its revenues and ours is no different from that perspective. Whether it is directly through the Formula Financing Agreement itself or through other agreements with the Federal Government or whether it is one-time initiatives, on-going other programs that we deliver on their behalf. The intent would be the same, is to maximize those revenues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 495 - 1(5): Work Together to get More Information from the Federal Government - Grave Workers

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked the Premier a couple of days ago whether the Government of Nunavut is working with Department of Indian and Northern Affairs about the grave relocation issue.

I know through the correspondence they have been working together. But I have not seen any correspondence other than what we have. I just wondered if they could start negotiations with the Federal Government along with myself and the Premier to go and negotiate payment for the people who worked at the gravesites. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We tried to assist those people to receive payment for the relocation of the gravesites. As the Government of Nunavut we would like to do as much as we can to try to help the member out. We are waiting for their response as to whether those people that worked on transferring the gravesites could be paid. Anything that the member wants us to do, we will try to do our best. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Premier for the response. Mr. Speaker, to me it is a very important item and it has to be taken as a priority. The oldest person that worked on the graves is 70 years old. Can the Premier agree that he would be able to work with me with the Federal Government, to negotiate the payment for those individuals that worked on the gravesites? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could agree to that but I am not sure if the Federal Government would agree right now because I would have to talk with them prior to negotiating with them. I am not sure what the response would be from them. I can talk with them and ask them if they would be willing to negotiate with us. If they agree to negotiate with us then I would invite the member to attend. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know it doesn't hurt to ask. The Premier responded to me by saying that he could ask the Federal Government. But I would like to ask the Premier if the Federal Government refuses quite often?

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I said was that I'll have to ask them first when the best time would be to meet with them on the concerns of the member before I can agree to the member here in the House. If it's okay and they agree, then I'll meet with them and I'll invite the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Final supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we finish our session today, would he be able to write them a letter to ask them if they can meet with us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will share a draft of the letter with the member first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral questions. Ms. Williams.

Question 496 - 1(5): Plans for Transportation before the Mine Closes

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community Government & Transportation.

It's about the plan they have in place for transportation to Arctic Bay because it's only six months before the mine closes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I became the Minister for Community Government & Transportation, I wanted to work closely with the people at Nanisivik Mines and Arctic Bay regarding the transportation schedule changes that the community will be facing.

I'm not really clear as to what the plans are at this time although I've been briefed by my staff. I know that this is an urgent situation for the member. Perhaps if I could get some information and take it as notice. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. The question is taken as notice. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 497 - 1(5): 500 Thousand Dollars Provided For All of Nunavut - Clarify - Breakwaters

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community Government & Transportation in regards to her announcement today.

It says in the third paragraph of her Minister's Statement, that Nunavut will be provided with 500 thousand dollars in each of the next five years to preserve, maintain and enhance marine transportation infrastructure. This includes marine re-supply sites and community docks and breakwaters. Is that for all of Nunavut, that amount? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That 500 thousand dollars is for all of Nunavut for re-supply sites, community docks and breakwaters for the next five years.

I know it's not a huge amount but at least it's a beginning for people who have been requesting those kinds of facilities. That's as much as we can get for the next five years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister as well. She says this 500 thousand dollars is a beginning. At least there's some money in there. Where is the money coming from for the construction of those facilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time there's no money in the government funding for the construction of the docks, breakwaters and re-supply sites. But there is some money set aside for repairs and we will talk with the hamlets in each community that need those facilities.

Although this amount of money is small, we will have to be asking for more funding from the government and from the Canadian Coast Guard. We can negotiate with them for more funding but in the meantime, they have agreed to give us 500 thousand dollars in each of the next five years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I recall from the Department of Education infrastructure report, the school designs, architectural and engineering, cost approximately 300 to 400 thousand dollars. Mr. Speaker, 500 thousand dollars for the whole of Nunavut, can the minister tell us what it will be used for.

Is that for designs? You stated earlier that this is very small. It could be only a start up. Can she specify a little bit more clearly what the 500 thousand dollars is going to buy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This money is allocated for a variety of marine facilities. I know it's not very much but we're also in the process of seeking more funding for building and supporting marine infrastructure projects under the Department of Fisheries and Oceans under the Small Craft Harbours Program.

There's some money we can access. This money is supposed to give us some flexibility in maintaining the marine facilities that are currently in use. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): That was just too brief Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister knows very well, as she has gone to Chesterfield Inlet and the other communities that need breakwaters, community docks and so on, that there are boats that capsized during high winds.

The minister is well aware of the big boulders along the shoreline. Some are as large as this circle that we have here. It's very dangerous when there are shifting sands and so on. There are some communities that have absolutely no re-supply sites or docks or breakwaters.

So with this 500 thousand dollars the minister mentioned from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, how much and when can we get some money that will be used for the actual building of these facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do know that we need to improve on the marine facilities and I'm aware of the Chesterfield Inlet dock that needs to be improved.

It's been on the books without any dollars from the hamlet for some years. Mr. Speaker, there are currently three initiatives under way in the department to secure this funding.

As I said earlier we are in the process of seeking funding for building and supporting marine facilities under the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. That is under their Small Craft Harbours Program and that is something that we are working with right now.

The other means we are using to secure more funding is through initiating discussions with DFO and the Canadian Coast Guard on the devolution of the Northern Remote Resupply Sites program to the Government of Nunavut. This will allow us to get some more capital dollars for the development of those facilities.

So we are in the process of talking with them, this 500 thousand annual budget under the Memorandum of Understanding should give us more opportunities to respond to the marine facilities that need to be fixed right now. I know it's not enough but it's a start. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 498 - 1(5): Clarify Minister's Statement on Sealskin Rebate

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Sustainable Development made a statement today and it was good news because it is going to help the hunters out there. With one skin the harvester would get a certain rebate. I wasn't quite sure what he said, but is there a rebate to the harvester for each sealskin that he brings in. Is it in the form of cash? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand your question. One sealskin pelt would be bought for 30 dollars by the department and if Mr.

Alakannuark brought in five skins he would get a 20-dollar rebate for each sealskin that he brought.

If Mr. Alakannuark brought us in five pelts, he would get a rebate of 100 dollars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand his response and I thank him. Is this just for sealskins? What about fox pelts, and other species, would there be a rebate on other types of pelts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Fox pelts, wolf pelts, wolverines, we are looking at 25 dollars for a fox pelt and then if they are sold the trapper would get the difference. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 499 - 1(5): Update on Policies for Women's Shelters

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. It is an issue that drew attention to the Legislative Assembly and the MLAs last week in regards to women's shelters.

Mr. Speaker, it's a fact of life that we do have violence in Nunavut and it's not going to go away any too soon. My community is no different from other communities that we have these incidents that cause a great deal of stress on the community. A couple of months ago I had a couple of elders call me about an incident that their son was making life very difficult for them in that they had to be relocated.

We had no place to put them. There is a temporary place in the health facility, but it doesn't provide 24-hour care because the employees work 9 to 5. Can the minister update me on what kind of a policy this government has in regards to people that need 24, 48 or 72 hour care in regards to being thrown out of their homes or leaving a family situation where it is not tolerable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have two types of facilities in Nunavut for family violence. Here in Iqaluit we have the Qimaavik home, which is 24-7. That means Mr. Speaker, it operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Mr. Speaker that is the only transition home that we have where if a person was in a relationship that was abusive, that person could go for more than two, three, four or several weeks if needed. Mr. Speaker, the other type of facility that we run in Nunavut is an emergency home. That's a safe house located in different communities where a person is involved in a relationship which may have turned violent, as an example, they can go to seek shelter.

Right now Mr. Speaker, under the Mental Health Strategy and framework that we have put together as a Department of Health and Social Services, Mr. Speaker we addressed both those issues in that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good to see the minister addressing this situation. Like I say, it affects a lot of people in Nunavut. So the minister is telling me if there is a situation in my community where somebody may need a shelter for 24 hours to say a week. That as an organization in a community can they approach the minister and he'll assist them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 500 - 1(5): Process of Budget Session

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is for the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker as you know our next session is coming up. Our sitting is going to be a budget session. I'd like to ask the Minister responsible for Finance and the Chair for the Financial Management Board if he could explain the budgeting process that the departments go through, that they use to develop the budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Do we have half an hour, Mr. Speaker? Mr. Speaker as the member knows, the Standing Committees are quite involved in the whole process. As it stands now if he means the specific stage right now of the whole process, I don't know what information he is requesting. Is it more global on the whole process or specifics of where we are? Maybe he could clarify that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Mr. Tootoo could you clarify your question please?

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess what I am looking for and hopefully he can make it clear. In the process, the budgeting process that the government goes through, I think the departments submit their proposed budgets to the Financial

Management Board for consideration and what happens from there on in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I hope that has clarified it.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I thank him for clarifying that. Where it stands right now, as you know we have two budgetary processes one is the capital, which we have moved to the fall and another for the Main Estimates. Right now we are in the process of the Main Estimates for the 2002/2003.

What happens is based on the current fiscal year, we haven't finished the current fiscal year yet, depending on what was approved at the start of the year, what has been approved for supplementary appropriations during the course of the year, there have been targets or budgets that have been adjusted for each department.

Based on that there are some preliminary targets set for each department for 2002/2002 which reflects all the changes that have taken place over the course of the year. Of course there are some things that have taken place over that time that may have just been reflective of one time current year initiatives. So that kind of funding would have been taken out of that preliminary target, so it would reflect really the ongoing needs of each department.

For this year also there was an additional, because of the financial situation of the government being fairly positive, there was an additional 20 million dollars that the FMB, the Financial Management Board had approved as additional amounts that all departments could put proposals forward for.

There was a meeting recently to determine which departments would get which amounts of that. From that it has now gone back to the departments to try and bring back some firmer targets, which we are planning to have finalized in the very near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I realize that we approved the Capital Budget last fall. Looking at the O&M budgets that are coming up and the submissions that are received by the FMB, can the minister indicate when departments submit their initial submissions, do the departments usually receive all the funding that they request.

Or are there instances where they are asked to go back and cut their numbers because they are over the targets that have been set by the FMB? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I indicated that we had an additional 20 million dollars that we are looking at spreading out to departments for new initiatives or for forced growth needs within their department.

Even within that relatively small allocation, we narrowed it down that departments would bring forward 40 million dollars worth of initiatives for review, recognizing that it would be nailed down. So, from that perspective, it is always, departmental initiatives are always reduced because not every department gets what they want. That's how you set the priorities depending on what the government feels are priorities Nunavut-wide, or what each minister is able to bring forward and argue for on behalf of their specific department.

If we hadn't put that 40 million dollar limit on departmental initiatives, it could very easily have been 100 million dollars worth of initiatives come forward from departments. Because that is just the way it works with every department having new initiatives that they want to put in place, forced growth that they know they want to try and address within their existing programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for explaining the process on that 20 million dollars that they had allocated. If I understood him correctly, that is for the current fiscal year.

I would like to ask the same question as far as the budget being requested by departments for the next fiscal year. I wanted to get some clarification there if they get what they ask for, and is it we don't have enough to cover off everything that we asked for, so bring us back some lower numbers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was speaking about the 2002/2003 Main Estimates exercise, or the process that we are undertaking right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 501 - 1(5): Kugluktuk Artificial Ice Project

Mr. Havioyak: Koanaqtit, Uqaqti. This question is directed to the Minister of Community Government & Transportation. I spoke about the artificial ice project in Kugluktuk. As the minister knows, there is going to be a shortfall on the project.

Could I get an update from the minister on this project as to what is happening to cover the shortfall on the artificial ice? Koanaqtit, Uqaqti.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. I apologize for making you last, your name was on the list but I guess I just forgot to wear my glasses. Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of the artificial ice project that is happening in Kugluktuk. I think it's going to cost about 700 thousand dollars and I'm aware that they need additional funds for that process.

I have my staff working with the community on that project and that other initiative that I'm working for on artificial ice is trying to secure some funds through NTI if I'm able to.

At this time, I could not give him a definite answer on the shortfall of that project but I know I have my staff working with the community. That's all I can say at this time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Supplementary question. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You're working on it, that's good. Do you expect any results soon? Like you said, you're not sure but do you have any, at least a time frame before the end of the fiscal year.

Is it a month, or a couple of months down the road to have some kind of answer, some kind of result of the meetings that are happening now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I speak to my staff, the things that I speak to them about I want to have happen as soon as possible. This is one of the initiatives that have been going on, so I can only say that as soon as we get some definite answers for this process from the staff and the community I will inform the member of the process. Thank you.

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

Question 502 - 1(5): Sealskin Rebates

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Sustainable Development.

Earlier today he made a Minister's Statement regarding a sealskin rebate. He stated that there is an average price of less than 20 dollars. Will they be able to get their rebates very soon like within this month? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I respond, today is my youngest daughter's birthday. So happy birthday to her.

The sealskin rebates are being handled by Wildlife Officers in the communities and we have forms that can be filled out for this purpose. Forms will be made available and hopefully this will be completed by the end of April for these individuals to be able to receive their rebates. This process will begin very shortly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Quite often when you use these forms that have been filled out problems arise if an individual's form has been misplaced. Is there a deadline as to when these forms have to be brought in? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. It doesn't happen very often but our staff at the wildlife offices in the community would keep copies and if forms were misplaced, we would have the extra copies brought in.

The forms that have been completed will identify how much money is being given back. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Irgittuq.

Question 503 - 1(5): Restrictions on Nunavut Drivers' Licences

Mr. Irgittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a question regarding an issue that I've just heard about.

I have a question for the new Minister of Community Government & Transportation. I've just been informed that the students that attend the Fort Smith college campus have licenses that are no longer recognised. What is the situation with these licences? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the member could better clarify or rephrase the question. I understand there are different levels of licenses. Could he better explain his question? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Mr. Irgittuq, the minister is asking for you to further explain your question.

Mr. Irgittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm talking about Nunavut driver's licenses. Are they not recognised in Fort Smith for individuals that attend heavy equipment training there? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the member could give me the name of the individual who is having this problem I could look into this and have my officials take care of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question has more to do with the status of Nunavut's drivers' licences. Are they not good outside Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some drivers' licenses have restrictions. Some of the provinces recognise Nunavut's drivers' licenses but some of the provinces and territories don't recognise our drivers' licenses. There are different levels and different classes.

I don't know who the individual is at this time. I can only tell him that we can start dealing with it and start working on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my drivers' licence had expired for 2 years and I had to renew it. I didn't realize it is so difficult to get a drivers' license. You have to rewrite the test.

I know that it is cumbersome to renew your drivers' licence when you had forgotten to renew it. You have to go through the whole system again by going through the testing. When you go outside of Nunavut, are our licenses no longer valid? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The drivers' exam in which you have to answer some questions that pertain to Nunavut and some that are relevant down south. The Department of Transportation Division where they issue licenses in Gjoa Haven, that department has been decentralized to Gjoa Haven, I have met with my officials, and I asked them to make the drivers' exam more relevant to Nunavut. So we are now reviewing them.

Mr. Speaker in regards to part of his question. There are different various kinds of classes and some of these drivers' licences are recognized in the provinces and the territories. We have different classes of drivers' licences. Mr. Speaker with your indulgence, I will take this as notice.

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

Question 504 - 1(5): Youth Drop-in Centres

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth about drop-in centres for youth. Many of these young people don't have anything to do and they can't find jobs either. So I just want to ask the minister what are you doing now to resolve these problems in the communities such as building some drop in centres for youth. Could I get an answer for this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker we are all aware it is very expensive to build facilities in the communities. I think it is very hard at present to build facilities like these.

But some communities have facilities through the Hamlets and schools, and I think they are able to lease buildings. Before a facility is put in the community, I think there are buildings that are available in the communities that can be leased for youth centres. But we are looking for funds for the leasing of such units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your answer minister. The question I asked was about the operations and maintenance. There is never any money available for the people that are working there.

Is there going to be funding available for things like fuel, electricity, people to be hired to run these facilities? I am asking for operations and maintenance funding for these facilities to operate these drop in centres. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the communities that have elders' centres and youth centres, we are looking for operations and maintenance funding for these buildings. For those without these centres we are looking for money for their operations and maintenance because it is impossible at the moment to find money to build new facilities.

So we do want to find if there are buildings available in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Supplementary question. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you minister for your answer. When I was in Kugluktuk just recently, I was wondering if there was going to be money available from the Federal Government as their operations and maintenance money will run out after only three months. Will additional funding be made available to complete the year? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We expect that the money will come from the Government of Nunavut and we are looking for money to be used annually so it would be available year around. This is something that we are planning to do before we look for money to build new facilities. So we are looking for funding within the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is always good to know there is going to be funding available to operate these facilities. Is the funding going to be made available every year so that it would be secure year after year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): We are looking for funds so that these facilities could be permanent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Members will note that Question Period is now over. We'll move on to Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions.

Members at the discretion of the chair, we'll take a 20-minute break. When we return, we'll have a late evening. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>House recessed at 3.41 p.m. and resumed at 4.07 p.m.

Speaker: Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Ms. Williams.

Item 11: Reports of Standing & Special Committees

Committee Report 017 – 1(5): Interim Report of the Special Committee to Review the Official Languages Act

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to have the opportunity today to provide the House with an overview of our Committee's Interim Report on its review of the Official Languages Act.

As members know, the Special Committee was established in this House in February 2001 to undertake a comprehensive review of the Official Languages Act. I would like to thank the Members of the Committee for their hard work; my co-chair Donald Haviyok, Ovide Alakannuark, David Iqaqrialu and the Honourable Peter Kattuk who served on the Special Committee during its first year. Members would like to express their appreciation for the insights that Minister Kattuk brought to the Committee's deliberations. At this time, I would like to welcome the Honourable Jack Anawak as the Committee's newest member. Although he has been a Member of the Legislative Assembly for quite some time, we look forward to his valuable contributions as we move forward in this important process.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Special Committee's Interim Report presents a summary of our activities to date and highlights a number of the issues and concerns that we have heard from stakeholders across Nunavut. These issues have included the status of French, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun in Nunavut as well as the status of other languages listed under the Act. Discussions have focused on the scope of the Official Languages Act as well as on issues such as the standardization of writing systems, the development of new terminology and the role of the education system. Concerns were raised about how the lack of certain services in Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun may have negative impacts in the area of public health and safety.

(interpretation) The Interim Report also discusses the Government of Nunavut's capacity to provide services in the languages of Nunavummiut, what language policies are currently in place, what types of documentation are made available in the Official Languages Act, and the types of training and incentives that are in place to promote the use of Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun within government departments. Due to delays in receiving submissions on these issues, a comprehensive summary of departmental information will be tabled at a later date.

Mr. Haviyok will now continue the opening remarks.

Speaker: Mr. Haviyok.

Mr. Haviyok: Koanaqtit, Uqaqti. Mr. Speaker, this report clearly identifies a number of challenges that lie ahead. The baseline information collected by the Special Committee provides Members with a means to evaluate the current administration and implementation of language legislation. It will also provide a solid foundation of

knowledge for Committee Members to draw upon during the upcoming public consultation process.

(interpretation) The next step of our review will be to hear directly from the public on what they want to see in a new Official Languages Act. Community consultations will take place later in 2002, before which time a detailed schedule of public hearings will be made available. The Committee continues to welcome written submissions from stakeholders and interested individuals. Once the public consultation process is complete, all submissions will be reviewed together.

The report will be completed by Ms. Williams. Koanaqtit, Uqaqti.

Speaker: Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the stakeholders that have participated in our review for their valuable input, as well as the Ministers and officials of the departments of the Government of Nunavut.

Stakeholders who have participated to date include:

The Association Francophonie de Nunavut,
The Government of Canada's Official Languages Law Group,
The Inuit Heritage Trust,
The Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Tunngaviksaliuqtiit Task Force,
The Kitikmeot Heritage Society,
The Kitikmeot Regional Inuit Association,
The Kivalliq Regional Inuit Association,
Nunavut Tungavik Incorporated,
The Nunavut Social Development Council,
The Nunavut Literacy Council,
Nunavut Arctic College,
The Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut,
and the Qikiqtani Regional Inuit Association.

Mr. Speaker, based on the results of our work to date, the Interim Report of the Special Committee to Review the Official Languages Act includes the following recommendations:

(interpretation ends) The Committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut immediately begin drafting a Government-wide language policy for submission to the Special Committee for review and comment. Such an 'Umbrella' policy should give guidance for consistent language use and service across Nunavut, giving due consideration to the languages commonly used in each Nunavut community and the need to prioritize the categories of documents requiring translation.

(interpretation) The Committee recommends that priority be given to implementing this language policy in the essential service areas of health, public safety and transportation.

(interpretation ends) The Committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut encourage the federal government, municipal governments, Inuit organizations and the private sector to lend their full support to implementing the spirit and intent of the Official Languages Act.

(interpretation) The Committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut's current Program Review exercise formally assess the resources necessary to build capacity across departments with respect to providing language services in Inuktitut, Innuinaqtun, French and English; taking into account the Bathurst Mandate's goals with respect to language.

(interpretation ends) In closing, the Special Committee to Review the Official Languages Act urges the Government to consider its comments and recommendations and provide a comprehensive response within 120 days.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I would like to move that the Interim Report of the Special Committee be received and adopted by the House, and that it be entered into the record as read. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Williams. Do members agree that the Report of the Standing Committee be received and adopted by the House and that it be entered into the record as read? Are there any nays? Thank you.

Introduction and Background

Along with the majority of legislation used in Canada's newest territory, Nunavut's Official Languages Act was inherited from the Northwest Territories upon division. The Official Languages Act serves a number of purposes: it recognizes certain languages as official languages in the territory; it specifies what languages shall or may be used in the debates and proceedings of the Legislative Assembly; it specifies what languages shall or may be used in the courts and in the final decisions, orders and judgements of the courts; it specifies the language rights of the public in receiving services from, or communicating with, government offices; it establishes the position and responsibilities of the Languages Commissioner and it specifies the languages in which laws and other government documentation must be printed.

Given the desire to review legislation inherited from the NWT to better meet the needs and aspirations of Nunavummiut, a number of Nunavut's statutes have already undergone review and amendment. The review of Nunavut's Official Languages Act, in particular, is closely linked to an underlying objective of the creation of Nunavut -- to ensure the preservation, use and promotion of the Inuit languages used in the territory.

The Special Committee to review the Official Languages Act was created by a motion of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on February 26, 2001. The Committee's mandate is to review the provisions and operation of the Official Languages Act in accordance with Section 29 of that same Act. The Committee is made up of five Members of the

Legislative Assembly. Rebekah Uqi Williams, MLA for Quttiktuq, is the Committee Chair; Donald Haviyok, MLA for Kugluktuk is the Co-Chair; and the other three members are Ovide Alakannuark, MLA for Akulliq; David Iqaqrialu, MLA for Uqqummiut; and the Honourable Jack Anawak, MLA for Rankin Inlet North. The Honourable Peter Kattuk, MLA for Hudson Bay, was a member of the Special Committee from February 2001 to February 2002. The Members of the Special Committee would like to express their appreciation to Minister Kattuk for his work on the Committee and the insights that he brought to the Committee's deliberations.

The Special Committee has some very specific expectations of what will result from the review process. These expectations are built in to the Committee's Terms of Reference (attached as an Appendix).

The intent of this Interim Report is to provide a summary of activities undertaken and baseline information collected to date by the Legislative Assembly's Special Committee to Review the Official Languages Act. The baseline information not only provides the Committee with a means to evaluate the current administration and implementation of official language legislation, but will also provide a solid foundation of knowledge for Members of the Committee to draw upon during the upcoming public consultation process.

Overview of the Review Process to Date

The review process began by consulting with key stakeholder organizations and Government of Nunavut departments in order to ensure that the Special Committee had a good basic understanding of what language policies and services are currently in place and what language concerns are seen as critical issues. Developing solid baseline information was seen as a necessary precondition for carrying out a comprehensive and effective consultation with the public.

The Special Committee recognized that many different groups and organizations hold a key stake in language issues across Nunavut. Therefore, one of the Committee's first steps was to identify those stakeholder groups and agencies and invite them to partner with the Committee in the review process. The Committee further recognized that stakeholders may have their own expectations of the review process as well as important contributions to make. The first Stakeholders' Roundtable meeting focused on forming partnerships and hearing expectations for the review.

The next step of the Committee's review process was to collect information from every government department on its capacity to provide services in Nunavut's official languages; initiatives on language policy and services, such as signage, forms and documentation, as well as any short and/or long-term initiatives relating to language use in Nunavut. Unfortunately, the information took rather longer to be provided than expected. In January 2002, the Committee met with every department to review and discuss the information they provided.

The Committee heard a number of presentations on language activities in Nunavik, the Northwest Territories, other Canadian jurisdictions, Greenland, and experiences from elsewhere.

A second series of Stakeholders' Roundtables were held in Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet in February 2002. These meetings were intended to give further opportunities for language and stakeholder groups to provide input on language issues. For the second set of roundtable meetings, the Committee specifically requested input on any suggested changes or amendments to the current Act. To date, a number of submissions have been received.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to stress that it will be pleased to continue receiving written submissions or contributions from organizations or individuals throughout the consultation process.

Committee Activities to Date

The methodology specifying the Committee's mode of carrying out the review is outlined in its Terms of Reference, which were approved by the Legislative Assembly at the time of the Committee's establishment. The results of each step of the methodology carried out to date are listed below.

- 1) Committee preparation, including a review of the legislation, objectives and historical documentation relating to the development of language legislation in Nunavut, and a list of tasks necessary to the review process.

The Standing Committee first reviewed the Official Languages Act and related documentation on May 2, 2001. The Committee established detailed timelines for review activities. A second planning meeting was held on June 26, 2001. Following this meeting, the Committee initiated correspondence with government departments, the Languages Commissioner and various stakeholders.

- 2) Identification of stakeholders, language groups and key witnesses.

An initial list of key Nunavut Stakeholders was compiled. Potential stakeholders were contacted by fax, letter and e-mail. Language experts and other key witnesses will be identified during later stages of the process.

Association Francophonie de Nunavut*
Qikiqtani Regional Inuit Association *
Kitikmeot Regional Inuit Association *
Kivalliq Regional Inuit Association *
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay*)
Nunavut Social Development Council*
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Nunavut Water Board
Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal
Nunavut Literacy Council*
Inuit Heritage Trust*
Kitikmeot Heritage Society*
Government of Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs
Government of Canada, Official Languages Law Group*
Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Tunngaviksaliuqtiit Task Force*
Languages Commissioner of Nunavut*
Baffin Chamber of Commerce
Kitikmeot Chamber of Commerce
Nunavut Association of Municipalities
Nunavut Arctic College*

“Partnerships for the Future”

Not all potential stakeholders wished to be involved in the review process while others indicated a willingness to participate. A “Partnerships for the Future” response form was distributed to all potential stakeholders in order to provide them with an opportunity to indicate to the Committee the extent of their desire to participate in the review process. (A copy is attached as an Appendix). Those stakeholders who have to date formally identified their willingness to participate in the review process are identified above by a *.

- 3) Consolidation of information on the status of language-related policies and activities in the Government of Nunavut.

Correspondence was sent on July 12, 2001, asking each department of the Government of Nunavut for consolidated information on their capacity to provide services in Nunavut’s official languages. A follow-up letter was sent on September 17, 2001, to those departments that did not respond to the first letter, and a final letter was sent on October 4, 2001, again to those departments who had not yet provided the information requested.

All GN departments were tasked with providing information on:

- Departmental capacity to provide services;
- Departmental initiatives on language policy; and
- Short and long-term language-related initiatives by concerned departments;

A summary of the relevant information provided by each department is being prepared.

Languages Commissioner of Nunavut

The position and responsibilities of the Languages Commissioner are defined under the Official Languages Act. Appointed for a term of four years, the Languages Commissioner is an Independent officer of the Assembly. Section 29 of the Act

specifically mandates the Languages Commissioner to provide all reasonable assistance to the Special Committee during the course of its mandated review of the Act.

The Committee requested information on a number of language-related initiatives undertaken by the Office of the Languages Commissioner. The Languages Commissioner had conducted an independent review of GN services. The “Survey of Language Use and Language Services within the Government of Nunavut” was presented to the Committee on October 18, 2001.

- 4) Consultation with counterparts in other jurisdictions regarding their experience with official languages, the status of agreements and legislation relating to language rights and services, and critical areas of success.

Federal Consultations

Correspondence was sent to the Hon. Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage on June 5, 2001, inviting her to attend the first Stakeholders’ Roundtable. A member of the Government of Canada’s Official Languages Law Group attended the first Stakeholders’ Roundtable meeting on June 20, 2001, as an observer.

As the Special Committee looks forward to the later stages of the review process, further consultation at the federal level with respect to suggested amendments to the Official Languages Act.

Correspondence was sent to MP Nancy Karetak-Lindell on July 5, 2001 asking for her support in the review process. No response has been received to date.

NWT Consultation

The Special Committee Chair attended the NWT Territorial Languages Assembly on October 22, 2001, at the invitation of the Special Committee on the Review of the Official Languages Act of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. The Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories is also mandated to review the Official Languages Act of that jurisdiction.

The NWT’s First Territorial Languages Assembly included representation from all language groups of the Northwest Territories. Committee staff and researchers presented an overview of the Official Languages Act, statistical information on the utilization of the NWT’s various aboriginal languages, an overview of language legislation in other jurisdictions, an overview of the consultation process and held an open discussion on issues of interest raised by the language community representatives.

Nunavik Consultation

Mr. Robert Watt, former President of the Avataq Cultural Institute, made a presentation to the Special Committee on October 17, 2001, regarding language issues and initiatives

in Nunavik. Since 1981, a number of language initiatives have been implemented in Nunavik, including the establishment of the Avataq Cultural Institute, which has the mandate to protect, preserve and promote Nunavik culture and language; the Kativik School Board's Inuktitut educational materials; the founding of the Inuit Language Commission and a number of Interpreter-Translator programs. The Committee was most impressed with the House of Elders concept: a consensus-based approach involving Elders and language professionals from all major dialect groups to develop and standardize new terminology for use across the region.

Other Jurisdictions

The Special Committee has not yet had the opportunity to undertake consultation on language initiatives in other jurisdictions.

The Languages Commissioner of Nunavut made a presentation on October 18, 2001, to the Special Committee regarding language issues in Greenland.

The Languages Commissioner also submitted the results of a contracted research investigation describing various government policies in the areas of government services, working language of government, language in the courts, education, private sector, signs and advertising and language institutions both in Canada and around the world.

5) Hold Focus Workshops with stakeholders and departmental representatives.

The first Stakeholders' Roundtable meeting was held in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly on June 20, 2001. This meeting was an opportunity for the Committee to introduce itself and its objectives. It was also the first opportunity for the Committee to formally hear from stakeholders, and to discuss expectations, contributions and partnerships as they relate to the process of reviewing the Official Languages Act.

A second Stakeholders' Roundtable meeting took place in each of the three regional centres of Nunavut: Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet. The meetings took place on January 18, February 8 and February 12, 2002. This Roundtable focused on soliciting specific suggestions for changes to the Official Languages Act. The Committee requested ideas for wording changes, additions, deletions and issues that should or should not be included in Nunavut's Official Languages Act.

Ministers from every Government of Nunavut department appeared before the Committee from January 21 to 23, 2002, in order for the Committee to question each Minister on their Departmental submission; to request follow-up information and to seek input and ideas for wording changes, additions, deletions and topics that should or should not be included in Nunavut's Official Languages Act.

To date the Committee has received three written submissions on recommended changes to the Official Languages Act. Members look forward to receiving more contributions during the next phase of the consultation process.

Committee Findings to Date

The review process has already raised many issues relating to language in Nunavut. While some of these do not fall directly under the Committee's mandate they are, nevertheless, important as they relate to language-related objectives overall.

Below is a brief summary of what the Committee has heard during the course of its review.

Stakeholder Issues and Concerns

Committee members were generally pleased at the level of contribution made by stakeholders from across Nunavut. Members did, however, express some concern that some groups and entities have not as yet taken the opportunity to present their language-related issues and concerns. In particular, municipal government and private sector representation has been missing. Without involvement from the municipal and private sectors, there is a concern that not all aspects of language related initiatives will be adequately addressed in the review process. Committee members feel that for language-related legislation to succeed, it will require the support of all sectors of Nunavut society. Further consultation efforts will seek input from bodies such as the Nunavut Association of Municipalities.

- **The status of the French language** in Nunavut is somewhat problematic. It is widely admitted that the Government of Nunavut does not provide a number of services in French that are legally required under the Official Languages Act. And yet, despite this situation, representatives from the Association Francophonie de Nunavut expressed a sense of being well-protected by federal language legislation and demonstrated a strong sense of commitment to the Government's objective to strengthen the Inuit languages of Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun. It was further suggested that Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun be granted equal status with French and English in Nunavut's new language legislation.

The Committee feels that the issue of equal status for Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, French and English should be addressed during future consultation proceedings. Members look forward to further input from the public on the issue of equal status for all of Nunavut's official languages.

- **The status of Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun outside of Nunavut** was discussed in both the Canadian and international contexts. While several Inuit languages and dialects are spoken around the circumpolar North, stakeholders had mixed views on whether initiatives in the areas of national or even international standardization and terminology should play a role in decisions related to territorial legislation. Many stakeholders did, however, feel that Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun have not been given adequate recognition in the federal context. Examples of federal documentation which are not made available in Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun include gun licensing

applications, taxation forms, and applications for old age or child benefits. In the absence of partnerships with federal and municipal jurisdictions, the Government of Nunavut is left in the position of ensuring that Nunavut residents receive services in a language that they understand.

- At present, **the Official Languages Act applies only to institutions of the territorial government.** The Official Languages Act does not apply to municipalities, private businesses and other bodies outside of the territorial government. Signage is not required to be in Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun. Stakeholders addressed the issue of whether the Act should be revised to include the private sector and municipal governments or whether a new and separate Act could be put in place that would address this and other needs. Multiple views were expressed on these matters.
- **At present, the Official Languages Act does not work towards promoting, protecting or enhancing Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun.** The Act was not seen as being strong enough to encourage or support language-related initiatives such as the Bathurst Mandate vision of having Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun as the working language of Government by the year 2020. The role of the Languages Commissioner is limited with respect to action taken in cases where the Official Languages Act is not followed. At the same time, there is no mandated accountability for the implementation of the Act. The Committee feels that the issue of accountability and roles and responsibilities specified within the Act should be addressed during public consultation activities.
- **Languages not commonly used in Nunavut are listed as official languages under the Official Languages Act.** The current Act lists a number of aboriginal languages that were used in the Northwest Territories prior to division. Stakeholders unanimously felt the languages of Chipewyan, Cree, Dogrib, Gwich'in and Slavey did not have significant representation in Nunavut and could be removed from the Act without depriving any group of language rights.
- **The status of Inuinnaqtun** as an Inuit language or as a dialect of Inuktitut was raised in a number of contexts. The Act currently defines Inuktitut as including Inuvialuktun and Inuinnaqtun. Inuinnaqtun has the distinction of being the only Inuit dialect in Nunavut to use roman orthography while all other dialects use syllabics. Concerns of language loss were raised most frequently by speakers of Inuinnaqtun.
- **“3” Official Languages or “4” Official languages.** Stakeholders were divided in their views on how many official languages should be listed under the new Act, once other non-Nunavut languages were removed. Many stakeholders used the term Inuktitut to refer collectively to all Inuit dialects and felt that English, French and Inuktitut should be the official languages. Others felt that the resulting interpretation of Inuktitut could disadvantage speakers of Inuinnaqtun and felt that Inuinnaqtun should be included as a fourth, distinct official language of Nunavut. For all future discussion, the Committee shall refer to Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun separately.

- **Standardization** of writing systems and of dialects was raised in a number of contexts. The Committee recognizes that demands on service delivery would increase in direct proportion to the number of dialects requiring translation or interpretation. On the other hand, the Committee acknowledges that dialect is an important aspect of culture and tradition and many stakeholders felt that dialects must be protected. Many stakeholders felt that the policies and guidelines used to implement any language legislation will have to address the issues of standardization as a priority.
- The concept of a **centralized language institute, authority or commission** was supported by several stakeholders. Many felt that current efforts in the areas of new terminology and standardization are too scattered and piecemeal to be effective across Nunavut. Models discussed included Nunavik's House of Elders and a proposal for a combined initiative by the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, the Department of Education and Nunavut Arctic College. Some stakeholders felt that such an authority could be mandated under the Official Languages Act or under other language legislation.
- The **role of the education system** in developing, promoting and protecting language was a central theme of discussion. While the Official Languages Act does not have any jurisdiction over language in the education system, the Education Act does have such authority. Both youth and elders raised the issue of language loss and the increasing language gaps between generations. Discussions of literacy raised important links between language ability, problem-solving skills and opportunities for self-reliance. Most agreed that the education system will play a significant role in addressing these situations. The Committee feels that language provisions in all other Nunavut statutes and regulations should be reviewed following future amendments to the Official Languages Act.
- **Public health and safety** issues were identified as areas requiring essential language services. Stakeholders discussed a number of circumstances in which they felt that the lack of service provided in Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun put the health and safety of Nunavut residents at risk. Examples included road safety signs, pharmaceutical instructions, emergency guidelines in case of fire or accident, safety instructions during air travel and access to such services as telephone "help lines."

Baseline Data from Government of Nunavut

As mandated under the Special Committee's Terms of Reference, every government department was tasked with providing information on language-related initiatives, documentation and policy. The amount of detail and information provided by departments varied widely and, in some cases, required repeated requests to obtain. Committee members noted that while certain departments demonstrated a proactive and, at times, aggressive approach to language issues, others seemed to only react to demands as they occurred. A summary of departmental submissions is being prepared.

Departmental language information provided to the Committee fell into four main categories: policies relating to language use; the department's capacity for providing services in the various languages; forms and documentation available in each language; and departmental training or incentives for Inuit language abilities.

- **Policy**

Committee members were concerned at the lack of input or information on policies relating to language use and their administration. One key observation was that there is, at present, no consistency across government on what language services are provided and no consistency in what departments consider minimal requirements for language services. While this inconsistency was very clear to the Committee, Members recognised that at present the Government of Nunavut does not have a government-wide language policy to provide overall direction to departments. As one Member stated, "For each department to have to address language issues by itself poses a heavy burden to carry as we travel the path to making Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun the working language of government. A government-wide language policy would mean that every department could carry a lighter load and we could be consistent in our efforts to reach our destination."

Government language policy, in the most limited sense, would serve to govern language use within the government; facilitate communication between departments and officials, train and recruit personnel, assist process and participation and provide access to public services, proceedings and documents. In the broader sense, a government language policy can determine how languages are used in all public contexts; foster language skills necessary to meet territorial objectives and protect the rights of Nunavummiut in learning and using the languages of the territory. Examples of language policies from other jurisdictions of Canada are included as appendices.

While Nunavut's Official Languages Act plays an important role with respect to language use across the territory, the Committee is of the view that policies, procedures and the strategies to implement them will be equally important in reaching language-related objectives.

- **Capacity and Cost**

Information provided by the government shows that the majority of departments rely on the services of the Language Bureau of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth to provide translation services. Where the Language Bureau is unable to provide services, interpretation and translation services are contracted out. The Committee noted that the Language Bureau's capacity to provide services in Inuinnaqtun appears very limited, despite the fact that the office is located in Kugluktuk. Government-wide efforts to promote and increase the number of professional Interpreter-Translators do not seem sufficient to meet the demand for services. Committee members felt that opportunities for the development of professional language services, such as training and certification, especially for Inuinnaqtun, should be a priority at this time.

At present, government financial coding for contracted services in this area does not differentiate between the languages being used (for example French, Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun). It is therefore not possible to ascertain the cost of services for each language. The Committee does recognize that any legislation or policy requirements for enhanced language services, from increasing French-language services to interpretation into more than one dialect of Inuktitut, will result in rapidly escalating costs. The Committee is of the view that the financial coding system should more accurately capture the costs of providing language services across government.

- **Documentation**

The Committee notes with satisfaction that the production of Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun materials has greatly increased since the creation of Nunavut. Many departments listed documents that have been made available in French, Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun as well as English. The majority of these documents appear intended for use within government, while materials directed primarily to the general public appears to have been less of a priority. Members noted that some documents, such as Hansard, are not currently translated into French and Inuinnaqtun. Given the capacity issues described above, the Committee expressed the hope that this situation would improve with time.

- **Training and Incentives**

The Committee was pleased to note that most government departments have taken advantage of the Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun language training offered to employees through Nunavut Arctic College. Members did note, however, that decentralized communities do not all have access to such courses through the local Nunavut Arctic College.

Approximately 360 government employees receive the bilingual language bonus where their position requires them to be able to speak a language other than English. Front-line workers such as teachers and language specialists are not included in this category. While many departments demonstrated the capacity to provide limited language services to the public, such as reception duties or general correspondence, it is clear that the working language of government is presently English.

Members are pleased with the ongoing work of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) Task Force and look forward to hearing the recommendations brought forward by its members as they relate to the use of the Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun.

General Comments

Committee members noted that in practice, the Government of Nunavut's priority for language services appears to go first to such activities as interpretation and translation activities in the Legislative Assembly and the courts. The next level of priority for language services appears to be directed towards the area of internal government operations while services to the public appear to receive the lowest priority. Committee

members are of the view that the prioritization of language services must be immediately addressed in the context of developing a government-wide language policy.

Committee members recognize that there are three levels of jurisdiction impacting the social and cultural well-being of Nunavummiut. Federal, territorial and municipal jurisdictions share the responsibility of providing core services to the residents of Nunavut. In the absence of Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun language support from these sectors, it ultimately falls to the Government of Nunavut to ensure that services are delivered and received appropriately. Recognizing that we all serve the same people, Committee Members are of the view that federal and municipal jurisdictions must be encouraged to support territorial language objectives.

Interim Recommendations

Recommendation #1:

That the Government of Nunavut immediately begin drafting a Government-wide language policy for submission to the Special Committee for review and comment. Such an 'Umbrella' policy should give guidance for consistent language use and service across Nunavut, giving due consideration to the languages commonly used in each Nunavut community and the need to prioritize the categories of documents requiring translation.

Recommendation #2:

That priority be given to implementing the language policy referred to in Recommendation #1 in the essential service areas of health, public safety and transportation.

Recommendation #3:

That the Government of Nunavut encourage the federal government, municipal governments, Inuit organizations and the private sector to lend their full support to implementing the spirit and intent of the Official Languages Act.

Recommendation #4:

That the Government of Nunavut's current Program Review exercise formally assess the resources necessary to build capacity across departments with respect to providing language services in Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, French and English; taking into account the Bathurst Mandate's goals with respect to language.

Conclusion

The Committee looks forward to continuing its work on the review of the Official Languages Act. Members would like to extend their thanks and appreciation to stakeholder representatives who have participated in roundtable meetings and who have

submitted formal input and comment. Members would also like to thank Ministers and government officials for their contributions to this process.

The next steps of the review, as mandated by the Terms of Reference, will involve meetings with key witnesses and the development of discussion tools and materials for the public consultation phase of the review. The Committee plans to visit communities across Nunavut after the summer and looks forward to hearing the views and concerns of Nunavummiut on how the Official Languages Act could best serve them.

Appendices

1. Committee documentation
 - a. Terms of Reference
 - b. “Partnerships for the Future” feedback form
 - c. News Releases
2. Examples of Language Policies
 - a. GNWT Official Languages Policy
 - b. Manitoba French Language Service Policy

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

Committee Report 018 – 1(5): Report of the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit on its Review of the 2000-2001 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Members of the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit, I have the honour of presenting an overview of our Committee's Review of the 2000-2001 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut.

The Languages Commissioner's 2000-2001 Annual Report was tabled in the House and referred to the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit on November 28, 2001. On January 31, 2002, the Languages Commissioner presented her report to the Standing Committee. Members of the Committee would like to thank Ms. Eva Aariak for her presentation. Members were pleased with the high level of public attendance at this meeting.

This presentation led to a productive discussion and consideration of key issues relating to language use and rights within Nunavut.

The Languages Commissioner's primary role is to ensure that the Government of Nunavut carries out its obligations under the Official Languages Act. The Languages Commissioner made a number of recommendations in her Annual Report. I would like to take a moment to review her recommendations, and the Standing Committee's position on them.

The Languages Commissioner's first recommendation was that the Cabinet should strike a working group of senior officials to begin work on a comprehensive language strategy aimed at establishing Inuktitut as the working language of the Government of Nunavut.

The Standing Committee agrees with this recommendation. However, the Standing Committee further recommends the working group also include participation from language professionals and that the comprehensive language strategy and the review of service delivery include both Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun.

I will pass on the rest of the report to be read by James Arvaluk, Member for Nanulik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Languages Commissioner's second recommendation was that that the Government of Nunavut work with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Regional Inuit Associations to establish a permanent Inuktitut language commission. The purpose of the commission would be to develop standardized Inuktitut terminology for use in government administration and to make decisions regarding the spelling to be used in the government's Inuktitut documents.

The Standing Committee agrees with this concept and looks forward to reviewing the Languages Commissioner's detailed discussion paper on the establishment of a language commission, including the possible administrative arrangements and cost projections prior to making its decision, as indicated in her report.

The Languages Commissioner's third recommendation was that the new Unicode syllabic fonts, known as Pigiarniq and Uqammaq, be installed on all of the Government of Nunavut's computer systems, and that training programs be offered to staff on how to use them correctly. The Commissioner recommended that Cabinet ask the Chief Informatics Officer to issue a directive to all departments, boards and agencies, requiring the use of these fonts for all Government of Nunavut documents in syllabics.

The Standing Committee agrees with this recommendation, and notes with approval that documents produced by the Legislative Assembly in Inuktitut are now prepared in these fonts. The Standing Committee encourages the GN and the Office of the Languages Commissioner to encourage non-government entities to prepare documentation in Inuktitut using these fonts, so as to support the compatibility of documents.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to give the report back to Mr. Iqaqrialu to finish. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Languages Commissioner's fourth recommendation was that Cabinet encourage the Department of Culture,

Language, Elders and Youth to revise its current translation policy so that it requires the use of ICI standardized roman orthography for all Government of Nunavut documents written in Inuinnaqtun.

While the Standing Committee agrees that there is a need to adopt one writing system for Inuinnaqtun, the Committee felt that the Languages Commissioner needs to further consult with the Inuinnaqtun language community on the recommendation. The Standing Committee further recommends that the Languages Commissioner provide the Committee with the results of her consultations.

The Languages Commissioner's fifth recommendation was that the training of language professionals, including Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun instructors, translators and interpreters, must become a much greater priority for the government. She recommended that Cabinet consider measures, including increased funding, that would strengthen Nunavut Arctic College's ability to deliver both the Translator and Interpreter Program and the Nunavut Teacher Education Program.

The Standing Committee agrees with this recommendation, and notes that capacity shortfalls are particularly evident with respect to Inuinnaqtun.

I will return the report to Mr. Arvaluk to read. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Languages Commissioner's sixth recommendation was that Cabinet request all Government of Nunavut departments and the Legislative Assembly to comply with the Official Languages Act by making their websites available in Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun and French.

The Standing Committee agrees with this recommendation, provided that websites are developed, in a manner that respects the importance of not delaying the publication of available information on government websites in the event of translation delays.

The Languages Commissioner's seventh recommendation was that Cabinet encourage the Department of Human Resources to develop a new language bonus system that would provide an incentive for all Government of Nunavut employees to acquire or improve upon their Inuktitut language skills and to use Inuktitut in the workplace.

The Standing Committee agrees with this recommendation. The Standing Committee also recognizes that the Government needs to develop, implement and promote the use of Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun in the delivery of programs and services at all levels.

The Languages Commissioner's eighth recommendation was that Cabinet encourage the Departments of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and Human Resources to devote more resources to language enhancement training for Inuktitut-speaking employees.

The Standing Committee agrees with this recommendation. It notes that some courses have been offered in this regard, and encourages Departments to support Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun speaking staff that wishes to take advantage of these training opportunities.

(interpretation) I will turn the report back over for the last one to Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Speaker: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Standing Committee was pleased to have had the opportunity to meet with the Languages Commissioner to discuss her second annual report. The Committee was pleased with her recommendations.

However, the Committee felt it necessary to provide further input to her recommendations in areas of importance. In particular, the Committee strongly recommends to the Languages Commissioner, that she recognizes Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, English and French.

The Standing Committee looks forward to an ongoing and productive relationship with her office throughout the remainder of the life of the Assembly.

The Standing Committee requests that the Government provide a comprehensive response to the report within 120 days.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes our overview of the report, and I move that the Report be received and adopted by the Assembly and entered into the record as read.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Do members agree that the report of the standing committee be received and adopted by the House, and that it be entered into the record as read?

Some Members: Agreed.

Introduction and Background

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

The Report covers her Office's activities since April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001. The Annual Report was tabled on November 28, 2001, and referred to the Standing

Committee Ajauqtiit for review. The Languages Commissioner presented her Annual Report to the Standing Committee during a public meeting held on January 31, 2002.

The Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health reviewed the first annual report of the Languages Commissioner. As recommended by both the standing committees Ajauqtiit and Culture, Education and Health, the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit now has the authority to review the annual report of the Languages Commissioner. Previously, Ajauqtiit reviewed the office's business plans and budget, while Culture, Education and Health reviewed the annual report. This made it difficult to correlate the office's budget and activities and, as a result, the separate reviews were inconsistent.

One of Nunavut's greatest challenges to date has been to address the language needs of the people of Nunavut. The majority of the people speak Inuktitut, however, Nunavut is also a place where a significant number of people speak English and French. It has been estimated that up to 10% of Iqaluit's population is Francophone. English and French are well-protected as Canada's Official Languages.

One of the central responsibilities of the Languages Commissioner is to receive, investigate and report on complaints from the public regarding violations of their language rights. The language rights and obligations contained in the Official Languages Act include:

- The right to use any of the official languages in the Legislative Assembly;
- The right to use any of the official languages in Nunavut's courts;
- The right of the public to communicate with and receive services from all head offices of GN organizations in Inuktitut (including Inuinnaqtun) English and French; and
- The right to communicate with and receive services from any regional or community office of the GN in any of the official languages where there is "significant demand" for services in these languages.

The Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut exists to safeguard the three co-existing languages of Nunavut: Inuktitut, including Inuinnaqtun; English and French. One of the principal responsibilities of the Languages Commissioner is to advise the Legislative Assembly on matters related to the government's language policy, although one does not exist presently.

In Nunavut, her responsibilities include both the Official Languages Act and the Bathurst Mandate's commitment to have Inuktitut as the working language by 2020.

Acknowledgements

Members of the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit would like to thank Ms. Eva Aariak, the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut, for appearing before them to present and discuss her Second Annual Report. The Committee also wishes to thank Chris Douglas of the

Languages Commissioner's Office for attending and contributing to the proceedings. The Committee was pleased that members of the public and media were able to join us to observe this meeting, which was recorded.

General Comments on the Second Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut

According to her report, the Languages Commissioner has had an "interesting, exciting, and, indeed, busy year." The Office is now fully established and fully staffed. A wide-ranging discussion took place with regards to the languages used by Nunavummiut during the Committee's meeting with the Commissioner.

The Committee notes that there has also been significant media coverage with respect to the Commissioner's initiatives over the past year.

Members discussed the Languages Commissioner's activities and, in particular, the survey conducted by her Office with senior officials from each of the GN departments, entitled "A Survey of Language Use and Language Services within the Government of Nunavut."

The Language Commissioner's office also contracted out a research project on language policies worldwide. The Committee was a little concerned that other Inuktitut-speaking areas (e.g. Labrador, Nunavik, Siberia and Alaska) were not researched.

The Standing Committee would have liked to have seen the results of data collected on how many members of the public, if any, have made complaints or requested services from her Office. The Committee looks forward to the Languages Commissioner's next annual report containing detailed information in this area.

The Languages Commissioner has attended a number of meetings and conferences in and outside of Nunavut. The Committee looks forward to the Languages Commissioner's next annual report providing more detail on lessons learned and guidance for "best practices" that may arise from such gatherings.

The Committee is pleased that the Languages Commissioner is developing good working relationships with NTI, NSDC, Association Francophonie de Nunavut, Regional Inuit Organizations, the Nunavut Literacy Council, the Federal Commissioner for Official Languages, the Canadian Ombudsmen Association and the Nunavik Commission.

Highlights of the Survey of GN Departments on Language Use and Services

The Office of the Languages Commissioner conducted a survey within the departments of the Government of Nunavut. The Languages Commissioner felt that in order to provide the best advice possible to Nunavut's legislators and officials, she needed to do a proper assessment of the government's current delivery of services in the official languages and the languages used in the operation of the government.

Throughout this survey, she found that, with very few exceptions, English is the working language of the Government of Nunavut. While Inuktitut is spoken on an informal level among employees, its use for more official functions is "marginal."

The use of Inuktitut appears to be higher in job areas and in communities with higher levels of Inuit employment. Inuktitut is spoken at work almost exclusively by Inuit and not by people learning it as a second language. This, in her view, indicates that the Bathurst Mandate goal of an Inuktitut-speaking workforce "will not be achieved" unless targets for Inuit employment, as established under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, are met.

The survey also revealed that no Government of Nunavut organization has a plan in place for working towards the goal of an Inuktitut-speaking government by 2020. There is no government-wide policy on language use within the government.

Based on the results of the survey, the Languages Commissioner drew the following conclusions:

- English is the main language of work for all Government of Nunavut departments, boards and agencies;
- There is a higher use of Inuktitut in professions and offices where there is a higher level of Inuit employment;
- Establishing Inuktitut as the working language of government may already be possible in some of Nunavut's smaller communities that have achieved a high rate of Inuit employment;
- Most Government of Nunavut offices outside of the Qitirmiut (Kitikmeot) have front line workers who are able to serve the public in Inuktitut in person or over the telephone;
- Written information in Inuktitut is widely, but not universally, available. The quality of the written language in Government of Nunavut documents is often quite poor;
- The Language Bureau is working well beyond its capacity. Government departments are relying almost entirely on the Language Bureau to produce written information in Inuktitut. This is resulting in backlogs of work and at times sloppy translations;
- The Government of Nunavut as a whole is unable to provide adequate services to the public in French and is in violation of the Official Languages Act;
- The Government of Nunavut is not offering enough language training to its employees to create new speakers of Inuktitut;
- The current bilingual bonus policy is ill equipped to meet the current language needs of the government; and
- Government of Nunavut organizations lack direction in implementing the Official Languages Act and in working toward achieving the Bathurst Mandate goal of an Inuktitut speaking workforce.

This survey was not intended as a quantitative assessment of each Government of Nunavut organization's language use and services. Instead, it highlights language issues

within the government as a whole and presents a clearer picture of the challenges that the Government of Nunavut faces in meeting its language goals and obligations. She hopes that this information will contribute to the development and maintenance of healthy languages in Nunavut in the years to come.

Comments from the Committee Concerning the Survey

One Member commented that the use of Inuktitut in the workplace is not taking the precedence that it should in terms of training courses being offered. The issue of Inuktitut in the workplace appears to have taken second place behind day-to-day operational concerns.

The Committee felt very strongly that the Department of Education has a major role to play if the Government is to have Inuktitut as the working language of the Government of Nunavut by 2020. The Standing Committee anticipates that the Languages Commissioner will make a valuable contribution to the review of the new Education Act after it has been introduced.

Education was raised because the current speakers that are being trained in Inuktitut (language-learners or native Inuktitut-speakers recapturing their language) will not be necessarily be working in the GN in the year 2020. It is the younger generation that has to be focused on.

Another issue that was raised concerned the teaching of the new standardized Inuinnaqtun writing system. Some Elders are not used to the new spelling system (which uses Qs and Rs) that is being taught in the schools. The Committee noted that the Languages Commissioner's Annual Report incorporated her preferences for the spelling of names. For example, Kitikmeot was spelled as "Qitirmiut." The Committee cautions the Languages Commissioner to respect the parties affected and to respect the spellings until such time as changes have been officially made.

The Committee felt that the current bilingual bonus system is not adequate. As one Member put it, "it just seems to be a token bonus." Some Members felt that anyone with additional official language skills should be entitled to receive the bonus, as this would serve to foster a multilingual workforce.

The Standing Committee felt that funds received through the Canada-Nunavut Agreement could be used more effectively if they were promoted more throughout Nunavut. Funds that are not used in the end are returned to the federal government. This jeopardizes future funding for the Government of Nunavut in the area of language initiatives.

The Standing Committee recognizes and respects the Official Language of Canada but feels that the government of Nunavut must give Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun the same importance given that majority of the Nunavut population are Inuit and speak the languages.

Finally, the Standing Committee agreed that all levels of government and the private sector should do more for unilingual Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun-speakers with respect to services. However, the Standing Committee notes that this area is being addressed through the overall review of the Official Languages Act that is currently underway.

Budget

The Standing Committee notes that the budget for Office of the Languages Commissioner has been increasing over the years.

1999–2000	\$357,816.00
2000–2001	\$380,507.00
2001-2002	\$429,000.00

The budget for 2000-2001 had a surplus of \$75,006.98 because the position of Executive Assistant was left vacant for six months due to lack of office space.

In its review of the 2002-2003 main estimates, the Standing Committee would wish to see detailed projections for the Office, including the anticipated results of its expenditures for its activities.

Recommendations

The Languages Commissioner made 8 recommendations in her 2000-2001 annual report. The Standing Committee's response to each of these follows.

Recommendation 1

We strongly urge Cabinet to strike a working group of senior officials to begin work on a comprehensive language strategy aimed at establishing Inuktitut as the working language of the Government of Nunavut, in keeping with the goals of the Bathurst Mandate. The working group should also consider how to improve the delivery of services to the public in all of Nunavut's official languages.

The Standing Committee agrees with this recommendation. However, the Standing Committee further recommends that the working group also include participation from language professionals and that the comprehensive language strategy and the review of service delivery considers both Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun.

Recommendation 2

We recommend that the Government of Nunavut work with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the regional Inuit associations to establish a permanent Inuktitut language commission. The purpose of the commission would be to develop standardized Inuktitut terminology for use in government administration and to make decisions

regarding the spelling to be used in the government's Inuktitut documents. The Languages Commissioner will present a detailed discussion paper on the establishment of a language commission, including possible administrative arrangements and cost projections as part of our submission to the Legislative Assembly regarding changes to the Official Languages Act.

The Standing Committee agrees with this concept and looks forward to reviewing the Languages Commissioner's detailed discussion paper on the establishment of a language commission, including the possible administrative arrangements and cost projections prior to making its decision.

Recommendation 3

The new Unicode syllabic fonts, known as Pigiarniq and Uqammaq have officially been launched. We recommend that the Government of Nunavut install these fonts on all of its computer systems, and offer training programs for staff on how to use them correctly. We recommend that Cabinet ask the Chief Informatics Officer to issue a directive to all departments, boards and agencies, requiring the use of these fonts (or other Unicode fonts to be developed in the future) for all Government of Nunavut documents in syllabics.

The Standing Committee agrees with this recommendation, and notes with approval that documents produced by the Legislative Assembly in Inuktitut are now prepared in these fonts. The Standing Committee encourages the GN and the Office of the Languages Commissioner to encourage non-government entities to prepare documentation in Inuktitut using these fonts, so as to support the compatibility of documents.

Recommendation 4

We recommend that Cabinet encourage the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth to revise its current translation policy so that it requires the use of ICI standardized roman orthography for all Government of Nunavut documents written in Inuinnaqtun.

While the Standing Committee agrees that there is a need to adopt one writing system for Inuinnaqtun, the Committee felt that the Languages Commissioner needs to further consult with the Inuinnaqtun language community on the recommendation. The Standing Committee further recommends that the Languages Commissioner provide the Committee with the results of her consultations.

Recommendation 5

The training of language professionals, including Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun instructors, translators and interpreters must become a much greater priority for the government. We recommend that Cabinet consider measures, including increased funding, that would strengthen Nunavut Arctic College's ability to deliver both the Translator and Interpreter Program and the Nunavut Teacher Education Program.

The Standing Committee agrees with this recommendation, and notes that capacity shortfalls are particularly evident with respect to Innuinaqtun.

Recommendation 6

We recommend that Cabinet request all Government of Nunavut departments and the Legislative Assembly to comply with the Official Languages Act by making their websites available in Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun and French.

The Standing Committee agrees with this recommendation, provided that websites are developed in a manner that respects the importance of not delaying the publication of available information on government websites in the event of translation delays.

Recommendation 7

We recommend that Cabinet encourage the Department of Human Resources to develop a new language bonus system that would provide an incentive for all Government of Nunavut employees to acquire or improve upon their Inuktitut language skills and to use Inuktitut in the workplace.

The Standing Committee agrees with this recommendation. The Standing Committee also recognizes that the Government needs to develop, implement and promote the use of Inuktitut and Innuinaqtun in the delivery of programs and services at all levels.

Recommendation 8

We recommend that Cabinet encourage the Departments of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and Human Resources to devote more resources to language enhancement training for Inuktitut-speaking employees.

The Standing Committee agrees with this recommendation. It notes that some courses have been offered in this regard, and encourages Departments to support staff that wish to take advantage of these training opportunities.

Conclusion

The Standing Committee was pleased to have had the opportunity to meet with the Languages Commissioner to discuss her second annual report.

The Committee was generally pleased with her recommendations. However, the Committee felt it necessary to provide further suggestions and additions in areas of importance during her appearance. In particular, the Committee wishes to conclude by strongly recommending that the Languages Commissioner recognize the equality of Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, English and French.

The Standing Committee looks forward to an ongoing and productive relationship with her office throughout the remainder of the life of the Assembly.

Speaker: Thank you. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. McLean.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Committee Report 002 – 1(5): Standing Committee on Community Empowerment & Sustainable Development Report on Bill 15, Technical Standards and Safety Act

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 15, the Technical Standards and Safety Act, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development, and that the Bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(5) and have Bill 15 moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. There is a request to waive Rule 68(5) so the Standing Committee report can be referred to Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? Since there are no nays, Bill 15 is referred to Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. McLean.

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

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 087 – 1(5): Speaking Notes on Motion 22 – 1(5), Bill 22, Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act Referred to Committee of the Whole

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a document that I referred to earlier in my Member's Statements. They are my speaking notes that I was hoping to be able to speak to on the motion that was passed in the Assembly yesterday, and I would sincerely encourage all members to review it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Premier Okalik.

Tabled Document 088 – 1(5): Gravesite Relocation Hall Beach, Nunavut – Letter from Minister R. Nault in Response to Minister Pico's Letter

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I informed the members that I would be tabling correspondence about the relocation of graves. This correspondence is

from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and directed towards Mr. Picco as the Minister of Health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 21 - Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act - Second 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 second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill establishes a plan of retiring allowances for Members of the Legislative Assembly to supplement their retiring allowances plan established by the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng. The motion is in order. Question. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe according to Rule 67 I may take this opportunity to speak to the principle of the bill. Is this the appropriate time?

Speaker: To the principle of the bill. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as members know, first of all I want to clarify that this isn't a government bill. It's a House bill. I have the responsibility as the Executive Council Member on the Management and Services Board to introduce the bill and get it through to the Committee of the Whole stage.

But having said that, Mr. Speaker, I would say that I support the bill. We know that from a public perspective as indicated earlier today with some demonstrators that were outside and some that were here earlier from my understanding here in the House, that it's never a good time to introduce anything to deal with the member's benefits in respect of pay, of remuneration, pensions of any kind from the public at large.

But I think many of us recognize that after having served the 2 ½ years as members and almost 3 or 4 years now, that there are very significant hardships that many of us undergo in fulfilling our responsibilities as legislators. We all recognize, as well, there is a difficult balance between what we face on a regular basis in trying to allocate resources in the government between different programs, between different departments and the many priorities that we have.

But one of those priorities that have to be addressed, Mr. Speaker, I would say is the fact of remuneration, fair compensation, for Members of the Legislative Assembly both now, in this first legislature, and in future legislatures to try to encourage people of the highest calibre possible to enter into putting their names in for public office.

So with that Mr. Speaker, and respecting the caucus decision of the past, this bill has been introduced and I encourage all members to support the bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng. To the principle of the bill. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in speaking to the principle of the bill I'll refer to its objects, expediency, principles and merits of the bill as required by Rule 67.

What are the objects of this bill? What is its purpose? Let's be straight with our constituents and the people of Nunavut. The object of this bill is to substantially increase the retirement packages for members.

We already have a pension plan that is unusual in that we won't have to wait until we reach age 60. When we start collecting our pensions, we can start collecting our pension right after serving our first term.

The object of the bill is to change the formula for calculating our pensions so we get substantially more than under the present plan. If I had to summarize the object of this bill, in plain language, I'd say that the object of this bill is to make an already generous pension plan even more generous.

We already have a Cadillac pension plan and this bill will make it a Porche.

Is that object appropriate for the people of Nunavut at this present time, in our present financial circumstances as a government? I don't believe that's how we should use the trust that has been placed in us by the people who elected us to serve them.

We were not elected to look after ourselves. We were elected to serve the people. How is it serving the public if we give ourselves a better pension plan which is better than anyone else's?

If we are here to look after the people who elected us, serving the public interest and meeting public needs, their needs should be the main purpose and object of any new legislation put forward in this House.

We all know that there are many other needs and objects that could be addressed in legislation including the budget legislation which will be before us in the next session. There are needs for teachers, youth centres, public housing and municipal infrastructure.

We are telling many of our constituents and the federal government that we don't have enough money to operate. What message are we sending to people with all these needs when we present a bill whose main object seems to be to give a substantial benefit to a small portion of our population?

How does the object of this legislation, making sure MLAs are well looked after in retirement, affect the case we are trying to make for more federal funding to meet public needs and priorities of Nunavut.

Rule 67 says we can talk about the expediency of the bill in second reading. In plain language, expediency has to deal with whether the bill is necessary and timely. I believe it is not necessary or urgent to proceed with this legislation now. It won't take effect until after MLAs retire and until after the end of the current legislature.

We still have time to consider this more carefully. Proceeding with it now, especially without public consultation does not respect the public's need to have notice and the ability to comment.

Has anything happened which makes it necessary for us to proceed with this bill now? Do we have extra funds to put into programs of this kind, which gives large benefits to a few people?

I would say that if there were major new increases in revenues available for new programs, a big improvement in our formula financing arrangements with the Federal Government, we could tell our constituents we could afford to be more generous with our own benefit packages.

However, this is clearly not the case in Nunavut today. In fact, the recent report of the Auditor General of Canada to this Legislative Assembly said we will soon have spent the surplus we ended up with after our first year of operation.

This independent report which we have yet to examine and debate in this House, says that rather than being financially healthy, we will be going into debt by the end of 2002. The Auditor General's report says that our government will have to make tough decisions if we are to stay healthy and to have healthy finances.

We are here to serve the public and to respond to the issues of public concern. Are we facing public concern or pressures to make our retirement plan more generous? Not to my knowledge. And our own law reform commission appointed to consult with the public and identify new legislative measures which are required in Nunavut, has not identified MLA pension packages as an issue of public concern. So why is it needed?

What is the urgency of moving forward now? Amendments just made to the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act provides for the Speaker to appoint an independent commission to review the pay and benefits of MLAs. But no commission has been appointed. There's been no independent group which reviewed our pension plans and

recommended changes. If we go ahead with this bill during this session, we will not be able to take advantage of this independent review process before the bill is passed. Why the rush?

I have other concerns about the timing of this bill. Why do we need to give this bill second reading now just before our budget session? This bill will require substantial new expenditures. We haven't had a full opportunity to consider this in detail with the budget for 2002/2003.

Before we look at significant ongoing expenditures such as represented in this bill, we should know what the government's other budget priorities are so we can consider this expenditure alongside the other urgent priorities and programs for the people of Nunavut.

Should we not study in detail the adequacy of the budget, which will be placed before this Assembly to meet the needs of our constituents, the people we are elected to serve before we look after our own needs? Do we look after our own needs once our political careers are over?

Before we approve the expenditure of money to look after ourselves, after we retire from public life, shouldn't we also know what money is available in the coming year to pay for such high priority programs as extra teachers, support for Inuktitut language and Inuktitut curriculum development, community social workers, improved social assistance rates, additional health care workers, youth programs and improved programs and services for our elders.

Before we look after ourselves shouldn't we take the time to also look whether we are meeting the needs of our citizens for capital facilities like public housing, new schools and local requirements like roads, water and sewer projects, health care, senior citizens and youth facilities.

What are the principles on which this is based? The main principle behind this bill, it seems to me is that MLAs should have a generous pension after they leave politics. A more generous retirement plan than our own civil servants or anyone else in Nunavut. I think what lies behind this principle is the idea that because ours is a difficult job, it may be difficult to adjust to private life once we retire or after we are defeated in an election. There is a risk that we could be defeated and it is not always possible or easy to go back to what we were doing before.

I have considered these arguments made in support of this principle. I do not agree with this principle. First of all we all run for office knowing what the rules were. We understood that getting and keeping this job requires votes from the majority of our constituents. We understood we have to face our constituents and new elections every four years. We understood that we would have to interrupt what we were doing to serve as MLAs.

We understood that there is no job security in being an MLA. Everybody faces risks with their jobs. People like hunters who work outdoors face the risk of accident or weather. People who work in the caring professions face risk of burn out or emotional distress. People who have their own business face the risk of changing markets and uncertainty in winning or losing contracts. Even people who are public servants face the risk that their jobs may change or be eliminated as a result of program review or budget pressures.

This is what work is all about. Should politicians be able to give themselves a generous protection from risk of being defeated or the risk of being able to find other work when others in different fields don't have the same opportunity? I don't agree with this principle. I don't believe we need to give ourselves a soft landing for the rest our lives after we retire from politics.

We should also remember that amendments that are now in place in the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act include a healthy transition allowance to give all MLAs just such a soft landing after they leave politics. Not just for the rest of their lives. And the formula set out in the bill is much more generous than the formula for a severance package for our civil servants. We must not forget that being elected as a Member of this Assembly is not all sacrifice and risks. While serving the public as MLAs we are being well paid and we are given the opportunity to gain valuable experience in making public policy, law making and financial management. We get to go to places and meet people at public expense.

We have the privileges of making contacts and gaining experience that is unique and valuable. We have the privileges and experience given to very few of our citizens. I think that these privileges and experience provide benefit to us. These benefits may even help us to open doors to be qualified for new opportunities which we may not have if we were not MLAs.

On the merit of the bill. Looking at the broader public interest. I see no merit to a bill which will substantially increase a benefit for a small segment of Nunavut society when large numbers of Nunavummiut are doing without as a result of the financial pressures we all experience.

What can you find that is good about this Bill? Well it certainly makes it much more attractive to have a job as an MLA. In fact I can't think of anyone else in Nunavut who can qualify for such a generous pension plan as soon as they leave office or after having served for only four years.

If we put into place a pension to attract people to run for office as an MLA in the Nunavut Legislative Assembly. Did we have trouble in finding to run for office in our first election held for the Nunavut Assembly? No. I think we all faced competition and often from a large field. You could say that one of the merits of this bill is that it will make it much more financially attractive to be elected and serve even one term as a Nunavut MLA.

But is it beneficial that candidates be attracted to run for public office because they will be generously rewarded after they retire? In some cases putting such a generous pension plan in place may have the opposite effect of what we want. It may attract people to run for office who are motivated by financial gain not service to the public. I can see no merits to a bill which will have this effect.

In sum, I don't agree with the object of this bill in enhancing an already generous and exceptional pension package. I don't agree with the principle that MLAs need to be helped so generously in their adjustment to private life.

I can see no merit in a bill which will attract people to run for office for selfish reasons or financial gain. I don't believe it is necessary at this time, when we are facing very strong fiscal pressures as a government and before we even review the budget for the coming year.

For all these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I will vote against second reading and when the question is called, I will be calling for a recorded vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. To the principle of the bill. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like my colleague for Iqaluit Centre I would agree that this bill is not, we don't need this bill, in the interests of all Nunavummiut.

I was elected to represent my constituency in particular, to represent their interests, not set up my own. That's why I sought office. The issue of pensions is a personal matter in my opinion. It's not a matter for the rest of Nunavummiut to carry the burden for me.

Therefore, I will opt out of this plan and hope that we can opt out totally if we choose that option. There are already generous provisions in there for MLAs when they leave office. In addition, for being Canadian, there is a universal pension plan that any, any MLA and any Nunavummiut can seek.

So, I don't see the need for this bill because I can rely on and contribute to those pension plans regularly. In addition, we just had some deadlines for RRSPs last Friday. I don't know how many members went to their banks to arrange their finances in that matter, but I did.

Any member and any resident, any Canadian, can seek that for themselves on a personal basis. I feel that, that's sufficient for me and we don't need a bill. We don't need to put an additional burden on our limited financial resources as members.

So, I hope that my colleagues will take that into account when they're voting on this bill but I should clarify that this is not, at the end, a government bill. This is a bill that was introduced by the members.

(interpretation) In my personal point of view, this bill is not going to do much good for the rest of the people of Nunavut because it's only for MLA's benefit.

We have our pension that we can do on our own. I cannot vote for this bill when we think about the elders and the people of Nunavut. So I would like to tell the people out there that if this bill should go through that I want the people of Nunavut to know that I'm opposing it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: To the principle of the bill. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we all have our own personal feelings.

We all have different areas that we are involved in and we all have our own jobs, as members. Some of us are hunters. Some of us stay at home during our breaks. Some of us have to buy fuel for our homes. Some of us have to buy gasoline for our snowmobiles when we are at home in our communities. I think this is very simple. This is for our future. It's for the members but it also affects other individuals who get involved in being MLAs in the future.

I support this bill because it does not only affect us. We have concerns in some areas. Some members have concerns about where they'll go when they leave office and I know that if we don't want to be a part of this pension, we could spend it on other areas to help individuals in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: To the principal of the bill. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to make a short comment. I'm not concerned because I've seen a lot of leaders end up not finding jobs after they've left office, they are just thrown out on the streets.

This Bill 21 is telling us as MLAs that we need to work hard for the betterment of Nunavummiut. I know that there are a lot of individuals that don't want to run for office although they are very qualified. A lot of them don't run for office because they don't have any benefits after leaving office. There's no pension available for when they turn 65 and this holds back individuals that are very qualified.

This bill will help individuals who might be interested in the future, for individuals to reach their goals and it will just encourage individuals to run for office. As an Inuk I had a hard time understanding why, like my father is 80 years old. He's been working for 40 years. His pension is 1 thousand dollars a month I think. The government employees, I think we should look at how much Deputy Ministers, even ADMs get once they've left office, what kind of pension they have.

I don't think we'd be able to get that information but my father who is very sociable is able to tell other people about his pension. When we look at this pension, when we start receiving this pension, I think it states that it would be 416 dollars per month.

I don't know, I'm not sure how much that it would be but I don't see a big bulk of money. I think people from Nunavut should realize how much we'd be receiving monthly when you are able to receive an old age pension.

A lot of people are against this but I just wanted to clarify or give some clarification to the people that I represent, the pension we'd receive is not very much because people seem to think that we'll be receiving a lot of monthly or that we could buy a Porche or a different automobile that is very expensive.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, after the comments I've made, if we're going to be incorporating Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, we have to respect our elders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. To the principle of the bill. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for those members that are not supporting this bill, I feel sorry for them. They are looking for arguments for Nunavut residents and I don't like to see that.

Nunavut residents are not trying to bring out some things that create animosity and create arguments. I think I misheard one of the comments that was mentioned during one of the speeches. I heard that perhaps individuals would run for office just for the money. I just heard someone read a note on that. This is not the way it is in Nunavut.

If this is the case, it hurts. Even though we're not fully educated, I'm not here for the money. (interpretation ends) That is not right. (interpretation) That's not how it is. Let's bring this to Committee of the Whole so that we can deliberate on it some more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. To the principle of the bill. To the principle of the bill. Question. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to call for a recorded vote.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo is requesting a recorded vote. Not debatable. So, I would ask...Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was trying to get your attention to speak to the bill when you called to the principal of the bill. I'm wondering if I can seek the consent of the Assembly to speak to the principal of the bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Picco is seeking consent on going back to the principal of the bill. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have a prepared speech on this issue. I wanted to begin by namely just going over some of my history. As some of the members have indicated here today. This Bill is a personal issue for many of the members. And I would agree with them on that. I would like to begin by talking about some of my history Mr. Speaker, in the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, as an elected representative of the people whether in the jurisdiction of Nunavut or in the Northwest Territories or any of the other place where we have a free and open and democratic society you have the opportunity to discuss ideas, concerns, debate different views of people. Mr. Speaker as an example in 1996, in Yellowknife I voted to rescind, to take away the pension plan of the members that were present in that Assembly. Mr. Speaker that was a different time. At that time the Government of the Northwest Territories was looking at a structural deficit of over 100 million dollars.

Mr. Speaker, at that time Paul Martin had cut the base, the gross expenditure base of the Government of the Northwest Territories by over 5%. Mr. Speaker, they were indeed tough times. At that time I did not support the elimination of vacation travel assistance. I certainly didn't support the sell off of the staff houses. At the same time other members did and those things were put through and you move on. Politics is the art of compromise Mr. Speaker. And in this government that we are in today, it is the art of consensus government. I am not here to nay say any one who votes for or against the Bill.

In 1997, Mr. Speaker I was the only member from Nunavut to vote for same sex legislation. At that time Mr. Speaker I said in the House, I meant it and I still say today I wasn't voted in by the people of Iqaluit and now Iqaluit East to judge lifestyle choices. That is not my job. My job is to pass legislation that will help people. My job is to act as an advocate of the constituents. And that is what I have tried to do over the past several years as the MLA for Iqaluit and for Iqaluit East. Mr. Speaker I think it is important to note that the Bill before this House and being debated today on principle is a Bill that looks at the pension ideas of this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to note that the protesters that were here today, the people that are here in the Assembly, the MLAs, every single word that these people have said including the Members in the House, has been said many, many times before. Every time a Legislative Assembly tries to bring forward a pension plan for members, the same people, union negotiators Mr. Speaker, I was the President of the Union, I was also a Union negotiator. They will say it is not fair, the politicians should not get any increase. And there are always Mr. Speaker things in government and other priorities where you can spend your money on. Whether it is on a pension plan or whatever. But I would like to say a couple of things Mr. Speaker.

One is that the job of a politician is unique. It is the only job in the world Mr. Speaker, where you have to re-apply every four years. Mr. Speaker, if you are the best MLA

possible that doesn't guarantee re-election, for whatever reason people will not support you. You could lose your seat. Once you take the opportunity to run for public life, you are well paid for it Mr. Speaker, I am not making any bones about that. But as the members have pointed out in this jurisdiction, a small jurisdiction mostly magnified and multiplied than any other jurisdiction. You make enemies as a politician. And I have seen Mr. Speaker and I don't mean any disrespect to any of the members that are outside of our House who have gone through hard times, who could not get a contract with the government.

It is important to note for example Mr. Speaker that as an MLA you don't pay any unemployment insurance. So once you are finished, you're finished. There is no one there to come in and say you were a great representative for the last 8, 10, 12, 14 years we are going to help you out. That doesn't happen. There are all kinds of Deputy Premiers, former Premiers, MLAs, ministers, who are not working. I myself, Mr. Speaker, I think I have an education. I've been very fortunate in the last 25 years, I've never, being a Newfoundlander, I've never had to draw on unemployment insurance. I am quite pleased and proud to be able to say that.

I've been working, my mother's here, Mr. Speaker, with me and she reminded me today, when she heard the radio at 12:30 about the protest outside this Assembly, my mother, reminded me today, when I first started work I was 9 years old. I shovelled manure in a barn at 50 cents an hour, Mr. Speaker. That is a fact. I've never had anything given to me by anyone.

I never got a DAP program, a HAP program, I've never drawn unemployment insurance. I've never asked for anything from anyone. Never. I've worked hard. I support my wife and family. I have a mortgage like everyone else and there is not a member in this House, that doesn't know I support an extended family. Which is a fact.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, when you go and apply for a pension, like in this case, any person who joins a job has an opportunity for a pension plan. Any job. And when you start the job, unless you are really screw up Mr. Speaker, excuse my language, or you are fired, or you are let go from the position, you're guaranteed a pension.

As a politician, no matter how good you are, you could lose your position tomorrow. After four years when you reapply because people have changed their minds. People vote with their feet. That's the instance, that's the debate that's been said in every Assembly across this country, X number of times. Follow the Hansards. Look at them. There. I've read it. I remember when the debate came up in 1996. That debate, that was the information, that was the stuff that I did.

Mr. Speaker, over the last several days, I've had an opportunity to talk to many of my constituents. Elders in my riding, this morning when I was at the elders' facility, one elder asked me about the, an earshot I believe of the media. Asked me about the pension plan and said, Eddie, I hope you don't support it. My mother told me this morning she didn't want me to support it.

Mr. Speaker, on this past weekend, I believe I've had 10 or 12 people who actually came to my house to tell me that they didn't support it. And today Mr. Speaker, I had a call from a constituent, and a good friend of mine, who said I just played the, by the way, as you saw my wife was here, I just played the message for my wife upstairs and said you vote for that pension plan Mr. Picco, I will not vote for you.

Mr. Speaker, I heard the same thing on the same sex legislation debate. I was told not to vote for it. When I brought in the legislation with Mr. James Arvaluk's help, to get rid of the health boards, James knows what we went through. It was political suicide, members in this House, some ministers said it was political suicide. You cannot get rid of those health boards. But we did. I think it was one of the most successful things you had to do.

I've taken a lot of difficult and hard choices as a politician. Mr. Speaker, I'm not afraid of this vote here today. And I won't be intimidated by editorial pages. I'm not intimidated by protestors or people in the Assembly. And certainly, I'm not intimidated by the media.

But, after saying all that, Mr. Speaker, I was elected as some members have said to represent my constituency. The majority of my constituents have told me that they are not in favour of the pension plan. As some members know publicly, my wife has also said she is not in favour of me, her husband, to receive the pension.

After all that Mr. Speaker, I support the members who are dissenting on this bill. I'm dissenting not on the Principle of the Bill itself, I'm dissenting because the constituency has told me that they do not support the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as a person who has represented my constituents, to the best my ability, as honestly and worked hard for the constituency over the past, more than 6 years, I will continue to do that and I will be voting against the bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. To the principle of the Bill. Questions. Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Although we all want sympathy and we all want to be elected Mr. Speaker, I could say if I call my father today, and ask him, just to back track a little bit, my father worked for many years with DOT.

When he retired, he gets his pension. He can take care of himself and he's the head of the household. When he was working, they deducted money for his pension and it has helped him in his life. If I asked my father, for the Members of the Legislative Assembly, this is a pension.

That's what is happening and even though he is an elder, he would understand that. All of us, I'm sure we have feelings. I, myself as a female, my husband can take care of me even when I'm not in the work force. But for the men, especially the hunters, I'm worried about the hunters. After being elected after their term, there would be no form of financial

assistance and I have seen ex-MLAs that can't be hired even though they are very fluent in English.

Mr. Speaker, we now have a western lifestyle. At times the elders seem to understand more. Mr. Speaker, I was a teacher. Since I was 17, I started earning my wages by working and I've never been a welfare recipient to date. Perhaps over 20 million dollars a year to date that we spend on income support, although it's insufficient and I know that but we still give support.

For those of us who are in the work force, they deduct money for the pension. Mr. Speaker, I have been a teacher, worked in the schools. For eight years, I have not worked as a teacher because I have been elected. When I was elected, the superannuation was cut off instantly at that time.

For eight years, I could have had money deducted for superannuation, I have lost eight years of superannuation because I have been an MLA for that long. Mr. Speaker, at that time, the territorial government started cutting funding and we had to cut off some of the pension.

We had also set aside some funding for earlier retirement that you could access prior to the age of 65. This is a normal procedure and it's not a strange procedure whether it be MLAs or ministers who work very hard.

Since we've been elected, we don't just sit idly. We have to work hard as members of the legislature. Mr. Speaker, I will be in support of this bill because I believe there are people out there who can understand what is happening with this.

I know my father understands what we're dealing with right now. He understands how the pension is accumulated to be used when I retire. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to make that comment.

Also, in regards to Mr. Iqaqrialu's comments, when we were having the strike, that was not the Inuit way of life. I was quite scared of our union asking for increases.

Everything outside was broken, with the garbage dumped all over because they wanted to get a raise. These people who wanted to get a raise are the people who are opposing this bill when we are deducting it from our salaries.

Mr. Speaker, I have stood up as a Member of the Legislative Assembly for various reasons, I've made my comments, and my decisions have not been liked by the public. One thing that I know, I can wake myself up and I'm responsible enough to come here and go to work. Nobody has to ask me to come here, I brought myself here and although I could have been a teacher and I know that I would have had a good pension as a teacher, I ran for the legislature and I was put here by the people. When I was elected I started setting aside some funding for my pension so I can use it when I retire.

That's how I understand it and I believe it's understandable and I'm sure there are other people who understand that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Thompson. To the principle of the bill. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, being in this Assembly for three years and seeing how the evolution of Nunavut has come forward. And Mr. Speaker, you know as well as I do, you live in a region that is politically active, probably more politically active than any other region in Nunavut.

I'm not trying to insult anybody. But I'm saying on this issue of the pension, it's very emotional. And yes, we are scared of the union. The union swings a lot of weight in Nunavut. And sometimes we have to listen to what they say when it comes to issues.

But Mr. Speaker, I look around this Assembly today and I don't want to say the wrong thing. But there are a lot of members, if they lose an election or decide not to run again, they're going to be on hard times.

I look at the capital, I look at the job opportunities, my people still have to come from Baker Lake to work in Iqaluit. They choose to because there are good jobs here. We don't have that benefit in a lot of our communities.

We talk about the decentralized communities and the opportunities. Sure there is opportunity, but there are more opportunities over here. I know if I decided to live in Iqaluit, but I made that decision I didn't want to live in Iqaluit. But getting back to the issue of the pension, what are we talking about here? We're making a decision and somebody told me there's no good time to bring it in. When is a good time, the next Assembly? Probably. Probably.

Yes, we've taken a step forward and people are looking at us as greedy politicians. But I want to put something in perspective here on the principal of this pension. A family of five living in Nunavut today makes 16 hundred dollars a month. That's the poverty level in Canada.

The pension that we're talking about in this Assembly after one term is 12 thousand dollars to 13 thousand dollars. That doesn't sound like a lot of money to me. I know people that live in my community, go day to day and us as MLAs, there's not one MLA in here that hasn't had people in their office looking for 20 dollars, 40 dollars, 50 dollars to buy pampers and food. And how many of us have refused them.

That happens everyday. We have extended families in the community. All we get in this place is people smiling at us. I know in Baker Lake that we have to support our extended family. I know there isn't a member here that doesn't reach into his pocket at Christmas and buy something for a needy family.

We go above and beyond our duty as MLAs. We don't go into our offices and shut the door and ignore people. We're out there for them. And we try to do their issues. Sure we're elected to represent people. We represent them, I think. And so if they don't like us, and the eloquent Mr. Picco I didn't want to speak after him because it was too hard an act to follow.

But we've got to respect each other's decisions on what we do in this Legislative Assembly. But let's get it clear here, that this is not a 30, 40, 50 thousand dollar pension. It's 14 thousand dollars a year. And if anyone shops at the Northern or Coop, you know what a thousand dollars a month will buy.

And yes there's going to be some people in this Assembly, myself included that may not get re-elected. I'll take care of myself because I'm a survivor. Everybody's a survivor in this country for the last couple of hundred years.

But let's get things in perspective here, what are we talking about? There's not a lot and I've visited members' communities and I've visited some of the members around this table. They don't have a lot. I have a little bit more than them. But I choose to live in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. To the principle of the bill. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Listening to the people that are talking about the pension and listening to it in the news, they think that we're going to be taking at least about 3 million dollars for our pensions.

It sounds like it's for one individual that the 3 million dollars for their pension is going to be. The 3 million dollars is not just for one individual. It's for all the members. If there were to be an election tomorrow, if we all got elected again, like somebody asked me, how much money would the program pay? We don't know if we're going to be elected at the next election.

If one person does not get elected again, it would cost about 14 thousand dollars in one year for their pension. It's like the politicians are targets all the time by everyone. Whenever there's anything said by a politician, it's all directed at all the politicians, even if it was actually directed to one person. We have to have thick skin as a politician in order to speak for the things that you want to do for everybody.

For instance, because of our way of life at home, not all the people look at us that way but the public sees us under a microscope. If a government employee does something wrong not all the government employees are going to be under a microscope, but if an elected individual does something, then they're all under a microscope.

It should be like the member that spoke before me, even if we don't get elected again, for the next election, then we could pitch in for ourselves through the pension. But some MLAs cannot get employment for over a year after they become ordinary people. I think they will be getting about 14 hundred or so per month and so, or 16 hundred, maybe it would be cheaper if they do get a pension instead of getting social assistance. Because if they don't get the extra pension, then they would end up getting social assistance because we are not all going to get re-elected.

How are they going to be treated if they have been representing the public for a long time and they just throw them away like they're useless or something? Sometimes when you're appreciated it's feels very good. But on the whole you don't get appreciated. After, if you don't get re-elected, then they just sort of think that you are useless and you don't get a job because they feel that you are a danger to get a job. We are considered as target practice by the public because we are elected and we are politicians.

The member that spoke before me asked when is it going to be brought up again. In the next Legislative Assembly, if it's not brought up now I don't think there are going to be many people protesting this. We all know that and it's a fact that a lot of politicians after they're not re-elected or retire from the political forum, they don't work for a number of year because they can't get a job.

They haven't necessarily have done something wrong but it's just a fact of life. Politicians often don't find a job for a number of years. When we're talking about this bill, I think we have to keep in mind that we're not talking about a large amount of money. There are people saying that we have to look at the lack of housing, education, curricula and so on. Of course, we know that. But we do try every day during our term to look for additional funds.

I'm sure that when we hear it in English, I don't know what they're going to call us, but they might call us pigs or whatever, in the English language.

But, if we had an independent review done about this bill without debating it in the House, I'm sure that our pension would be substantially larger than the one we're proposing. If they factor in all the unemployment and the number of years you won't be getting a job and everything's factored in. Looking at the provinces and the Federal Parliament, they have their own arrangements. If there was an independent review done, I think that it would be larger than the one that we're proposing.

Those that will not be re-elected have to be prepared for that time. The Baker Lake member of the Legislative asked before when is a good time to discuss this issue. It's never the right time.

But we do have to bring it out and debate it. One also talked about unions who will be opposing such a plan. If we are using the unions for example, there are people out there who are asking for increases. If we are using the unions for example, they are talking about themselves but we don't say that about them. If they don't get what they are asking

for, they go on a strike. They protest and so on. I know that we will be getting support from people who have to think about what is going to be happening.

Of course when we are talking about money it tends to get blown up by the people out there. So I think when you just hear the crux of this Bill, you think that they are getting a substantial amount when you are looking at the whole figure.

I am sure there are a lot of people out there who have misunderstood the concept of this Bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: To the principle of the Bill. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker listening to the comments around the table I think only about the time when I was younger and preparing for the creation of Nunavut. I always look back to the creation of our territory and of our government. We look at what principles we are going to operate on as a government.

I am an Inuk. I grew up without a father. My mother raised five children. She did everything such as hunting and everything else to survive and take care of her five dependants. She told us that she won't be around forever and told us we have to become independent and teach ourselves. She built igloos so that we could survive. She looked for food for the dogs so that we could have transportation.

She didn't think about herself because as Inuit we only thought of survival. But I am sure that she thought about the children and the future that she would have. I am sure that was a huge responsibility and she wanted her children to become independent and be able to take care of themselves.

We should not be only be thinking about ourselves, this is very true. The younger generation should be able to take care of themselves on their own when we pass on. We are told that we have to think about our constituents. Yes we are. They are something that we will never forget. We are not only thinking about ourselves.

I also have to think about the person who will be taking over my responsibilities. Now that we have the Government of Nunavut, we have to build a solid foundation for the people and also for the future generations. It is not only for us.

And with that Mr. Speaker, I am not here just thinking about myself. I'm also thinking about the people in my riding and getting things for them. When I go home, I will carve. If I didn't think about the people who voted me in, I wouldn't even bother coming here. I would stay home and do my carving if I didn't care about the people out there.

We are here because we represent our people. We are here paving the way for their future. We're not here only for ourselves. And with this bill, when I think about hearing people out there saying that we're only thinking about ourselves, it's not the case, we're not only doing it for ourselves.

We have to do the same for the younger generations. There will be other people going into our footsteps. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: To the principal of the bill. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Listening to the individual opinions of the members, I would like people out there to know that we have totally different points of view on this. Especially the people from outside of Iqaluit compared to those from Iqaluit. Because we are ministers, people probably out there think that we make a lot of money. But when you're from outside of the community, it's the opposite.

I know that as a person from outside of Iqaluit, I have my wife and my children that I have to take care of. The people out there think that we have a lot of money and for myself, I put in 25 thousand dollars to my house in Pangnirtung and then what ever I have left barely makes ends meet.

I will always work hard for my family, today, tomorrow and even when I'm not here. In the capital, and listening to the debate around here and their reasons, they're totally different. It will always be the case when you're from Iqaluit or when you're from outside of the community.

I can even say Mr. Speaker, that the election is a little over a year away. We hear people that are scared of not being re-elected. That is not a factor for the people who live outside of Iqaluit. This is the difference between the people living in the capital and between the people living outside of the capital. To the people listening out there to the debate, I would like the people to clearly understand that there are different advantages and additional costs that you have to pay when you live outside of the capital.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: To the principal of the bill. Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a very important issue that we're talking about. It is not only for the 19 members of the Legislative Assembly but also to the people in the future who will be sitting here in this very House.

Mr. Kilabuk made very good comments. For those of us who live outside of Iqaluit, we will have to go back over there if we're not re-elected. We will have to find employment right away because we do have mortgages and other payments that we have to make and we have to pay our loans. If we should not get re-elected what will happen to the payments that we have to keep making.

This Bill will be good for the people who will be elected afterwards. And it also gives us a cushion because of course if we are not re-elected it will be hard to find employment for a number of years. There are Members of the Legislative Assembly who are serving their first term and who know what happens when you are not re-elected.

The people who are opposing it, I am sure they will be able to get a job right away. But it will be good for example if I don't get re-elected I would worry the very next day about how I am going to pay my mortgage. This would be beneficial not only for us but also for the future legislators of Nunavut. And Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting this Bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: To the Principle of the Bill. Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request a recorded vote.

Speaker: Thank you. The member is requesting a recorded vote. So I will ask all those in favour to please stand and when your name is called by the Clerk, I'll ask them to be seated. All those in favour please stand.

Ms. Aglukkaq: Mr. Ng. Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Kilabuk. Mr. Anawak. Mr. Puqignak. Mr. Alakannuark. Mr. Irqittuq. Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Havioyak. Mr. McLean. Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Iqaqrialu. Ms. Thompson. Mr. Akesuk.

Speaker: Thank you. All those opposed please stand.

Ms. Aglukkaq: Premier Okalik. Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Picco.

Speaker: Abstentions. Abstentions. All those in favour are 14. All those opposed are 3. There are no abstentions. It will be 14 - 3. The motion is carried.

>>Applause

The motion is carried and as per motion 22 - 1(5), this Bill now stands referred to Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 19. In the Committee of the Whole today we have the following items. Tabled Document 67-1, Motion 21-1(5), Tabled Document 80-1(5), Bill 21, Bill 23. With Mr. Irqittuq in the Chair. Sorry Mr. Puqignak in the Chair. And in accordance with the authority vested in me by Motion 002-1(5), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we break I think it is probably advisable that we take a 45 minute break and join us in the Tuktu room. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>Committee recessed at 5.50 p.m. and resumed at 6.50 p.m.

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

Chairperson (interpretation): Good evening members, ministers. We are now starting Committee of the Whole and this evening we'll be dealing with Tabled Document 67-1(5), Bill 21, Bill 23, Motion 21(5). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Irgittuq.

Mr. Irgittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Committee would like to deal this evening with Bill 21, Bill 23 and Motion 21-1(5). Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Irgittuq. Welcome, Ms. Cooper. Mr. Speaker you could start your opening comments for the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Speaker.

I apologize, does the committee agree that we're going to deal with Bill 21. Mr. Speaker, you could start with your opening comments. Mr. Speaker.

Bill 21 – Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act – Consideration in Committee

Speaker: Mr. Chairman. Before I start, some people are wondering why am I sitting up here explaining Bill 21. As Speaker and Chairman of the Management Services Board, it's my responsibility and duty to comment on these issues on behalf of the members.

Prior to Committee of the Whole we had, I believe, what I would consider a healthy debate, discussion, on Bill 21. I think there were a lot of good points brought up and as one member indicated, it's a very personal issue.

So I'll leave it at that and I'll ask Mr. Picco to take a seat so I can get on with all my formal remarks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, once again, I am pleased to have the opportunity today to appear before the Committee of the Whole to introduce Bill 21, Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to begin my remarks today by quoting from a recent report prepared by an independent commission to review the compensation paid to legislators in other Canadian jurisdictions.

It states, "The very nature of serving in public office makes it very difficult to attach an hourly wage or expect Members to document hours worked like much of the public service. The stresses and demands placed on elected officials are a very difficult reality to impart in someone that has never served or experienced life as an elected representative. The requirement to be available and accountable 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, coupled with the lack of job security associated with an election every 4 years ensures that only a select few individuals would ever consider running for office. To a certain degree a position of such importance to our democratic system, and such wide-ranging responsibility, must be compensated fairly."

Mr. Chairman, I am confident that members today would share my view that there is truth to these comments. Although the issue of compensation for elected officials is never an easy or popular one to deal with, it is nevertheless one that we cannot ignore.

The bill before us today establishes a plan of retiring allowances for Members of the Legislative Assembly to supplement the plan established by the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to stress the fact that it is essential that good people be attracted to run for public office. Legislators and their families should not be unduly penalized because of their decision to represent their communities and constituents.

It is important that we recognise that most people elected to public office serve during their peak earning years. During their years in office, they do not have the ability to contribute to any more employee pension plans. For that reason, a plan such as this is fair.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to point out two important points. First, members will be required to put in a significant percentage of their earnings into this plan. The contribution rate for members will be higher than the average. Members who opt in will be required to contribute an additional two-and-a-half percent of their earnings beyond their present contribution rate. In total, almost one out of every ten dollars earned by a participating member will go towards their contributions.

Second, it is important to recognise that not all members will wish to participate in this plan. For that reason, members will be required to declare if they are going to opt in or opt out. Mr. Chairman, this is a transparent process.

I would like to close by returning to the issue of service. We need strong people elected to public office in Nunavut. We need people who will not be deterred from spending a period of their lives in public service because they are afraid that they may not be able to provide for their families and children in the long term.

This initiative will help to ensure that Nunavummiut view public service as an option that is good for them and good for their communities.

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

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are your officials going to be joining you?

Speaker: Well I certainly hope so Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Sergeant-At-Arms, please bring in the witnesses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome. Mr. Speaker, could you please introduce your witnesses.

Speaker: Mr. Chairman, to my right, your left, Mr. Rob Vanderzan of Hewitt Associates. Mr. Vanderzan has been involved over the last number of years in reviewing pensions on the NWT and mostly recently for this government. He's more or less the lead hand when it comes to this particular option that we are looking at.

To my left, your right, my colleague, Mr. Ng, Minister of Finance and a number of other portfolios. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before we go on to general comments, following Rule 77-1, you are able to make general comments for 10 minutes. Following Rule 77-2, each member is able to speak again or make a second set of general comments.

Each member has ten minutes to make general comments and from there we'll go on to questions. When you are speaking please go through myself as Chairperson. General comments. Are there any general comments? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll guess I'll get start things off and get rolling from there. Mr. Chairman, in making general comments about the Bill I would like to provide some historical background. The NWT Legislative Assembly implemented a Supplementary Retiring Allowance Plan of this kind in the late 1980's. In 1996 an independent commission on MLA compensation was appointed to review all aspects of the pay and benefits of MLAs. As a result the recommendation was that the rich MLA Supplementary Pension Plan should be eliminated.

Mr. Chairman, Members of this Assembly who were a part of that NWT Assembly voted in favour to terminate the 3% supplementary pension plan. The motion to terminate that plan was passed 19-0 with no abstentions on the recorded vote.

Mr. Chairman, because the Legislative Assembly of the day including members who are still here today, made difficult decisions because of reductions in spending such as the termination of supplementary pension plan, Nunavut started off without having to divide up a deficit. However today we are faced with the same kind of financial pressures that the NWT Assembly was concerned about in the late 1990's. The Auditor General's report of November 13th, 2001 says that Nunavut is heading for a deficit by 2002. The Auditor General's report also states that Nunavut has little financial flexibility. We depend on grants from the Government of Canada for the majority of our revenue.

The report says this makes Nunavut vulnerable. I wish to specific to recite a warning from the Auditor General set out on page 14 of the report. The Auditor General noted four areas of great concern. One, the ability to repay any future debt if the government moves into a debt position where its revenues do not increase to pay these debt costs it could have to spend less on programs.

Two. High staff vacancies may hide the true cost of government operations. One third of all positions were vacant on March 31st, 2001. When Nunavut succeeds in staffing the vacant positions the cost of salaries and employee benefits will be higher.

Three. A young and growing population will put pressures on government services. This growing pool of people can help Nunavut increase Inuit employment levels in future but there will be also be pressures on programs such as education, housing and health care.

And the strongest warning from the Auditor General came at the end of the section on government financial health. Tough decisions lie ahead warned the Auditor General. Nunavut will have to make hard choices to stay in good financial health. The Territories resources are limited and it doesn't have the financial flexibility to adapt easily to unfavourable economic changes. In the faces of pressures to increase spending, Nunavut will need to consider which programs are most important and which ones it cannot afford. How many of us have heard the ministers and officials telling our constituents and us that the programs and initiatives requested by the public are not possible because there isn't enough money.

This is something that is heard almost daily in Question Period. Mr. Chairman, at the beginning of the life of this Assembly under the leadership of the Cabinet we laid out our vision for the new Territory of Nunavut. The Bathurst Mandate was released to the public and widely publicized as a statement of what is most important for the people of Nunavut. The Mandate outlines four important priority areas. Healthy communities, simplicity and unity, self-reliance and continuing learning. Under each of these priorities, guiding principles were set out. Mr. Chairman this Bill, which will implement a very expensive pension plan, is simply not respectful to the promises laid out in the Bathurst Mandate.

The first principle under healthy communities is people come first. Mr. Chairman, this Bill looks after MLAs first. It benefits only a handful of residents, sitting MLAs. It doesn't put people first. The Bathurst Mandate sets out the priorities of a new Nunavut Government.

As I read them, they are health, economic development in the broadest sense and education. The Mandate goes on to say that over the coming five years, the government will give priority to completing these objectives.

Mr. Chairman, I ask how can improving the MLA pension package be said to be a priority within these objectives. A major principle of the Bathurst Mandate is self-reliance. Under self-reliance the guiding principles include, we will work within our means.

In light of the recent warnings of the Auditor General and considering the pressures to expand programs we are all hearing from our constituents, I must simply ask, can we afford significant enhancements to our own pension plans as MLAs.

The Bathurst Mandate is often invoked by our government in explaining and justifying decisions that have been made. A year or so ago, our finance minister, the Honourable Kelvin Ng, referred to the Bathurst Mandate when he talked about the tough choices we will have to make considering the fiscal pressures we expect to face in Nunavut.

In his budget speech last February, Mr. Ng, said,

If we are to make a convincing case for additional funding, we have to demonstrate that we are responsible managers providing the right services in the most cost effective ways. Mr. Speaker, consistent with the Bathurst Mandate, we will live within our means and we will not spend large amounts of money that we do not have. This means that like every other government in Canada, we will have to make many difficult choices in how we allocate our limited financial resources. We will have to do many things differently in the future if we are to meet the growing pressures. We will need to be realistic and focus our efforts on our priorities. We must determine if we are doing the right things and if we are doing things right. With our limited financial resources, our ability to be innovative and more efficient will be critical. We have to find ways to be more resourceful and change programs and services to better meet our needs.

Mr. Speaker, using the knowledge gained over the past two years, we plan a thorough inventory of the activities of this government in order ensure that our efforts and expenditures are consistent with our goals in the Bathurst Mandate and the needs of Nunavummiut. The choices we make today will affect the lives of Nunavummiut tomorrow. So we must take the time necessary to be certain any changes we introduce are right for our people.”

Mr. Chairman, today we have to make one of these hard choices. Oddly enough the pressures to increase spending are coming from within this Assembly. We all know the strong pressures that are coming from our constituents to find additional money to support the vital public services.

Can we afford to spend 2.7 million on ourselves over the next four years and say no to these strong pressures coming from our constituents? I find it ironic that this bill proposes to enhance our personal pension plans. One of the principles of the Bathurst Mandate is that every activity and expense must have a productive purpose.

So I have to ask, what is the productive purpose of this expense. What kind of productive purpose is served by giving MLAs a big reward after retirement? We often talk in this legislature about the need to support and respect our elders. But this bill will do nothing for the meagre pensions of our elders. We are not talking about supplementing the old age pension cheques our elders get each month. We are talking about supplementing our own pension and we lucky few will be eligible to receive payments as soon as we retire and well before most of us become elders.

What else could we do with the 2.7 million dollars that this bill will cost over the next four years and beyond? Well, we can employ at least one new teacher in each of our

communities. By my calculations, if we divide the cost of this bill up, each constituency could get an additional 34 thousand dollars per year. This is money, which if it does not go towards our retirement, could be contributed to youth organizations, shelters, or elders' groups or other community organizations. They are always told that there is no funding available to support local programs.

How can we tell them this after finding the money to enhance our own pension plans? If we pass this bill, how are we going to be able to look these people in the eye? These are some of the tough choices we are making today in voting on this bill.

I know that I may not be making myself popular with my fellow MLAs but I say this is simply not the right thing to do, especially just as we are facing very tough financial decisions ahead now that the days of the budget surpluses are over.

I believe that now is the time to take one of those hard choices so we can stay in good financial health. Now is the time to lead by example. I appeal to all members to think of their constituents' needs before thinking of themselves.

As we said in the Bathurst Mandate, people come first. As the auditor general warned us, we must live within our means. If we take this opportunity to look after ourselves so generously, how can we in all good conscience, turn around and tell our constituents that we do believe in putting people first.

If we pass this bill, if we look after ourselves so well, how can we tell our communities that we could not find additional money to meet their pressing needs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Yes, your speaking notes are good in that they were ten minutes long as allowed. General comments. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I would like to say that I've been making the same comments on this since yesterday and I've already agreed to support the bill.

I feel that I'm talking about the same thing over and over again. I know that my constituents are listening to the comments that I'm making. The same ones I made yesterday. I apologize for that.

When we had the Government of the Northwest Territories, the people of Nunavut, we were not given as much capital items as our western counterparts. And we had problems with that during the Government of the Northwest Territories days. We could not acquire many major items when the western counterparts were getting a lot of that and we felt it here in this region. I often asked myself why that was.

We didn't have enough room in the schools, or adequate gymnasiums or adequate community halls. They did not think of the forced growth of each community. We used to ask them for the things that we needed in this region.

But what they did was they gave us what we needed at the time and they didn't think about the growth that was going to occur in the communities. It has been about two or three years since the Nunavut Government came about, we are bringing about some things that we want such as capital infrastructure. We provide the communities with facilities thinking about the growth that is going to happen in each community.

What we are thinking about is for our future to make sure the people in the communities have facilities because we have to think about the growth. Looking at that and knowing what happens in each community, we know as MLAs that if we look at the forced growth, then it's better for all of us.

During the Government of the Northwest Territories days, they did not think about that at that time, about the growth that was going to happen in each of the communities. The Minister of the Power Corporation tried to reduce the cost of power in my community of Clyde River. We knew we were going to pay a lot of money for our power. So what we did is we talked about the options that we had. We agreed with the Government of Nunavut that we wanted to have our own power facility for our community when we negotiated with the Power Corporation and this has been very good for our community.

There was also an emergency that occurred in my community regarding the school. So the school was built thinking about the growth that was going to occur in my community. We all know that we have to try to make things available for the people in each community. We talk about the needs of each community in Nunavut. Perhaps the people that are going to be Members of the Legislative Assembly after we are gone will have a better situation than us.

We only have been here for a little over two years. What we have done at the Legislative Assembly has helped a lot of people in Nunavut. It's made them happier. So what we have to do is make something better for ourselves as well as elected officials. We want to be able to give the communities contracts so that they would be more self-reliant.

We don't want to be able to give the contracts to the people that have businesses outside of Nunavut. That is not going to help the people of Nunavummiut. We have to be able to keep the money in Nunavut so that the people will benefit from it.

If we are going to keep on giving contracts to the people or to companies that are outside of Nunavut then Nunavut will never benefit. If we don't give them business then we will never grow. This way if we start using what we know as people and to help the people in our communities than it would be better for the people of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. We are under general comments. General comments from the members. Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A general question I have Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask Mr. Speaker or the witnesses to explain this Supplementary Pension Plan. Basically if it is a registered or non-registered pension plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Speaker: Mr. Chairman, the answer to Mr. Tootoo's question is that it is a non-registered plan, therefore not registered in the Income Tax Act. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The difference between a registered pension plan and a non-registered pension plan as outlined I guess in the Income Tax Act, I just want to know what the difference is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that it deals with what taxes are deductible. But I'll pass it on to our tax expert, Mr. Vanderzan.

Chairperson (interpretation): Okay, thank you. Mr. Vanderzan.

Mr. Vanderzan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The primary difference between a registered and non-registered plan is that with a registered pension plan it meets the requirements of the Income Tax Act, so that all contributions by the members and the plans sponsor, in this case the Legislative Assembly, are tax deductible and tax sheltered until such time as the members receive the pension.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That registered pension plan, if I could just get an explanation as to the difference between a non-registered pension plan and why it's different. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Once again, Mr. Chairman, I'll pass it on to our tax expert. You know that one is registered, one is not and there are various tax implications but I'll allow Rob to provide the details on that.

Chairperson: Mr. Vanderzan.

Mr. Vanderzan: The non-registered plan is not required to comply with the provisions of the Income Tax Act relating to registered pensions so, in that case it is possible to provide pensions that are greater than the maximum pension rules set out by the Income Tax Act.

That is the primary reason that organizations establish supplementary plans to provide pensions in excess of the maximum. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess you are saying this is over and above what's allowed by the Income Tax Act for pensions. Why do they have limits on there? Is there any specific reason why they have limits on what you're allowed to contribute on these things? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Vanderzan.

Mr. Vanderzan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The primary reason for the limits on deductibility has to do with plan sponsors in the private sector. The Federal Government wishes to limit the extent to which an organization can make tax-deductible contributions to a pension plan.

In the case of a government, which does not pay tax, the difference is really academic. It has no significance. But the purpose of the Act is to limit the amount of tax deductions available to a corporation in the private sector. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the non-registered pension plan, which is what this is I guess, or non-funded or a funded non-registered pension plan, are there taxes that are payable on the amounts that are put into this fund. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Vanderzan.

Mr. Vanderzan: The non-registered pension plan, the Supplementary Plan that is in Bill 21 will not have any taxes payable on the funds that are set aside. The proposal is that the Supplementary Plan be funded through the Consolidated Revenue Fund and it's being established in such a way that the Assembly would not have to pay any tax on the funds that are set aside. Nor would the members have to pay any tax on those funds either. The only time tax would be payable is when the members start to receive their pensions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Mr. Chairman, I guess I am asking about taxes payable on this, I remember, I think it was a couple of months ago, there was an article in the Globe and Mail that

indicated that the Province of Ontario had a gold plated pension plan similar to this. They axed it. They got rid of it and now Revenue Canada is saying that they're on the hook for 10 million dollars in taxes on that plan somehow. I guess I just want to make sure that we don't fall into the same trap as this and maybe ask Rob if there are taxes that end up being payable that the government doesn't end up footing that tax bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Vanderzan.

Mr. Vanderzan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding of the situation in the Ontario Pension Plan is that they were attempting to transfer amounts out of the pension plan that was being closed down into the personal RRSP's of the members. And the Income Tax Act does set maximum limits on how much you can transfer into a RRSP from a pension. It is my understanding that the Ontario Government was trying to transfer amounts that were greater than those maximums and that is the situation that caused them to run afoul of the Income Tax Act rules. That is why Revenue Canada came back to them and said they now have to pay additional taxes.

With the Supplementary Plan there is no provision for any payments out of this plan to go to a member's RRSP. The only way that money will be paid out of the Supplementary Plan is via a lifetime pension to the member or the member's surviving spouse. So that avoids the situation that the Ontario Plan ran into. So I don't foresee any problems with this plan that would be similar to what the Ontario jurisdiction encountered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: That's certainly a relief Mr. Chairman. You know, it was something I was wondering ever since I saw that article.

Just moving on to another general question topic Mr. Chairman, and one Mr. Vanderzan can certainly understand, I note that he works for the firm that administers our pension and is quite familiar with this type of work, you know, of the job and an expert in the field.

The Supplementary Pension Plan that we're looking at here, am I correct in stating that it's going to cost the government, because it's coming out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, that I think it's 2.7 million every four years, basically it relates to 7 hundred thousand dollars a year that the government has to contribute to this plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Vanderzan.

Mr. Vanderzan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's correct. That is essentially the cost of this program, 700 thousand dollars per year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I know the Speaker, in his opening comments, talked about an additional increase of 2 ½ percent the members if they opted into this plan would contribute towards their regular pension plan, I believe. Is that the case? On the supplementary pension plan the members don't make any contributions to that plan. It is just a contribution coming from the Consolidated Revenue Fund that funds the supplementary plans? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Vanderzan.

Mr. Vanderzan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct. If the supplementary plan is adopted then there are amendments that will be required to the Retiring Allowances Act that will allow the members to remit their extra two and a half percent contributions to the Retiring Allowances Act and not to the Supplementary Act. And the purpose of that is so the members receive tax deduction for those contributions. So the members who opted into the Supplementary Plan will have higher contributions withheld from their pay and all those contributions will go to the Retiring Allowances Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to clarify that the supplementary goes into the Regular Retiring Allowances Act and not into the Supplementary Retiring Act. This bill is one hundred percent funded without any matching contributions by members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Vanderzan.

Mr. Vanderzan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify on the last point. It is true that because all of the contributions go to the Retiring Allowances Act that the full cost of the Supplementary Act would be paid for by the Government of Nunavut. But the cost of the Retiring Act will be reduced by the extra two and a half percent that the members are paying. There is a net balance, overall the cost of the two plans in total are the same as they would have been if the members were directing contributions to the Supplementary Act instead of the Retiring Allowances Act. It is just that things have been structured this way in order to be more tax effective for the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to direct a question to Mr. Vanderzan. I know you administer pensions, ours is probably just a fledging account for a fledging government. In his experience, I am just wondering I'd like to know for myself, is we've heard the term rich. Someone even used the word Ferrari or Porche in here earlier today.

This pension plan in his opinion, is it something that would be considered a rich plan, a moderate plan, or a mild plan in looking at other jurisdictions' plans that they administer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try to respond to that question with some of the facts of the information that we received or researched. There are five different provinces that have very similar plans ranging from two and half percent to three percent. So there are six different groups and five different provinces and also the MPs that also have a very, very similar plan.

So call it what you may but that's the numbers that exist as of today. I think that we heard on the radio today comments that Mr. Tootoo made regarding the NWT and their pension, supplementary pension fund, they are now at 2.2 percent and their reintroduction of the supplementary pension plan had first reading yesterday. So that's seven jurisdictions. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if the Speaker can also indicate, I guess I'm not looking at just what other jurisdictions have similar plans but in the scheme of pension plans, both registered and supplementary like this, would this be something that's considered mild, moderate or a rich plan all together overall. Not just looking at other jurisdictions that have similar structured pension plans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Speaker: Mr. Chairman. In order to give it a rating we have to compare it to something. And what I was trying to do was compare it to six of the other provinces in Canada that had very similar plans ranging from 2.5 to 3 percent and in four of these jurisdictions of the provinces they are at 3 percent and the others are at 2.5 percent. So to classify that as rich, it looks like we're at that 50 percent of the jurisdictions of Canada that are around the same level. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I wasn't more looking at just within the jurisdictions, I'm talking more global, not specifically just to other political jurisdictions but as far as pension plans go whether, in industry pension plans, would this be something that's considered mild, rich or a moderate type of plan.

That's what I want to know because that's what my constituents are going to be asking me and I want to be able to tell them why this is what it is, not just compare it to other politicians and the pensions that they get. But as far as everyone else out there as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a difficult question to answer unless we surveyed and polled, I guess, a global survey of pensions around the world or North America.

But there are other factors considered even in the private sector such as bonuses and other job options that are paid out to various individuals. So it's difficult to answer that on a global point of view but from looking at the other jurisdictions in Canada, which is the country that we live in, and we are a provincial/territorial jurisdiction, it looks like we're not that far off the mark. And so it would be considered leaning to a tad high. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you. I had some questions Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of quick questions if that's okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, just a couple of questions. I'm wondering if Mr. Vanderzan or Mr. O'Brien or even Mr. Ng could answer my question.

My first question Mr. Chairman is concerning the supplementary pension plan and that is if I opt or any member opts to contribute to the plan, am I entitled to contribute to the plan without the benefit of the additional dollars being given by the Government of Nunavut. Also, could I at the same time Mr. Chairman, increase my amount to 3 percent to 5 percent of my earnings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Picco is asking if he can fund his own pension plan and the answer is there is no such provision for such a luxury. No, Mr. Picco, there is not.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the question is concerning the current plan that is in place. Is it possible for members to increase arbitrarily my own pension earnings above and beyond what is called for in the current agreement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The quick answer to that is no, there is no provision for that.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the Speaker says there is no provision for that at this time, is that to say that it cannot be done or that it hasn't been done before? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Chairman, I believe the answer to Mr. Picco's question is that it cannot be done from a tax-sheltered basis.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question Mr. Chairman. Is it possible for another Assembly to end supplemental types of plans Mr. Chairman in 13 months when there are elections for new Members of the Legislative Assembly? Is it possible at that time for them to rescind what is being accomplished today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The quick answer to that is yes. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. We'll go to the member who didn't make general comments yet. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems like we are not the only ones in Canada so this is not unique to us in dealing with this issue. Also internationally they do the same thing and this is not a different procedure that we are dealing with.

They deal with the same issues internationally and also in Canada. I do have this question. For the two years that the Nunavut Legislature has been established and yes we do get deductions from our salary for our pension plan, even before we discussed this in the House for the past two years some members didn't want to be part of it. They didn't want to get deductions for their pension but they did have their salaries deducted.

My question is with these individuals who have been contributing to the pension plan that they don't want. If they would like to donate it to the less fortunate people, would they be able to do that for those members that choose to opt out because they've already been contributing to their pension plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Chairman, just to try to clarify the question. Is the minister asking if an individual or a member opted out of the basic plan that you've been paying into for the last two years? Is that what you're asking?

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson, could you rephrase your question so that they could respond. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've already been a government for two years. The people that have already contributed towards the pension and have been deducted from their pay cheque, I suppose for the last two years. If you opt out, where does the contribution you made to your pension go for the last two years under the old plan? That's what I'm asking.

Because if you opt out, those members have already contributed that want to opt out, there must be some money they can give that away now to the poor. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, currently in the registered pension plan that we have, there is no option for opting out. However, if there is a circumstance where a member was to leave office, then that member would get his contributions plus interest returned to him or her. And obviously in that state, they could do whatever they felt was most appropriate, to deal with those proceeds as they feel is most appropriate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, for those members that want to opt out, although we've been Members of the Legislative Assembly for two years already, we've been a government for two years already. If they choose to opt out and not take the money, do I understand that for the past two years now, since we've been a Legislative Assembly, under the present plan they will still get a retirement pension even though they choose not take the pension, for the past two years they've already contributed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to try to distinguish between the two actual plans that we are talking about. The basic plan, which every member is a member of, is a mandatory plan. So for the last two and a half years, you had to contribute to that plan. It's mandatory. There's no choice. The only way out of it, is if you leave the Assembly as you are not re-elected or you resign, or whatever.

The second plan we're talking about is the supplementary pension act, which is totally separate, and no member up to this point has been paying into that plan. But if they were to opt into it, they would then have to go back and pay from 1999 into that plan up to, it

could be anywhere between 5 and 10 thousand dollars per member depending on your salary. You'd have to put that back into the plan in order to sort of get up to the stage where we are now.

So if you want to opt into the secondary plan, you'd have to go back and play catch up and that's between 5 and 10 thousand dollars to do so. As Rob indicated, if you do opt out, as three of the members indicated, they've opted out to take the supplementary, they would still have to stay and they still will remain in the basic plan. Thank you.

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

Ms. Thompson (interpretation): This is more of a comment. Earlier on I understood that, some members said that they don't want the benefits, no matter what, even if they don't get elected again.

But we have all made our contributions for two years already to the plan so, no matter what, every MLA will be eligible for a benefit, whether they like it or not. Those deductions will not just disappear.

Do I understand, we're talking about two different issues right here, the very basic pension is different from this Supplementary Retiring Allowance Act, the first one is less costly...

Chairperson (interpretation): I would like to ask the member what you are interjecting about.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the member just indicated that three members said that they weren't going opt into this plan because they wanted to get re-elected. I never said that.

Chairperson (interpretation): Just a minute. Ms. Thompson, could you clarify what you were saying.

Ms. Thompson: Mr. Chairman, I'll switch to English. That was an interpretation mistake. I did not say three members in this House.

I just said if there are members that said they don't want any pensions at all but they have already contributed for the last two years because we're talking about this now.

Where does that contribution go in the last two years that was towards their pension? That's what I'm saying. I didn't point out there were three members here. Don't get defensive because I'm just asking a question as a member of this House because that is a question from me, as a member.

What happened to the last two years now? That's what I was asking and it was clarified that we're talking about two different things here.

Mr. Chairman, we have a right to ask questions and that was a comment I wanted to make and I think it's a good comment. Are we going to lose the two years, if we opt out? That's the question and it was answered so we're misinterpreting. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo, in the Inuktitut I understood it clearly, there was no mention of three members. I think you misunderstood the English. For me it was clear. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Mr. Chairman, just for the record I'll check, I'll wait and check the Hansard tomorrow but I heard the, if members didn't want to opt in because they wanted to get re-elected. That's what I heard and I'll wait and check the Hansard tomorrow and I'll decide what I do from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): As the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, I will review the Hansard tomorrow issue my ruling as to what was really said between Ms. Thompson and Mr. Tootoo.

Just keep calm, don't be speaking back and forth and going all over the place. We are discussing the Supplementary Pension Plan and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act. We'll keep that in mind. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It went through the interpreter and Hansard will come out English. They will not come out in Inuktitut. If the Hansard was in Inuktitut, it wouldn't be there because I was speaking in Inuktitut. I don't know how it's going to come out in English.

(interpretation ends) On the Hansard tomorrow, it will be from the translators and I never mentioned any member here. I didn't say three members, I didn't say if you don't want to get elected or if you want to get elected. I just had a comment just like any other member here.

I had a question, a concern. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): We get the Hansard Blues everyday, they arrive in the morning, and we read our statements in the Hansard. They are in English and Inuktitut. They are transcribed from the proceedings here in two languages. I will read it tomorrow.

Ms. Thompson was making general comments. Did you want to respond Mr. Speaker?

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the minister indicated that she was satisfied with the distinction that was made between the two plans and how they were intertwined. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Anything else. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Yes Mr. Chairman, the clarification that I wanted, I now know that there are two separate plans and those who want to opt out are still going to be eligible in the basic plan.

They are still there and they're still getting deductions from their salary. That's the part I wanted clarification on and I got it. What I was getting at was if they wanted to opt out, I had thought they weren't even going to be getting their basic plan.

That was the misunderstanding that I had. So it is now clear. I also made brought my views out into the open like any of the members sitting around the table. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): I didn't hear a question. Did you want to respond, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker: I think the question was and the answer to the question is the members that opt out still remain in the basic plan, so they still have a pension. And the money that they have contributed over the last two and a half years remains in there. So just because you opt out of this new plan, the supplementary plan doesn't mean you will be out of a pension. You still have a pension. The basic plan is mandatory and stays in affect. So the bottom line is everybody in the Assembly at the end of the day, at the end of the term will have some form of pension. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Thompson any further comments or questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have any questions to the clauses. But we are looking at what the difference might be with this proposal from the others. But in any case we are making a big thing out of this Bill.

Some members are for the Bill and there are those who are opposed to it. I get the feeling that this Bill will go through. There are other jurisdictions and even our Premier who I could suggest can give away the money to the less fortunate if you don't want it. We can make a donation to a foundation or which ever needs it more than you do if you wish to do so.

Mr. Chairman as Members of the Legislative Assembly we want to help but then the regular members identified the needs of the people out there and we never seem to be able to get what we want. So it is hard to tell how the members want to help the people out there. We want to help the elders, we can all say that, we want to help the elders but then we don't get it from the government.

Some of our colleagues are now opposed because they are looking at the needs of the people out there. So I don't know where anybody is coming from Mr. Chairman. During the early stages of discussion, I had stated that those who don't want to be part of the plan be given this option. I don't have any questions Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I don't hear a question. I have two names. We'll go clause by clause and you'll again have an opportunity to make your statements or questions. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. I too can state my own opinions and statements. I will not be a part of this Supplementary Plan.

I make my own financial decisions on my own but we're using public money to create this pension plan. I wanted to make those comments because there is a difference between public money and making your own arrangements. I will stick to my decision.

We are talking about public money for our pensions and I oppose that idea. It could be used for other things, which is why I'm opposing this bill. This is creating a controversy outside of the House.

I can make my own arrangements, I will make my own arrangements and I just wanted to be clear to the members here. I am not looking down on anybody here but this is the way I feel about it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. My colleagues, we all have the freedom to make our statements for or against the bill. We have our freedom of speech and thank you very much for taking advantage of that. I didn't hear a question and I have your name next, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, a couple of questions came up based on comments that some of the other members made. I think Mr. Iqittuq made a very interesting comment and I was wondering, if it is an option under this plan, if members choose not to opt into this plan if, if we were in the plan the money would be there. Basically, you know if my numbers are correct, 34 thousand dollars a year.

Can some provisions be made to just go in to a department or go into a department's budget or to a specific area or to an organization or charitable organization or group within our community? You know, if we can find the money to put it away for us if we wanted it, why can't we take that money and put it towards a group in a community or to a specific thing like school supplies or something like that within the budget of a department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The quick answer to that is no. That's not a possibility. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Sorry Mr. Chairman, I didn't hear the Speaker's answer. I think it was no, is that correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: That's correct. The answer was no, that's not a possibility. It'd be a separate bill or separate statute for that to happen. That's not the case right now. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if I could ask the House if members would consider taking a look at a statute or a bill that would, if members chose not to participate in this plan, allocate that funding through a source and there could be a pretty straightforward simple thing. It depends on, like after 30 days or 60 days, if members give notice, you know how much money is going to go towards that and how much, whatever the other members decide that they want to put something of that to.

I've got a question for the Speaker right now, just a question for the members of this House. I'm going to ask you to think about if it's something that we can look at developing in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. We can go clause by clause. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that issue, I guess I should clarify, I don't necessarily need an answer but I'll be asking our staff and clerk to look into if something like that is possible, or we can find a way to do it. Hopefully we can bring forward some kind of legislative proposal if it's possible. My last question, Mr. Chairman, is again it comes off of the question that Mr. Picco had answered or asked.

He'd asked if the next Assembly came in, we'll just say the next Assembly, that would probably be the easiest way to figure it out, came in, do what they did in 1996, and terminate the plan. The members, existing members that would be on the plan, what would it cost the government to terminate that plan.

I would imagine that there would be a commitment to pay out the members that were on the existing plan at the time of the termination. So I'm just wondering if there's been any thought to that and if the Speaker could indicate what the potential cost could be to us and the liability in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Vanderzan.

Mr. Vanderzan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the next Assembly were to repeal the supplementary Act, then they would have some choices. They could choose to close the plan to new members or they could also go one step further and say we will also, in

addition to closing this plan to new members, we will also stop all pensions and pay to the existing members.

I expect there might be a challenge to that but my understanding is that the Assembly does have the right to take away those benefits in the future. If the first choice is taken by the Assembly, then there would be no additional costs for the plan, whatever had been appropriated up to that point in time should be enough to fund the pensions that had already been earned and that were now being paid out.

So there would be no additional ongoing costs unless the actual experience of the plan was different than the actuarial assumptions.

If they went the second step of actually stopping all the pensions and pay, then there would be no more liability under the plan and any funds that had been appropriated for the purpose of the supplementary act would then be freed up for other purposes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Okay. Thank you. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): I just wanted to go to clause by clause Mr. Chairman. I understand what the plan is about so I would like to go to clause by clause.

Chairperson (interpretation): Bill 21, Supplementary Retiring Allowance Act. Bill 21, Clause 1. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Duration of Legislative Assembly. Clause 2. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Mr. Chairman, I am just opposing.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Clause 6. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 7. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Clause 7. I would just like to get some clarification. Under 7(a) and (b) and the 30 days. Could you change the days with a motion?

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the member is asking if he can change what is in here. In (a) it stipulates that in the next Assembly a member would have 60 days. But in the present Assembly as of today a member would have 30 days based on their decision. And I am not sure, but I believe the member is asking if this could be changed. Is that correct?

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): The question that I am asking is whether the 60 days in (a) and 30 days in (b) could be changed while we are doing it right now through a motion. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Chairman the 60 day period that you see here is in line with our Integrity Act which requires under the Act it requires 60 days. We are following in line with the Integrity Act, which we have adopted in the House. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. What about 7(b)?

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman any part of this is up for changes or amendments depending on the group here and the membership. The 30 day limit was put in there to, for the most part to identify that within 30 days you should be able to make a decision whether to opt in or out and not to leave it too long. So that was the rationale.

Is the member asking or requesting that this be changed to a longer period or a shorter period. Because the reason we thought that, I believe we talked about 10 days to make a

decision in 10 days whether you want to opt into the plan or out, and then it was felt that 30 days was a reasonable time to review your situation, opt into the plan or opt out. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just saying that the 30 days is a little bit too long. If I want the 30 days to stick in the Act or to leave it in the Act as is. So if I am going to think about whether I am going to opt in to the plan, this 30 days is too long. But I have to think about it by representing my communities.

Perhaps, at this present legislature or the next legislature, we have to think about our children when they get older. I was thinking about within 14 days of it coming into force. Because if I become too old, I wouldn't know, if I'm going to represent my communities, I would have to make my decision within the 30 days and I feel like I want to make a motion to change the number of days to a lesser number. Thank you

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: To clarify this and I believe this is where the member is coming from, the 30 days, once the plan and if the plan is enacted, approved, the member has 30 days to opt into it. He can do it on the 1st day, the 2nd day, the 5th day or the 30th day but after the 30th day, that's when his time is over to opt into it. So the member does have the option to opt in on the 1st day.

He can do it from day number 1. He doesn't have to wait for 30 days. That's the time frame in which he has to make his decision. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You are very clear Mr. Speaker. It's also a political question in that one. That is, if I want to opt in, in 30 days, maximum 30 days, I will be thinking whether Coral Harbour and Chesterfield want me to opt in or not. But I'll be thinking of opting in for the purposes of looking after my children when I'm too old. I don't need 30 days. So it's a political question and a personal question to mention these numbers.

That's why I feel, that if I will be, at least have a wish to look after my children when I'm too old, then I want to decide now, not 30 days for Chesterfield and Coral Harbour to answer for me. Thank you.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's difficult to comment on that. It's a personal decision and any member can make that decision whenever he wishes up to 30 days and

whether the time frame is 15 days, he'd have that 15 day window to make a decision. So I don't know why reducing it to 14 days, what that would do.

It wouldn't give you as much time to change your mind I guess but the member still has within the time frame, that window to make a decision and if I'm not understanding your question clearly, Mr. Arvaluk, Mr. Chairman, I'll try and take another go at it.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk. Are you done?

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have to realize that how we will decide personally. I'm able to become an adult educator and when I decided to become an adult educator, I was told that I have to get a certificate. And if I don't have a certificate today I could be paid 75% of my pay while taking the course.

Mr. Chairman they were trying to say that you were a former MLA you shouldn't work for the college. As members we are not sure whether we are going to find jobs after we've left office. Everybody knows this. It is no secret that we might not be able to find a job as soon as we leave office. When I leave office I have my children to worry about.

I will have to know if 14 days will be enough. If I am thinking about Chesterfield and Whale Cove, the 30 days is fine. I have children to think about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I think that was just a comment. Something that we could consider. I didn't hear a question. Mr. Arvaluk do you have anything further. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Speaker if he would commit to within 10 working days or less or as soon as possible after the deadline for people signing up for it that he publicise a list of members that either opt in or opt out of the program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't believe I can't do that. I can't violate the confidentiality of each member. If they wish to sign, opt in or opt out. It's certainly up to them, as it is certainly for any member here, a personal decision.

I certainly wouldn't want to be responsible to talk about a member's personal private affairs as far as the pension goes. If I could, I would. There is no provision in the Act for that. Furthermore, I wouldn't want to take responsibility for each of the members on which way they want to go. That is not to stop any member from telling the press what they've done or how they decided on this issue. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I thought there was some sort of a requirement for the government to publicize and table annually at least members' earnings. I think we just tabled it last week I think. This is no different in that I would imagine it would have to be included in that because it is money being spent on behalf of the members. I don't see why we couldn't do that.

There are only three members that voted against the bill. Everyone else is saying they have no problems saying it in here whether they support it or not. What is the big deal about it being publicised. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I am not sure if we could get the advice of our Law Clerk whether it be tomorrow. There may be a provision under the Federal Privacy Act that would not allow myself to provide that information. I guess taking it a step further, the fact that X number of members supported the Bill, that doesn't mean that they will opt into it. As Mr. Picco, who supported the bill, has indicated that he will not opt in.

So, that's somewhat of a personal decision and something each member as to how they want to follow-up on that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess Mr. Chairman, I am going to ask the Speaker after checking with our Law Clerk if there is nothing barring that from happening would he commit to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can check with the Law Clerk on this and other legal experts but I certainly wouldn't want to take the stand to commit here that I would release all that information because there may be members that do not want to release them.

There is no provision in the Act that states it has to be. Maybe something that states that it's permissible I guess but that doesn't mean that each member wants their confidential information to be released.

So I would suggest that if Mr. Tootoo wants to know what each member opted for that he asks them. It is a personal matter. I'm sure the press will be asking each of the members anyway so they have the option to answer, not answer or whatever. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Mr. Chairman, there is no big deal in 30 days. It's, you know, if there's, they should have scrutinized it as it is. I agree with Mr. Hunter that there will be a scrutiny, and Mr. Speaker, that I have no big deal with 30 days because sooner or later, you know, we have to tell it all, like we always do and then there are no personal secrets of any members that are present here. I think that's also true everywhere else.

I think Mr. Anawak was talking about we're good target practice for the media and will probably continue to be so. So I have no big deal with the 30 day period. If that's the case.

Chairperson (interpretation): You don't have a question. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that issue, it kind of caught me off guard on that, that you know, there is such a thing in this government we caught on to it very quick about political grandstanding. What the electorate want to see from us and what people want to hear from us. If he can just stand up in the House and say, you know, the thing that people want to hear and if a politician, you know, a special politician tells people what they want to hear.

And you know, when it comes to political grandstanding a few members in this House are very, very, good at it. And I have to say that I've taken some lessons from that member over the last three years. He's taught me well. But on that issue of not being able to find out to me, is not right, for the simple fact that, isn't there a document that's tabled yearly that shows this.

And I know that it's probably a personal, I know people's finances are a personal affair, but I know every member in this House filed a disclosure statement with the Conflict of Interest Commissioner.

And anybody from the public can get access to that document but not the details. But they know, they know what companies or what organizations the member's involved in. So, you mean to tell me there is not going to anything in a report once a year, tabled in the House that's going to say, okay this member received a pension plan or didn't and to me that's doesn't really make much sense.

Can you elaborate why? I don't want to see how much the member got for a pension but shouldn't there be some kind report there that says this is costing the House X number of dollars every year and these are the members that are taking it. Thank you.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the information that pertains to the basic plan, the first plan, is provided because it is a mandatory plan. And the information that Mr. McLean is referring to in the secondary plan, it is not mandatory. And there will be information displayed at the end of the year during budget time. It'll give figures and numbers but I don't want to identify or give a total rather and the total cost. We will not

identify because I have indicated in the Privacy Laws that doesn't allow that. We are beating a dead horse here.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to be difficult here. Isn't that a double standard? We can see everybody's, no I could be wrong there, we can see civil servants' salaries in newspapers. I guess we can't see their pension plan. I am trying to figure out why this is.

You say that the regular pension plan will be in tabled form at the end of the year. But to me there is not going to be a list of what members are receiving pension plans. As an MLA I don't have any problems with that if people see what we are receiving. Is this standard across every jurisdiction across Canada? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman as I've indicated I don't feel comfortable sitting here and agreeing to your committee on this to release information about each individual member here about their pension plan. That is their business. It is personal. If they wish to do so, that is fine.

I don't have a problem releasing my own. But that is my personal business, my personal plan. So I guess what I am saying is it is up to the members. I am not going to sit here to agree to that. Because I don't feel I have the authority. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I still have an issue with it because here is why. The pension plan was on the street before most of the members saw it. What is the secrecy here? The media had the pension plan before the members in the House had it. That is the point I am getting to here.

And I am sure the pension plan had the member's name on it and how much they were making and stuff like that. So you know, I don't know what the big secrecy is to it. And I am not going to belabour it. I guess there is stuff is personal and people can't see. Visa does a mailing all to their customers. I don't think they give their balances. But they still have that information in a computer some place.

To me if we are going to be giving out one thing why don't we give out the other? And I agree with you, Kevin. I don't have any problems, if somebody asks me if they want to see my pension statement at the end of the year, I've got no problem showing it to anybody. I am sure that grandstand in the House would probably have a problem showing it to the media, but then again we are all built differently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A final comment on this. Just to make it clear as to where I am coming from. I hear what Mr. McLean is saying and from other members. You are right, there is no secrecy. I was told by the media that they have a full six-page document of a confidential document that we had in a committee. That was supposed to be confidential. That was leaked to various media. Not only one but most of them.

And that every number was in there. For example a member at 40 years old, finishes a term after this Assembly is up. He would normally have with a pension say of 5 hundred dollars. But because he is 40 or she is 40 and they haven't reached the age of 60. That is 20 years before they reach 60. For each year that you take a pension early. That is 3%. So 3 times 20 is 60. So that is 60%. So if you take your pension at 40 because you lost the election or didn't run again. That 5 hundred dollars about be 60% less. So in fact it would be about 230 dollars a month.

So we are not talking about great amounts. Nobody is getting rich. There is no money made in this deal here. It is pretty straightforward.

When you are looking at the average age of members that may finish in their next term. Between 45-50. They are losing anywhere between 30, 40, 50 percent of their pension. If they take it right then. So there is not a lot of money here. I guess what I am saying to Mr. McLean's comment, I agree there is no secrecy here. It is out there now. I personally as a Speaker, do not have the authority and I don't feel comfortable in giving information that reflects what each individual has in his pension, what he is getting. That is his business first. If they wish to disclose that, it is fine. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Clause 7. We are dealing with Clause 7. Are there any questions or comments? Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am confused. Perhaps we were on Clause 7. It seems like we were somewhere else. It seems we are not sticking to our agenda. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you for your comments. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak: I was just going to ask what the subject or what the questioning had to do with section 7.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 7. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman this section here talks about the annual allowance the members get. Under the 3 percent number in there. The average of pensionable remuneration received. How did they come up with a 3 percent number? The Speaker indicated that there were other numbers in other jurisdictions. I was wondered how they came up with 3%? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman the decision on the 3 percent was agreed to in Full Caucus with all the members I believe present including Mr. Tootoo was present at the meeting. And as I indicated earlier with the other jurisdictions as in Yukon, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, NWT, well not including the NWT yet, but they had first reading of their Bill last night. They are averaging it at three percent. That was one of the numbers that was brought forth in the Full Caucus meeting and the number that was agreed to by the Caucus and that is why we are here today. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I like to ask if there were other options that were looked at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr. Chairman there were other options as the member is aware. There was an option of one, two or three. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Going back to the clause. Clause 9. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am just wondering on 9 it talks about an annual allowance on the number two. And number two and number 10 talks about an additional allowance. I was just wondering if I could get some clarification.

Is that like it's 6% then or is it, it's separate, let's get some clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 9. Mr. Vanderzan.

Mr. Vanderzan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Clause 9 describes the pension that's payable on remuneration as a regular member. Clause 10 describes the pension that's payable on additional earnings as a minister or a Speaker or Premier that type of thing. So, it is also a 3% plan, it's not 3 plus 3. It's just that there are different levels of remuneration paid for the different positions. Nine deals just with the regular member's earnings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 9. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Mr. Tootoo. Okay. Clause 10. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Mr. Tootoo opposes. Clause 11. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 13. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman, I know my hand is going up and down here and you have been missing it but I wondered for the record, if you can just show on record that I am opposed to every clause in the bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Number 20 talks about a report on the plan, I'm just wondering if looking at the issues that we talked about earlier about reporting requirements, auditors, would this be a case where that information that some of us were asking be reported, would that be included here in this clause. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo, we are on Clause 20. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Chairman, as I indicated myself, I don't feel I have the authority to do that. That's why I make my intentions clear here. But if in the, at the end of the day, that it was not against the privacy laws, I would then have it go to MSB and let them deal with it. I think that's a fair cut-off.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just, regardless of what the Speaker was talking about there as far as requirements for information and privacy, but with this Clause 20, the legislation requires him to report on the plan, did that include the members that are included in the plan.

Is that something that we're seeing here in the legislation? Is that what this Clause means? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is not clear as to what the contents of the report are. So I would have to say that it would have to be sanctioned and cleared by MSB. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If somebody filed an access to information, would they be able to get the information then? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again I can't comment to that either. If it violates the Privacy Act I would say no but if somebody submitted an inquiry or an application for certain information about members' benefits or pensions, that would be up to the Commissioner to release that information. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Okay. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: I would just like to move forward. I'll present a copy of my form to the press opting out and it is up to each individual to do that. So if we can't do it the conventional way, we will do it on our own. I don't have a problem with that. I'll just provide the form opting out to the press. Okay, done. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ok. Thank you. Clause 20. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Bill 21. Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act. Bill as a whole. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Bill 21 is now ready for third reading. I would like to thank Mr. Speaker and Minister Ng and I was starting to get used to your name Mr. Vanderzan. Thank you very much. We have Bill 23-1(5). What is the wish of the Committee? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Quite some time ago I was asking that I want the record to show, you never asked for or against on the Bill as a whole. And now we got it on record for voting against the Bill as a whole. Bill 21. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): I agree with you. We have, for consideration in Committee of the Whole Bill 23 - 1(5). What is the wish of the Committee? Would you like to proceed? Agreed. Bill 23. An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act. Mr. Speaker, do you have opening comments to this bill. Bill number 23. Do you have opening comments?

**Bill 23 - An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act –
Consideration in Committee**

Speaker: Yes, Mr. Chairman, very briefly. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to have the opportunity today, once again, to appear before the Committee of the Whole to introduce Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act.

Mr. Chairman, 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 the terms of the Retirements Allowances Plan for members of this Legislative Assembly to be registered under the Federal Income Tax Act.

Mr. Chairman, the amendments made are of a technical nature. This House has now had the opportunity to discuss the substantive issues of members' compensation during deliberation on the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act.

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

Chairperson (interpretation): If it's the wish of the committee, we have one of the officials there and I don't believe that we'll be bringing anybody else to the witness table and I believe his name is Mr. Vanderzan. We'll open the floor for general comments.

I will now ask the members to make general comments on the bill or go clause by clause.

Some Members: Clause by clause.

Chairperson (interpretation): Bill 23. 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. I'm sorry. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have Clause 4 and then we have Clause 6 here. Is that section 6 repealed then? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Uqaqti.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is to provide for the new section. Section 6.

Chairperson (interpretation): Was that clear, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): No, it wasn't. Mr. Chairman, it seems that Section 6 is repealed and the following is substituted then we have Clause 6 not 4.

Could you tell why under Contributions we don't have a Clause 6 for the substitution?

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 6 for the substitution. Ms. Cooper will respond to your question.

Ms. Cooper: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an amending bill, which makes changes to another Act. So Clause 4 of the bill came to Clause 6 of the Act.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Cooper. I believe we are on 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.

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. Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act. Bill as a whole. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): We still have under consideration 21-1(5). What is the wish of the Committee? Mr. Irgittuq.

Mr. Irgittuq (interpretation): I wish to report progress.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Mr. Vanderzan for being at the witness table. I am not including Mr. Ng. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. And it is not debatable. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. The motion is carried. Sergeant-at-Arms would you ascertain the presence of the Speaker to end our day.

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): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 21 and Bill 23 and would like to report that Bill 21 and Bill 23 are ready for Third Reading and Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Nutarak. 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 23 - An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act - Third 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 third time. Thank you.

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

Bill 21 - Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act - Third Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Amittuq that Bill 21, Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act be read for the third time and request a recorded vote. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: The motion is in order. A recorded vote has been requested by Minister Ng. All those in favour. Please stand. Remain standing until the clerk calls your name and then please be seated.

Deputy Clerk: All those in favour. Mr. Ng, Mr. Kattuk, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Anawak, Mr. Puqiqnak, Mr. Alakannuark, Mr. Iqittuq, Mr. Arvaluk, Mr. Havioyak, Mr. McLean, Mr. Nutarak, Mr. Iqaqrialu, Ms. Thompson, Mr. Akasuk.

Speaker: All those opposed please stand. Remain standing until the clerk calls your name.

Deputy Clerk: Mr. Okalik. Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Picco.

Speaker: Abstentions. The recorded vote indicates 14 in favour and 3 against. No abstentions. Therefore the motion is carried and the Bill has had third reading. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

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

Orders of the Day for Wednesday March 6th:

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

12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 67-1(5)
 - Motion 21-1(5)
 - Bill 15
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until March 6, 2001 at 1:30.

>>*House adjourned at 9.11 p.m.*

