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Speaker: The Honourable James Arreak, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker Hon. James Arreak

(Uqqummiut)

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(Iqaluit East)
Premier; Minister of Executive
and Intergovernmental Affairs;
Minister responsible for the Status
of Women; Minister responsible
for Immigration

James Arvaluk (Tununiq)

Moses Aupaluktuq (Baker Lake)

Hon. Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)
Minister of Health and Social
Services; Minister responsible for
the Workers' Safety and
Compensation Commission;
Minister responsible for the Utility
Rates Review Council

Ron Elliott

(Quttiktuq)

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(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

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(Akulliq)

Johnny Ningeongan

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Paul Okalik

(Iqaluit West)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Enuk Pauloosie

(Nattilik)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay) Minister of Finance, Chair, Financial Management Board; Minister of Justice

Allan Rumbolt

(Hudson Bay)

Fred Schell

(South Baffin)

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk

(Arviat)

Minister of Environment; Minister of Human Resources; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Languages; Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

Hon. Peter Taptuna

(Kugluktuk)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation

Hon. Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)
Minister responsible for the Nunavut
Housing Corporation; Minister
responsible for the Qulliq Energy
Corporation; Minister responsible for
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Iqaluit, Nunavut Friday, March 20, 2009

Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Honourable Tagak Curley, Mr. Ron Elliott, Mr. Adamee Komoartok, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. John Ningark, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, Mr. Paul Okalik, Mr. Enuk Pauloosie, Honourable Keith Peterson, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Fred Schell, Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. James Arreak) (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed, I would like to ask Mr. Shewchuk to say the opening prayer. Mr. Shewchuk.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Kusugak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 021 – 3(1): Reduction in the Price of Gasoline

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. I'm enjoying the beautiful morning we're having. Tomorrow is supposed to be the first day of spring. I hope that the weather in Rankin Inlet starts warming up tomorrow.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated previously, the Department of Community and Government Services' Petroleum Products Division was able to complete a purchase of fuel at a reduced price through a pre-purchase program.

As we are all aware, saving money at the gas pump allows Nunavummiut to put their money toward a healthy traditional lifestyle and helps stimulate our local economy.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce a significant reduction of ten cents per litre in the retail price of gasoline...

>>Applause

Thank you. And the price of gasoline will be reduced by ten cents per litre effective tomorrow.

The government will continue to monitor the price of fuels and we will review the status of other fuel products once estimates are completed around June. Again, the price change is effective as of March 21. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I'm pretty sure that all Nunavummiut thank you as well. Ministers' Statements. Minister Peterson.

Minister's Statement 022 – 3(1): Homeowner Fuel Rebate

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure how I could top that great news on a Friday morning but I'm going to try.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce a new one-time fuel rebate of \$400 for all homeowners across Nunavut.

>>Applause

This rebate will help ease the cost of living and provide homeowners with more disposable income to spend on our economy.

Last year, the government purchased its annual fuel resupply near the peak of oil prices, close to \$150 per barrel. At the time, the previous government had to increase Nunavut's price of fuel to cover the costs created by the fluctuation in the market.

Mr. Speaker, homeowners were directly impacted by the considerable increase of heating fuel and gasoline. With the recent drop in prices, the Petroleum Products Division of CGS will be taking advantage of low prices and our government is immediately passing those savings on to homeowners in Nunavut.

This \$400 rebate will be application-based. Department of Finance staff is currently finalizing the application form and procedures. My department will notify all members regarding the application forms and ensure that all Nunavummiut have easy access to the application for this \$400 rebate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Any further good news items from the ministers?

>>Laughter

Madam Premier.

Minister's Statement 023 – 3(1): Countdown to Nunavut's Tenth Anniversary

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, I want to state that we all know this year will be Nunavut's 10th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues and Nunavummiut about an exciting upcoming event. The government and the territory of Nunavut were formally created on April 1, 1999. This Legislative Assembly, elected by residents of Nunavut, was established with legislative powers over many key areas that we discuss on a daily basis in this Chamber. Together, we now have control over our future in key areas like health, education, the administration of justice, and wildlife management. The creation of our government fulfilled a key obligation under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and is an important landmark in Canada's constitutional history and nation building exercise.

Mr. Speaker, April 1, 2009 marks our territory's 10th anniversary. Activities are planned on that day across our territory. Earlier this month, the Minister of Community and Government Services announced a \$5,000 grant for each hamlet to go towards celebrating this significant occasion. The Department of Education also contributed a \$2,500 grant to each district education authority to allow our schools to celebrate this momentous day. Every Nunavut community will find a way to celebrate this historic occasion in its own way.

Mr. Speaker, I will be going to Pond Inlet later today with the Member for Tununiq, the Hon. Member for Kugluktuk, and the Hon. Member for Arviat to start the countdown to the 10th anniversary and celebrate our achievements. We will be sharing a feast of traditional foods with the community of Pond Inlet and with youth from across the territory that are taking part in a volleyball tournament.

Mr. Speaker, the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* was and still is Canada's largest land claims agreement. The road to Nunavut was achieved through the persistence and sacrifices of many Inuit. On July 9, 1993, the agreement came into force, making it a law of Canada. For this reason, we celebrate July 9 every year as Nunavut Day. Nunavummiut will find opportunity throughout this entire year to celebrate our collective achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude my statement by encouraging all Nunavummiut to celebrate Nunavut's 10th anniversary this year. We are going to Pond Inlet to kick-off the celebrations. We would like to go to other communities but we are unable to do so due to financial restraints. As we committed at our Cabinet Retreat, we will visit communities throughout the territory and the 10th anniversary of our wonderful territory will be a year-long celebration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister Curley.

Minister's Statement 024 – 3(1): Home & Community Care Worker Recognition Day

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my colleagues and to the residents of Rankin Inlet and my family watching the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that on this coming Sunday, March 22, is Home & Community Care Worker Recognition Day. This day is for the workers who look after disabled people or the elderly that cannot go to the health centre. This is a special day that recognizes our home and community care workers and the important work they do in communities. Some of these workers have been providing their services and have resided in our communities for a long period of time.

Home care encompasses an array of services, including nursing care, respite care, palliative care, case management, rehabilitation services, homemaking, advanced foot care, and personal care. The service is provided to people with disabilities, perhaps even those who are unable to walk, chronic or acute illnesses of all ages in their own home and community. We would like to recognize these individuals for their services on this day.

Home and community care workers assist families in caring for people but does not take responsibility from the family or community. The goal of the program is to augment the services normally provided by a family and to allow Nunavutmiut to live as independently as possible with a better quality of life at home in their

community rather than a facility. People with chronic or acute illnesses need to be provided with proper care as we can't house all these services in our existing facilities.

Mr. Speaker, there are approximately 87 home and community care workers that help us provide care to approximately 1,075 Nunavutmiut across our territory.

I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to recognize the home and community care workers across Nunavut this Sunday and to acknowledge the important work they do, such as cleaning and other services that we wouldn't be able to provide, to improve the quality of life for Nunavutmiut with disabilities, chronic or acute illnesses. I wanted to extend my gratitude, so I made a statement on this special day. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister Tootoo.

Minister's Statement 025 – 3(1): Closure of Nunavut Energy Centre as Part of the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform my hon. colleagues that the Nunavut Energy Centre, which has been part of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, will be closed on March 31, 2009. Programs and services currently offered will be taken up by other elements of the Government of Nunavut who are now delivering energy programs.

Mr. Speaker, when the Nunavut Energy Centre began, there was little in the way of programs to encourage energy conservation within Nunavut. The board of directors approved interim funding in 2005 on the understanding that other resources would be forthcoming to assist the centre in becoming self-sufficient. Changes to federal programs meant that the anticipated funding sources are no longer available.

Mr. Speaker, as there are now departments and agencies of the Government of Nunavut that are offering energy conservation programs and services, the board of directors felt that the activities would be best located within the government and directed that no corporate funds are to be used for the Nunavut Energy Centre after March 31, 2009.

Mr. Speaker, Qulliq Energy will continue to be actively involved in energy conservation and look forward to working with other agencies in delivering services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister Taptuna.

Minister's Statement 026 – 3(1): Location of the Headquarters for the Government of Canada's New Northern Economic Development Agency

Hon. Peter Taptuna: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. Members of this House will have heard of the new Northern Economic Development Agency proposed by the Government of Canada

as part of the federal budget announcement on January 27 of this year. Members may also be aware that it is proposed that the headquarters for the new agency will be located in one of the territories.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to inform this House that the government has responded very positively and constructively to this federal announcement. The three territorial Premiers have together written to the Prime Minister to express their support for the new agency and to provide the Government of Canada with a joint position on the mandate, principles and objectives that must guide its formation.

In addition, on February 19, 2009, I wrote to Minister Strahl, the Minister of Indian Northern Affairs, whose department is responsible for establishing the new Economic Development Agency. I have proposed a meeting with Minister Strahl to discuss the formation of the new agency. I have pointed out that the territorial governments are anxious to participate as full partners in the design of the new agency and its programming.

We expect to see the new agency emerge, in time, as an independent body with the same status as regional development agencies in other parts of Canada, with a dedicated investment fund to support economic development in Nunavut and the other territories.

Mr. Speaker, I have also informed the federal minister that Nunavut believes the headquarters for the new agency should be located here in Iqaluit.

>>Applause

We take this position, Mr. Speaker, because we regard Iqaluit as a gateway to the new North and because we believe that every one of the territories will be better served by having their headquarters for the regional development agency located here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, the announcement of the new economic development agency signals a new era in federal-territorial cooperation in economic development. And this announcement has brought about renewed cooperation between the territorial governments as we work together to ensure the new agency truly meets our needs.

I look forward to reporting to the House on our progress in the coming months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 046 – 3(1): Good News Coming from Cabinet

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Today being Funny Friday, I thought I'd rise.

(interpretation) I would just like to state that I was distraught due to my team being defeated quite easily last night and I was feeling kind of down this morning. At least our ministers have finally responded to our requests, so that made me happier.

>>Applause

At least now, I can empathize with the Toronto fans since their team continually loses and that seems to be the case every year. It seems my life is missing a spark when I have suffered through another loss, especially by a lesser team. I now understand how difficult it must be to watch your team defeated regularly and the Toronto fans probably go through that a lot.

I am a Montreal Canadiens fan and our team will be playing against Toronto tomorrow. If there are any Toronto fans in this House, I would like to make a bet with them because it will be a serious game that way.

I would like to thank the ministers for responding to our requests to look at decreasing the price of fuel and this day has become a great day for Nunavummiut. I celebrate with my fellow Nunavummiut. Have a very nice day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Member's Statement 047 - 3(1): In Support of Democracy

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to say how proud and honoured I am to be here to represent my constituents of Baker Lake. As one of the rookie Members of the Legislative

Assembly team, I know that I have a lot to learn. I am very fortunate to be in the company of colleagues who have much to share with me in terms of experience and game plans.

Mr. Speaker, I believe strongly in the spirit and principles of democracy. As lawmakers, we will work together to make and amend laws. As leaders, we will work together to set direction for the future. Cabinet ministers have the difficult job of revising and implementing their departmental plans and policies. As regular members, we have the important responsibility of scrutinizing, questioning, and making suggestions that hopefully will improve the way our government operates and delivers services to all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a part of this team. Together, I believe we will work hard to make Nunavut a winning territory. It's an honour to be here to represent all of Nunavut, specifically my constituents of Baker Lake. (interpretation) Thank you very much.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Member's Statement 048 – 3(1): Representing Sanikiluaq and Nunavut

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that all of Nunavut is proud today of the good news that we're getting from our colleagues across the table. I would like to issue them a challenge that every Friday, we get some sort of good news from them.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make it clear that I am here in this House to do my best to represent my constituents in the community of Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Sanikiluaq is unique in Nunavut. It is unique because of its geographic location, because of its dialect, and because of its people. At the same time, the residents of Sanikiluaq are very proud to be a part of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I too am very proud to be one of the 19 Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. I believe that my constituents know that while I am working on their behalf, I am also working on the behalf of all Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad for the opportunity to join my voice to the other voices in this House on issues, such as the sealing issue that I spoke about yesterday, in order to make Nunavut's voice stronger as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I would again like to thank my constituents and the other Members of this Legislative Assembly for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Nattilik, Mr. Pauloosie.

Member's Statement 049 – 3(1): Challenges of Representing Two Communities

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) First of all, I would like

to send my greetings to the residents of Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven that are watching these proceedings on television.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the challenges of representing two communities in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, a number of Members of the Legislative Assembly represent constituencies that include two or more communities. In my case, I represent the communities of Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak.

Mr. Speaker, although I live in Gjoa Haven, I also consider Taloyoak to be my home. As the MLA for Nattilik, I intend to speak on behalf of both communities during my time in the Legislative Assembly. I invite residents in both communities to contact me at any time with their concerns.

Mr. Speaker, the challenge of representing two or more communities is one that many of us share. However, I believe that this challenge will also help us to keep a Nunavut-wide perspective in mind when we do our work in this Legislative Assembly. I look forward to working with all members on both sides of the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Arvaluk.

Member's Statement 050 – 3(1): Working Together for a Stronger Nunavut

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want it noted that Edmonton won last night 8-1.

>>Applause

On behalf of my constituents in Pond Inlet, our community welcomes the Premier, Deputy Premier, and Minister Shewchuk with open arms and they are already aware of this upcoming visit.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer some thoughts and reflections as we approach the end of our first major sitting since being elected to the Third Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the recent election of our colleague from Akulliq has completed the membership of this Assembly. Mr. Ningark and his old nickname was Charles Bronson, welcome to the House.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

>>Applause

I believe that it is now appropriate to make some comments on the direction in which we are heading as the Third Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

As I look around this Chamber, I see an inspiring diversity of perspectives and perspectives. They are from all over; they have different experiences, they have done their share of work in bettering their communities, and some of whom were involved in the creation of Nunavut. We have the inaugural President of ITC, Mr. Tagak Curley, and

also a past President of NAM. They have contributed a lot to Nunavut. Some of these very experienced people are rookie MLAs but none of them are clumsy in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I have served on both sides of the House and I speak from personal experience when I say that there are rewards and frustrations no matter where you sit.

We all know that we live in challenging times.

Speaker (interpretation): I'm sorry, Mr. Arvaluk, your time is up. You must ask for unanimous consent to conclude your statement. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This seems rather short, perhaps the clock speeds up when I talk, so I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Just speed up your speech. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We all know that we live in challenging times. The economy is in crisis and we cannot allow our scarce resources to go to waste.

I believe that we need to work together as ministers and as regular members. I realize that as being the Chairman of the Regular Members' Caucus, that it is very important to every single one us. We cannot afford the luxury of putting politics above progress. We cannot let our constituents down by emphasizing matters of personality above issues of substance. We should not seek confrontation when we have the opportunity to achieve consensus.

Mr. Speaker, it is a given that we need to hold the government to account. For example, I will not rest until the needs of Pond Inlet have been met, including the need for a new arena, and I will continue to stress to the GN to pressure the federal government for the small craft harbour needs of Nunavummiut.

However, I will do my best to work cooperatively with all Members of the House in these matters and I look forward to all members doing the same. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

Member's Statement 051 - 3(1): Importance of Tolerance

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. About 20 years ago, a much younger man, who had a lot more hair than he does today, came north. During his two decades in the North, he built a career, made friends, served his community, fell in love and had a child.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, that man was me and I want to speak very frankly today about the importance of tolerance and the need to reject racism.

Mr. Speaker, my wife is Inuk and my child is a beneficiary. Like any family, we have had our challenges, difficulties and joys.

When I was elected to this Legislative Assembly, it felt a little bit like I was joining a much larger family. However, I believe that we need to come together and firmly reject any notion that racism or intolerance is acceptable in this House or this territory.

Mr. Speaker, one definition of racism that I have seen describes it as a "belief or doctrine that inherent difference among different human races determining that their culture or individual achievement, usually involving the idea that one's own race is superior and has the right to rule others." Mr. Speaker, I am ashamed that I felt the need this week to look up such a distasteful and despicable word.

We have all been elected to this Legislative Assembly to be leaders and role models for such values as compassion, tolerance, respect and wisdom. I do not believe that we have measured up well in this regard during the last few days.

Mr. Speaker, we have both Inuit and non-Inuit members in this House. As MLAs, we have a duty to represent all of our constituents, regardless of their race, gender or other characteristics.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we need to come together and learn from our past mistakes and move forward to do the job that we were elected to do. We have wasted enough of our time and our constituents' time with petty posturing and personal agendas.

Mr. Speaker, the House will be reconvening on Monday. Let's move forward together and get to work on making our home a better place for our children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I will be frank: any one of us who has a different agenda should simply do the honourable thing - resign and let the rest of us do the job that our constituents sent us here to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Taptuna.

Member's Statement 052 – 3(1): Gary Kennedy Awarded Outstanding Principal Award

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate one of my constituents, Gary Kennedy. Gary is a principal at the Kugluktuk High School and recently, he was announced as the recipient of a prestigious award, the Outstanding Principal Award.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honour indeed because getting this award means that a distinguished group of Canadian educators and Canadian private sector leaders judge Mr. Kennedy as having outstanding characteristics.

Mr. Speaker, some of these characteristics include forming close partnerships between the high school, parents, and the community, initiating change, implementing innovation and techniques that result in improved student achievements.

Mr. Speaker, Canada's principals help young people to prepare for the future. It is crucial that we recognize their efforts, like Mr. Kennedy, whose talents and accomplishments help to ensure that our young territory's youth are ready to face the challenges of tomorrow and the years to come.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, strong leadership is what makes our schools successful.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

And Mr. Kennedy, through this proven leadership, has made Kugluktuk High School a great place for learning for the students of Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

Member's Statement 053 – 3(1): Building Strength through Consensus

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleagues and the people of Pangnirtung. I thank those who voted for me.

The announcements made by the Ministers of CGS and Finance are good news stories to Nunavummiut. When the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation rose today, I expected a statement about a reduction in our energy costs and a corresponding decrease in our electrical bills, but hopefully we will see it some day.

(interpretation ends) *Uqaqtii*, I rise today to express my hope that this Legislative Assembly can work together for the betterment of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut operates by consensus. We do not have a party system where we have to follow what other people in that party have decided is the right way to go. We do not have to argue against a budget or a law because the policy of the party is against it.

Mr. Speaker, as Members of the Legislative Assembly, each of us is very fortunate in that we can consult with our constituents, the residents of our own communities, to get their advice and opinions as we make up our own minds on what to support or what to reject. When we come together in this Assembly, we can, each of us, speak our minds on the issues of the day.

Mr. Speaker, by working together in consensus, we can be sure to consider as many possible options and opinions as possible. In this way, together we can come to the best solution.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues in this House to make the best decisions for Nunavut and Nunavummiut, (interpretation) as well as for each of (interpretation ends) our constituencies. I strongly want to say that I support the government that we have picked and they have my full confidence. Thank you, *Uqaqti*.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

Member's Statement 054 – 3(1): Successful Southampton Island Caribou Harvest

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform members of this year's successful caribou harvest near Coral Harbour. Over 840 caribou were harvested this year. This activity generated short-term employment for a significant number of my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I want to share with you my feelings when I see young people taking part in this harvest. When I see a young person contributing to the community, it is a positive feeling. You can see the difference on a person's face when he or she is working as opposed to when they are forced to apply for social assistance or income support.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker, the harvest also brings benefits to our neighbours in Rankin Inlet as a significant portion of the harvest is processed at the Kivalliq Arctic Foods Meat Plant.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a strong advocate for many years on the issue of economic development for Coral Harbour and the Kivalliq as a whole. I believe that by working together, we can identify opportunities to move forward to greater self-sufficiency. For example, the concept of a meat plant near Coral Harbour has been one of my long-standing goals and I look forward to pursuing it.

Mr. Speaker, we'll never arrive at our destination if we're pulling in different directions. While I recognize that each of us has the responsibility of advocating

for the needs of our different constituencies, we must also seek common ground between us.

For my part, I look forward to working with all Members of this Legislative Assembly regardless of where they sit. For example, my colleague from Tununiq used to work closely with me when he was active with the Coral Harbour HTO. My colleague from Cambridge Bay and I have a lot of experience together from our time with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities.

Mr. Speaker, we may now have new positions but we share a common goal – a stronger, more united Nunavut. It is in this spirit that I will approach my work in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Member's Statement 055 – 3(1): Reflections on Returning to Public Office

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I fought for six months to be here, it's so good to see you.

>>Laughter

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on my first week back in public office.

Mr. Speaker, this week has felt like returning home. As you know, there are a number of Members of our Legislative Assembly who share the experience of having also served in the territorial legislature prior to division. It is good to be working with them again and it is good to be working with new members as well. I want to again thank my colleagues for the welcome and courtesy that they have extended to me.

Mr. Speaker, our unique approach to government is based on achieving consensus and making decisions in the best interest of our constituents. Our non-partisan structure helps to ensure that the government is held to account for its decisions.

During my time in public office, I have had the opportunity to observe many other forms and styles of government. I believe that our consensus approach is well-suited to our unique circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, over the past several years, I have had the honour of serving on a number of boards that are appointed by the government. This recent experience has helped me to strengthen my awareness of the challenges faced by communities across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, no system is perfect. Neither am I. I've been around long enough to learn that lesson very well.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. Thank you.

However, in our case, the system can be as strong as we want it to be. If we work together to achieve common priorities, we will demonstrate to our constituents that their trust in us has been well-placed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Member's Statement 056 – 3(1): Learning to Lead Together

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can relate to Mr. Pauloosie's comments. Representing two communities is difficult and adding a third, it presents many challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to do one of the most pleasant tasks that, as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I can do, which is to recognize some of the wonderful achievements of my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I was elected to represent my constituents, who make up a part of the territory of Nunavut. Their accomplishments not only make their own communities proud, but make Nunavut proud as a whole.

As their representative, I am honoured to be able to acknowledge them and to recognize them in this place. Being a Member of this Legislative Assembly is not my personal accomplishment, it is a role that I have taken on, on behalf of my fellow Nunavummiut. Together, we Members of the Legislative Assembly have all taken on a similar role and by working together we represent a truly unique population.

Mr. Speaker, of the 54 Nunavummiut that took part in the Canadian Rangers training program that was recently held here in Iqaluit, residents from both Resolute Bay and Arctic Bay graduated. They were Matthew Akikuluk, Solomon Oyukuluk, Mavis Barnabas, Mike Qaunaq, Matthew Taqtu, Darren Enoogoo, James Hunter, and Samson Ejanguq as their Ranger Sergeant.

The Canadian Rangers program plays an important role in the federal government's arctic sovereignty policy and I am sure my colleagues share my pride in their achievements.

Mr. Speaker, with the support of Sport Nunavut, we had youth hockey teams travel to Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit for the territorial championships. Our youth basketball team also travelled to Iqaluit this past weekend to participate in fun and friendly competition. It is very encouraging to see so many teams participate in these sports and I would like to acknowledge the time and effort put in by their coaches, Nick Cameron, O.J. Tasse, and Matthew Akikuluk.

Mr. Speaker, the Northern Youth Abroad Program is an amazing program that allows our students to earn credits towards their grade 12 graduation certificate. It also allows them to travel across Canada as well as internationally. We have two youths from Resolute Bay participating in the Canadian phase this year and one youth from Arctic Bay participating in the international phase. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to continue with my Member's Statement. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are not. Please proceed, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I congratulate these youth, Valerie Amarualik, Uluriak Amarualik, and Don Oyukuluk, for their participation in this program.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the two students from Grise Fiord who just returned home from the Antarctic as part of the Students on Ice program. They are Terry Noah and Jason Qaapik.

Mr., Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals on their achievements. And I ask that we congratulate each other on having the opportunity to represent all of the individuals in our constituencies who share their successes with us, whether it's a squeaker, as in my riding, as the Hon. Member for Iqaluit West pointed out, or whether it's a landslide, as he took. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Mr. Kusugak.

Member's Statement 057 – 3(1): Travel to Constituency

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I also suffered through the same defeat as I was watching the hockey game in my room that Mr. Okalik was watching. I think there will be an improvement in their performance before the end of spring; I would love to just give them wins.

I would like to inform the riding of Whale Cove that I have been in Iqaluit for quite a while to prepare for the sitting of the Legislative Assembly. I wish to let them know beforehand that after this session and once we catch up with our work, I will be going to Whale Cove. I will be going to visit Mr. Paul Okalik's *Avvak*, George Okalik, for a meal and that will be a happy visit.

While I'm here, please feel free to call Manu at any time, Mr. Speaker. She knows where I can be reached, so let her know if you would like to direct your concerns or questions to me personally.

If there are people in Rankin Inlet South who would like to get a hold of me, Johnny One has a number where I can be reached. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Let's have a wonderful day.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 058 – 3(1): Apology on Behalf of Iqalummiut and Nunayummiut

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today as the Member for Iqaluit Centre, as a representative for Iqalummiut, to do something that unfortunately I think I need to do on behalf of Iqalummiut and that is to first off apologize to Nunavummiut.

I apologize in particular to the residents of Quttiktuq and the residents of Arviat for comments that were made here in these Chambers this past week. I want to assure them that the views expressed here in the House are not the views of all Iqalummiut and I apologize to them for that on behalf of Iqalummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I know that we all are here and we're all honoured and have the privilege of serving the people that put their trust in us to represent them. I respect the choice that every single riding and every single community has made in who they have selected to represent them.

I also respect, Mr. Speaker, the choice that all Members of this House have made in their selection of who they have entrusted to sit as Members of the Executive Council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Taptuna.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is March 20 and I would like to recognize my wife, who is sitting in the Gallery here, Joanne Taptuna.

>>Applause

She has kept me in tune with reality so that I take the garbage out and do the dishes, so I really appreciate her company here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

- >>Laughter
- >>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am honoured to rise today to recognize two of my constituents, Valerie Taqtu and Irene Willie. Irene Willie is actually my Constituency Assistant. She is down here on maternity leave, adding another member to her family. I'm honoured to have them both here. I'm giving her some time off; I won't make her work when she's actually down here. It's nice that she came.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an individual who is not in the Gallery. However, Mr. Speaker, he is in the Legislative Assembly Precinct. That individual is probably enjoying the proceedings as we're speaking and it's also his birthday today, so I would like to ask all members to join me in wishing

an individual that loves being in our Precinct, Mr. Alex Baldwin, a happy birthday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to recognize a person who was a fellow resident in Rankin Inlet and who will be returning soon, Ms. Debbie Baker. She is in the Gallery and I would like to acknowledge and welcome her here, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. If there are no more, (interpretation ends) Item 6. (interpretation) Oral Questions. If there are none... Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 044 – 3(1): Small Craft Harbours for Nunavut Communities

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I almost missed it. I want to raise a few questions I alluded to in my Member's Statement.

Just prior to the election, small craft harbours were identified for several communities. I am very happy for Pangnirtung as they will be getting their breakwater, but there are still six communities on that list that haven't

been allocated any funding to construct these breakwaters.

I would like to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation: when you were notified that Pangnirtung was the only one to receive funding, did you ask the federal government about the status of the other breakwaters that are critically needed? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that question, hon. member. The small craft harbours and breakwater marine facilities, of course, are critical to Nunavut's developing commercial fisheries, tourism operations, local boaters and hunters, and annual sealift resupplies.

The federal government's Department of Fisheries and Oceans are responsible for the small craft harbours. And of course, at this time, we are lobbying the federal government's DFO to include small craft harbours that we have identified in the Baffin, Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq, Clyde River, and Pond Inlet; and for the Kivalliq region, Repulse Bay and Chesterfield Inlet; in the Kitikmeot, Kugaaruk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. Pond Inlet residents have continually asked for this facility

because we've had people die due to not having a breakwater and pretty well every year, boats are lost.

When the minister arrives to our community tomorrow during the daytime, he will see that our ice is very rugged. Why? During the fall, the winds are very strong when the ice is forming. He will see that for himself.

This is my reasoning: just using Pangnirtung as an example, there are 20 people working throughout the year and they couldn't work for the government at the health centre or any other job but they work there. This can also be the case for Pond Inlet.

For that reason, I'm reiterating my question to the minister: has he received any correspondence from the federal government confirming that these breakwater projects will be built in these other communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned to the Hon. Member for Tununiq that we're continuing to lobby the federal government for funding which they're responsible for, we're going to continue to do that. Through our lobbying efforts, we're including other communities on the list for the hiring of federal people.

In your riding, I'm not too positive on that, but I can assure the member that I can get him that information as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your second supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even though we have a lot of arguments to back up the need for small craft harbours in Nunavut, we see that there are plenty of resources in Newfoundland and Labrador, in Alaska, even in Greenland. I believe that you need to put the federal government to shame by asking them, "How come north of 60 doesn't have anything?" Iqaluit is becoming quite large but they don't even have a port.

There are a lot of qualified people in Qikiqtarjuaq, Clyde River, Pond Inlet, and also in the Kivalliq who don't work for the government. They would become employees of the government if funding was identified for infrastructure such as small craft harbours. The federal government won't be missing any of that money and it would provide a form of income for the communities.

I would like to ask: have you compiled any arguments to present our case to the federal government as you stated that you're continuing to lobby them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the Member for Tununiq that we will look into that. Exactly what positions that he is referring to, I'm not sure, but we will have a look at the positions. I'm not sure exactly what the member means by people working for the federal

government or not. Can he please clarify that question? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Can you clarify your question, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's very obvious how much we spend on income support annually by this government, it is a horrendous amount. I think that a few years ago, it was already up \$22 million.

It's already been shown by the people of Pangnirtung that people who would not be normally working for the GN, health centre, RCMP, or the Department of Education work. Twenty people work on a full-time basis in fisheries. Just imagine how much you would create if most of the Nunavut communities that I mentioned would have these facilities, docking facilities and meat plants.

I am asking the minister if they have compiled at least the rationale or reasons why docking facilities throughout Nunavut is critical, is very much needed, not just for safety but for economic development too. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member is absolutely right about the number of people on income support. Pangnirtung is a good example of the harbour that they're getting. They're designing and planning it and that's why the federal government is funding that mid-inshore port and with that completed in the next couple of years, possibly three years, it should put all the people in Pangnirtung to work in

just fisheries alone at the fishery plant. So it is a good, positive initiative.

At this time, we're looking at getting more docks so that it would cut down on income support. We know that people out there, Nunavummiut, want to work within their communities and we're doing everything we can to ensure that the federal government knows about all of the issues that we face up here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that answer and I would encourage the ministers to start reviewing at least a feasibility study where offshore fisheries can be utilized. And I know from the studies that Pond Inlet and especially Milne Inlet have very high potential for turbot fishing throughout the winter. The Kivalliq, with the arctic char, etcetera, and lake trout, we haven't really marketed it.

As the Nunavut government, we have not been exploring what is economically viable for those will not be working for the government or (interpretation) what they call in English, (interpretation ends) other qualified positions. We have not really explored that. Will the minister undertake to determine what jobs are good for hunters and how they can be pursued? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a very good question from the Hon. Member of Tununiq. At the ED&T department, we tend to look

too much at non-decentralized communities. And of course, we have to pay attention to all the communities of Nunavut; anything that we can come up with in employing hunters, trappers, and possibly getting into commercial fisheries and other renewable resources and economic employment.

The amount of money that ED&T gets for looking at potential breakwaters and small craft harbours is a very small amount. Throughout our sessions and things, we're hoping to get that amount increased so we can actually do better designing and planning for some of these smaller communities and for all communities in Nunavut. And I hope that kind of satisfies your questioning there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

Question 045 - 3(1): Changing Rates

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation.

It is obvious and apparent this year that the price for fuel products will be decreasing. Our power generators use fuel, so our electrical bills are quite high and we have no choice but to pay for the additional fuel costs for running the generators. I'm wondering, since the price of fuel is decreasing, when we can expect to see a corresponding reduction in our power bills.

My question to the minister is: will the government be reviewing this matter to

look at reducing the electrical bills any time soon? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. I believe you are asking the (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I could just get a clarification from the member if it's directed to the Minister responsible for the Energy Corporation or the Minister responsible for Energy and the URRC. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Can you clarify who you're directing your question to, Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question directed to the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation is: will there be a reduction in the cost of energy and if so, when could Nunavummiut expect that to happen? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Please wait a moment. Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Let's give this one a try, (interpretation ends) Minister of Energy, Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not responsible for setting power rates. Maybe the Minister responsible for the URRC can provide a response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. I'll give it another shot. (interpretation ends) Minister

responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising that issue. I know, as the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, the corporation doesn't set the rates. The Qulliq Energy Corporation goes to the Utility Rate Review Council for approval of what the rates will be.

A General Rate Application has not been done for a considerable amount of time. The only changes that have been incorporated into the rates have been the Fuel Stabilization Riders that have been added on outside the rates to compensate for the cost of fuel to provide that power or provide the electricity and run the power plants and that.

I do anticipate that in the next year or two, the Qulliq Energy Corporation is planning on coming forward with a General Rate Application to look at exactly that type of thing. But again, that would be a request by the corporation for a change in the actual rates and I can't predetermine at this time whether it would be an increase or a decrease. But that request would be put to the Utility Rate Review Council to review and comment on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Rumbolt.

Question 046 – 3(1): \$2,500 Grant Deadline

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Education. Earlier, the Premier announced \$2,500 for district

education authorities to help celebrate the 10th anniversary of Nunavut.

It is my understanding that some schools may not be open on April 1. So for the benefit of Nunavut residents, I'm wondering if the minister can explain the timeframe in the spending of the \$2,500. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Education, Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleague. We will be celebrating the 10th anniversary in 2009 for the entire year. It's entirely up to the DEAs as to when they want to hold celebrations during the year 2009.

We have that funding available so that the schools and the DEAs can take part in the celebrations, but we haven't set a date. We haven't specified that it can only be used on April 1. It can be used any time this year, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. (interpretation) If there are no more, (interpretation ends) Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Ouestions. 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 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. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of

the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Ningeongan.

Motion 018 - 3(1): Early Adjournment

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 46, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for South Baffin, that the House adjourn for the day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried and we will proceed directly to Item 22.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that there is a meeting of the Management and Services Board this afternoon at half past one in the Tuktu Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 23:

- 1. Prayer
- 2. Ministers' Statements
- 3. Members' Statements
- 4. Returns to Oral Questions
- Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
- 6. Oral Questions
- 7. Written Questions
- 8. Returns to Written Questions
- 9. Replies to Opening Address

- 10. Petitions
- 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
 - Bill 1
- 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
- 21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 2
 - Bill 3
 - Bill 4
- 22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Monday, March 23, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House adjourned at 11:24