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Speaker: The Hon. Levi Barnabas, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Levi Barnabas

(Quttiktuq)

Ovide Alakannuark

(Akulliq)

Enoki Irqittuq

(Amittuq)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Arviat)

Chair of Caucus

Glenn McLean

(Baker Lake)

Hon. Kelvin Ng

(Cambridge Bay)

Minister of Finance and Administration; Minister of Human Resources; Government House Leader

Peter Kattuk

(Hudson Bay)

Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Ed Picco

(Iqaluit East)

Minister of Health and Social Services

Hon. Paul Okalik

(Iqaluit West)

Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Donald Havioyak

(Kugluktuk)

Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth

Hon. James Arvaluk

(Nanulik)

Minister of Education

Uriash Puqiqnak

(Nattilik)

Deputy Speaker

Hon. Peter Kilabuk

(Pangnirtung)

Minister of Sustainable Development

Hon. Jack Anawak

(Rankin Inlet North)

Minister of Justice; Minister of Community Government, Housing and Transportation

Hon. Manitok Thompson

(Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove)

Minister of Public Works, Telecommunications and Technical Services

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(South Baffin)

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(Tunnunig)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday May 13, 1999

Members Present:

Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Mr. Olayuk Akesuk, Honourable James Arvaluk, Honourable Levi Barnabas, Honourable Donald Havioyak, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Irgittuq, Mr. Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Glenn McLean, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Jobie Nutarak, Mr. Kevin O'Brien, Honourable Paul Okalik, Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, Honourable Manito Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Prayer

Speaker (Mr. Barnabas) (interpretation): I would like to ask Mr. Alakannuark to say the opening prayer.

>>Prayer

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Ministers' Statements 5 - 1 (2): Ministerial Absences

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Ed Picco will be absent from the house today to attend the Federal, Provincial, Territorial Ministers of Social Services meeting in Quebec City, Quebec. Mr. Picco will be back in the house on Monday, May 17, 1999.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Jack Anawak will also be absent to attend the Council of Transport Ministers meeting in Ottawa, Ontario. Mr. Anawak will return to the house on Tuesday, May 18, 1999.

Thank you Mr. Speaker

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. Mr. Arvaluk.

Ministers' Statements 6 - 1 (2): Appreciation and Acknowledgement of Educators

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand in our Legislative Assembly to pay tribute to all educators across Nunavut.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts and considerable energies which educators across Nunavut have brought to our early childhood programs and to our schools. We are fortunate to have dedicated and committed school staff who are working

hard to lay a firm foundation for our children's education. Their commitment to developing the critical skills, processes and practices which will allow our children to lead successful and productive lives, is the backbone of our school system. Their appreciation of our children's language, heritage and cultural identity is what makes our classrooms and schools welcoming and affirming places to learn and grow. It is a great pleasure to thank them for their hard work, and also to encourage them to continue on with us as we build our new educational system in Nunavut.

We are fortunate to have exceptional educators who work as Language Specialists, Teachers, Student Support Assistants, Cultural Instructors and School Community Counsellors. There are Elders and community resource people who share their skill and wisdom. There are parent volunteers who support their children's learning and promote the school activities in the community. There are dedicated members of DEA's who work diligently to ensure that the schools are meeting community goals and that teachers are supported in meeting those goals. These individuals are critical to the smooth operations of schools, but they are also the important links that allow the school to reflect the community and the community to be represented in the school.

I also want to acknowledge the role of educators which each of us has to play. Our children's learning is the sum of all their experiences. As parents, aunts, uncles, relatives, and so on, we all influence and have opportunities to enrich the learning and experiences of children in Nunavut. I challenge you to take this responsibility seriously and to actively join us in making Nunavut a network of community teachers and learners. Through this kind of collaboration, we ensure that our children can be the best they can be, and we are all enriched by that.

The Nunavut Teachers Federation is holding their founding meeting this weekend. I would like to take this opportunity to wish them all the best.

Please help me acknowledge and show appreciation to our educators of Nunavut for all the hard work, commitment and groundwork they have done for education. Let us stand and applaud them.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (Interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Ministers statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Ministers' Statements 7 - 1 (2): Thanks to Constituents and Members, Recognition of Sam Kikpak

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to thank all the people of Kugluktuk, because they voted me to this seat here and I really appreciate where I am today. Because the people in Kugluktuk voted me in and I have a lot work to do, I'm going to be working very hard on behalf of my community and also for the

people of Nunavut. Also I want to thank all the people here as well around the table and the Executive Council. I appreciate them for putting me where I'm sitting today.

First of all I want to make a comment. In Kugluktuk few weeks ago there was a new Anglican Minister. We haven't had an Inuk Anglican Minister in Kugluktuk for a very long time, for sixty years, today we finally have an Innuinnaqtun Anglican Minister, his name is Sam Kikpak. He became an Anglican Minister in Kugluktuk and Sam Kikpaq has been working there for a very long time and has been a Lay Reader for about 27 years. Also you know that since April 1, we opened our first session legislative assembly.

Speaker (interpretation): You only have 2 minutes.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): I would like to ask permission to continue my comments.

Speaker (interpretation): Any opposition from the members? Mr. Havioyak you have permission.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have a few of my items left. April 1, as we all know started a new Nunavut Government. In Kugluktuk, Sam Kikpak is the official Minister now and I wanted the Legislative Assembly to recognize Sam Kikpak who has become our new Anglican Minister. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

Ministers' Statements 8 - 1 (2): Congratulations to Labrador Inuit on Land Claim

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Today I would also like to have the opportunity to congratulate the Inuit of Labrador on successfully reaching their Land Claims Agreement. I know that this has been a long and hard struggle with very few resources. I recall back in the 1970's when the late Bill Edmund struggled to get Newfoundland to recognize the need to deal with the issue of Aboriginal Rights protection. If Bill were still alive today he would be mighty proud of them.

We are all proud of their perseverance, believing in their own people and keeping their issues in historical perspective allowed them success on this historical day. There's much work ahead which will be just as difficult, but the light at the end of the tunnel will give them energy and anticipation for a challenging and fulfilling trip. I'm sure the people of Nunavut will support them and assist them any way possible to reach their final destiny. Once again, on behalf of Nunavut, Congratulations. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Ministers' Statements. Item # 3, Members' Statements, Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Members' Statements 14 - 1 (2): Thanks to Constituents, Anglican Diocese Iqaluit Meetings

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I mentioned I have not forgotten the people of my constituency. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Uqsuqtuuq and Taloyoak for electing me to this position. They elected me so I can service their communities and with that in mind I will use my powers and do the best I can do to the best of my abilities.

But, again I would like to remind them that I will be representing Nunavut as a whole and not just concentrate on my two communities, but I would like to thank them and show my appreciation, to those two communities.

If I have the opportunity I would also like to recognize the people who will be coming here for the meeting on May 26. The Anglican Diocese will be coming here to Iqaluit to have their conference, arriving on May 26 and on May 27 they will be opening their conference. I would like recognize those people who have worked very hard as everyone else in Nunavut, but particularly the Ministers who work with Social issues, the Ministers who helped us with social issues and life of the Inuit, I would like to give my recognition and our appreciation. Thank you Mr. Speaker

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. If we have the opportunity we will write a letter to the people that you would like to recognize from the house. Members' Statements, Mr. Irqittuq.

Members' Statements 15 - 1 (2): Nunavut Trades Training Centre

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would like to mention two items that I would like to bring out.

Speaker (interpretation): I would just like to remind you that you can only speak on one item at a time. Go ahead.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to say Mr. Speaker at this time we are the Nunavut government in the Nunavut Territory and we have students from all over Nunavut who go over to Hay River for further training and trades training, possibly an electrician getting into the electrical field. At this time I would like to see a trades centre or trades institution set up here in the Nunavut settlement area. I would like that considered.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Members Statements, Mr. Alakannuark.

Members' Statements 16 - 1 (2): Thanks to Constituents, Support to Assembly

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I mentioned that I would like to appreciate the support from Repulse Bay and Pelly Bay. I would state that I will do the best I can to represent those two communities and again I will give my full support to the Members sitting at the Legislative Assembly to the best of my ability, because I would like to see Nunavut Government and Nunavut get off to a good start. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Members Statements, Mr. Tootoo.

Members' Statements 17 - 1 (2): Welcome Members to Iqaluit

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to rise and mention something that I couldn't say yesterday. On behalf of myself, the Premier, Paul Okalik, Honourable Minister of Health Ed Picco, and all the residents of Iqaluit, I'd like to welcome all the Members back to our Capital City and I am glad that they are here. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Members Statements, Mr. McLean.

Members' Statements 18 - 1 (2): Appreciation of Minister Kilabuk

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to pass on my praise to the Honourable Minister of Sustainable Development, Peter Kilabuk, for his recent trip down South. This Minister walked in to the jaws of the grizzly bear promoting the traditional economy and the fur industry in the hard land of Greenpeace country. This is the type of commitment to the traditional economy that raises hopes for the life style of the people of Nunavut. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Members Statements. Going back to the orders of the day. Item #4, Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral Questions.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Speaker (interpretation): Returns to Oral questions. Item five, recognition of visitors in the Gallery, Mr. O'Brien.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Permission to return to Oral questions.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. O'Brien we're still on item five, we'll go to item six and that's the next item Oral questions. Recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Mr. John Hicks, he's Assistant Deputy Minister for Sustainable Development and a former Mayor of Rankin Inlet, I'd like to recognize him in the Gallery. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo and Mr. Hicks. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I haven't had a chance to make my recognition of visitors in the Gallery, there's hardly any people from Rankin Inlet in the Gallery, so they'll be less people for me to recognize. My aunt's son Peter Itinnuar, I would like to recognize him, he's sitting in the Gallery and he now works in the Sustainable Development Department. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Recognition of visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a person from my constituency, he's Chuck Gilhuly and he is the very last person on the last row. Also Roberta Roberts she's also sitting over there and also Town Councillor of the Town of Iqaluit, Mathew Spence. Thank you and welcome. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. Welcome to all the people who have been recognized by Mr. Okalik. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery, Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a person who has worked very hard to get the government going, George Qulaut. He is on the staff of Mr. Havioyak's Department.

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome, thank you Mr. Iqittuq. Recognition of visitors in the Gallery, Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Quite a few years ago when we started doing the last elections for the Qikiqtaani Inuit Association, I think it was around 1970's and 80's, a person whom I use to work with was Simon Awa. He told me about the NDP and Liberals and the party politics they use and they were trying to give me plastic membership cards to the political parties. I've never been a member of a political party.

He told me if I use Inuit tradition it's okay, I don't have to be a member of the political parties, so I'm proud to have this consensus Government and so proud to be a member of the Nunavut Legislature. For that reason I would like to recognize Simon Awa for his wise words. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Recognition of visitors in the Gallery. I too would like to recognize Paul Quassa who now works for the media. If he did not sign the Ratification Agreement we would not be here, so I would like to recognize Paul Quassa and all the other people who have not been recognized, I would like to recognize all the visitors in the Gallery. Thank you.

Going back to our orders of the day # 6, Oral Questions.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Speaker (interpretation): Oral questions, Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 6 - 1 (2): Inuktitut Documentation

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker and to the Ministers and all the Members to the Legislative Assembly. I have a question to pose to all of you, some of us Members.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu would you please sit down, if you will be directing your questions, I think you should be directing your questions to the Government Leader, you cannot pose a question directed to all the members of the Legislative Assembly, but you may go ahead Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Thank you now I know better, I will direct this question to the Government Leader of Nunavut. For those of us who are Inuktitut unilingual speaking members and cannot read and write English. When we receive documents that have not been translated to Inuktitut, they usually hand us documents in English and it seems senseless for those of us who cannot read and write in English and we feel that this is very important. I would like to ask the leader when the government will be giving out documents in English, all the documents should be translated into Inuktitut so that we can have a good input. I understand that is self-explanatory. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Although this is an Oral question I would like Mr. Havioyak to respond.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Those documents that have not been translated, some of them are being worked on and we personally are working on them at this time. I will make sure that these documents are translated before they are given to the Members that speak only Inuktitut. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Question 7 - 1 (2): High Costs of Transportation

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The cost of living is very expensive today because we have to transport the goods by airfreight. If I were to order one snowmobile from Montreal to Hall Beach the freight would cost over \$2000.00. Or if you send goods by the post office it is very expensive too, because it's almost twice as much to send something through the post office. Mr. Speaker I would like to ask our Premier if he will be looking into this issue. Thank you.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Premier if you would like to respond it is totally up to your discretion. I think this question could be posed to a few Ministers, either to the Minister responsible for Transportation, or Mr. Ng. Would you like to respond.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, we know that our government does have several subsidies that we provide to our constituents. I cite the example of the power subsidy, POL subsidy, we haven't looked at any more specific things that aren't currently in existing programs but it certainly is an issue and you know that we will continue to take a look at that. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Do you have any other questions? No. Oral questions? Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 8 - 1 (2): Letter To Minister on Challenged Constituent

Mr. Puqiqnak: (Interpretation) Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Education. I wrote a letter to you Mr. Minister, I am sure you have received the letter I have sent you, dated April 3. There was a person who died in my community on that date who had adopted. That person is an adult now, twenty four years old, deaf and mute. Since he is deaf and mute I think he really missed his adoptive parents, especially his father. He was acting differently after the father died. We spoke to the step-mother and we spoke to that person who is adopted as to how he or she wants to be educated. That person wants to go to school and he or she felt he or she would feel much better after leaving the community. I would like to ask the Minister, what his position is in regards to the letter I sent him. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (Interpretation) Thank you, before the Minister replies, I would like to elaborate that you don't have to make reasons for your questions, you can ask your questions directly. Minister Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk: (Interpretation) Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes I have received the letter. Yes in regards to his comment or his question, he stated that he wanted to go to school in Yellowknife, not within Nunavut, however I cannot respond to you and therefore I have asked if our department can look into it. Through the Department or Arctic College we would look for ways as to how we can give them support or as to how we can finance his education because he is deaf and mute and he wants to go to school in Yellowknife. So I have asked my staff to look into this, I have not received a response

from my department to date, because we have been quite busy with this second sitting of the House. Once I find out I will reply to his question as soon as possible. Thank you.

Speaker: (Interpretation) Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. We are still on oral questions, Mr. O'Brien.

Question 9 - 1 (2): Discontinuing Payroll Tax

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Finance and F.M.B.S. Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if the Minister has given any consideration to discontinuing the one percent payroll tax that has been in existence for a number of years, given the fact that we are now into Nunavut which has a much smaller number of dollars to collect. Thank you.

Hon. Kelvin Ng. Thank you Mr. Speaker, I cannot answer that question at this time. The issue of the taxation within Nunavut will be addressed in the budget speech tomorrow. Thank you.

Speaker: You should ask that question probably after the address of the Minister of Finance on the budget. (Interpretation) Thank you. We are still on oral questions. Item six. Mr. Alakannuark.

Question 10 - 1 (2): Traditional Curriculum

Mr. Alakannuark (Interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to address this question to the Minister of Education. Yes I really appreciate the fact that our children have a chance to go to school in academics. I was wondering what you are going to be doing about traditional education because there are many students up there who require traditional instruction. For those of us who are at this age we learned all these things from our parents, but now that our children are in school, I was wondering what you are going to be doing in regards to traditional curriculum. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk: (Interpretation) Mr. Speaker, his question, I can answer his question and it would probably take all day to answer his question. The response would be quite lengthy, perhaps if my friend can tell me what he is talking about in detail. Are you talking about Inuktitut curriculum, traditional on the land, or Inuktitut language instruction. Perhaps if you could be more specific.

Speaker: (Interpretation) Mr. Arvaluk, Thank you. Could you rephrase your question Mr. Alakannuark?

Mr. Alakannuark (Interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I was thinking more when I said Inuktitut curriculum, of survival out on the land and how to go hunting and how you survive out on the land especially in winter time. Also making traditional clothing such as caribou clothing. In the past we used to utilize the traditional clothing more, but

now it is not being used today and many young people are freezing to death, so that's my question. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk: (Interpretation) Thank you Mr. Speaker. We've only been a government for just a little over forty days but we've already been discussing how the previous government was within Nunavut. I met with the Baffin Divisional Board of Education last night, to discuss this matter, or to discuss this issue. We are committed to working on curriculum that could reflect the Inuit culture, to utilize the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, whether it be in school, or whether it be technical. I am requesting support on Inuit knowledge, traditional knowledge to utilize these, how you survive on the land, but this will require a lot of preparation. Usually the system was such that each community was making their own educational curriculum in the community themselves without consulting with the other communities. So for all these reasons, we will have to work together along with the members of the Legislative Assembly and the communities to find out the best ways to be instructing the students on how to survive on the land.

Speaker: (Interpretation) Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Do you still have questions Mr. Alakannuark? No? Mr. Kattuk, Member for Hudson Bay.

Question 11 - 1 (2): Disputed Islands in Hudson Bay

Mr. Kattuk (Interpretation) Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask this question about the disputed islands. I would like to direct this question to the Government Leader. In the past we used to talk about the islands on the Hudson Bay with the Nunavik people. To date we are still, we still have a dispute on the islands. The community of Sanikiluaq is quite concerned about this because Sanikiluaq is adjacent to the islands that are in dispute. We are wondering if the community of Sanikiluaq will be involved.

Speaker: (Interpretation) The question is posed to the Premier. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik : Thank you Mr. Speaker. Next week my staff will be meeting with officials of the Federal Government to discuss what is going to be happening to the islands in James Bay and they will be meeting with the Cree of Northern Quebec. They are just going to be identifying the issues and concerns at that meeting and this will not be an official negotiation, but if there is going to be actual negotiations the nearest communities will be involved in the discussions. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker; (Interpretation) Thank you Mr. Premier. Mr. Kattuk do you have a supplementary? Thank you, questions? Mr. Irqittuq?

Question 12 - 1 (2): Hall Beach School Addition

Mr. Irqittuq: (Interpretation) Thank you Mr. Speaker. This is directed to the Minister of Education. In the community of Hall Beach, there is supposed to be a school addition built this year, the specifications were completed or so I thought but in the capital plans,

that project has been delayed. He may not be aware but I would like to ask him what has happened to the funds that have been slated for our school? Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (Interpretation) Thank you Mr. Irqittuq: I don't think you can ask for detail about how the money was spent that caused your addition to be delayed. Mr. Arvaluk it is up to you.

Hon. James Arvaluk: (Interpretation) Yes, thank you Mr. Speaker. I don't know why that was delayed or if funds were used for something else so I will take the question as notice.

Speaker: (Interpretation) Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. He will find out more details about your question and will answer you later on. I am sorry you cannot ask your supplementary question because he hasn't had a chance to look into your question. Oral questions? Oral questions? Mr. O'Brien.

Question 13 - 1 (2): Internet Connections for Communities

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is directed to the Minister responsible for D.P.W., Communications, and relates to internet hook ups. I wonder if the Minister could tell the House what the status of the various hook ups for the internet are throughout the communities of Nunavut. Where it stands to date.

Speaker: (Interpretation) Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister Thompson?

Hon. Maniok Thompson (Interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The telecommunications in Nunavut are still being worked on with the three main communities of Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay being concentrated on. Right after that there will be eleven communities that will be linked, but this is very new so we are working slowly towards getting everybody linked up to this communication system. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (Interpretation) Thank you Minister Thompson. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister could provide the House with a time table as to when the smaller communities, it is fine to hear that here in Iqaluit and Rankin and so on, the main centres will be hooked up, a time table as to when the smaller communities will be hooked up. I know that she may not have that available now but when it is available can the House have that?

Speaker: (Interpretation) Thank you. Mr. O'Brien. It is difficult to predict the future, but if you want to respond you may do so, Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: (Interpretation) Thank you Mr. Speaker we are only 40 days old as a Government and we will be addressing these very issues but you will have to be patient. We are not going to forget our smaller communities however, and I will ask my officials to write the timetable up and provide the House with copies of that.

Speaker: (Interpretation) Thank you Minister Thompson. Oral questions? Oral questions, Mr. Puqiqnak?

Question 14 - 1 (2): Letter on Adoption to Minister

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. This is directed to the Minister of Social Services. He is not present but I will direct this question to the Premier. I wrote a letter to the Minister regarding one of the communities in my constituency about adoption. I wonder if he was aware of that adopted person in one of my communities. Thank you.

Speaker: (Interpretation) I would like to remind you that we are only forty days old. I would like to clarify for you that you cannot ask a question of a Minister who is absent from the House, but it is up to the Premier if he wishes to respond on his behalf.

Hon. Paul Okalik: (Interpretation) Thank you Mr. Speaker. The Minister is absent from the House right now so I am unable to respond to that question at this time. I am sure that the question has been noted and I will pass it on to the Minister, the appropriate Minister. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. I wish to remind members that when Ministers are absent from the House we cannot ask them a question, or if he is not sitting in his chair in the House you cannot ask him that question because the Minister cannot respond when he is not in the House. Oral questions? Oral questions? Oral questions?

Since there are no oral questions we will go on to Item 7. Written Questions. Written Questions. Item 8. Replies to written questions? Item 9 Replies to Opening Address. Item 10 Petitions. Item 11 Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12 Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13 Tabling of Documents. Item 14 Notices of Motion. Item 15, Notices of Motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, Motions. Item 17 First Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Item 19, Other Matters. Item 20, Report of Committee of the whole. Item 21 Third reading of Bills. Item 22 – Orders of the Day. Deputy Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Deputy Clerk (interpretation): Regular committee meetings at nine o'clock in the morning. Orders of the Day for Friday, May 14, 1999 at 10:00 am.

1. Prayer
2. Budget Address
3. Ministers' Statements
4. Members' Statements

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

Speaker. (interpretation): Thank you Deputy Clerk. The House sits adjourned until Friday May 14/99 at 10:00 am.

>>House Adjourned at 2.28 pm.

