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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Akulliq)

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(Amittuq)
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(Arviat)
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(Hudson Bay)

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Iqaluit East)
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Hon. Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit West)
Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Donald Havioyak
(Kugluktuk)
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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. Manito Thompson
(Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove)
Minister of Public Works, Telecommunications and Technical Services

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Iqaluit, Nunavut

Friday May 21, 1999

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. O'Brien could you say the prayer please.

>>Prayer

Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Ministers' Statement 14 - 1 (2): Nunavut Governments' Commitment to Elders

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to share with you our Departments' commitment to help our Elders in Nunavut.

Elders are a very special group of people in our Inuit society. Our culture is a verbal one. We never had a writing system. Our knowledge about our culture and language is passed on through generations of Inuit, thousands of years ago. Our Elders are a walking history. Their knowledge is filled with Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun words that are unknown to our younger society. They are passed on to us through legends, spirituality, shamanism, and Inuit traditional songs or Phihiit. The Inuit ways must not be allowed to disappear. Uqartii, we must always remember the fact that, it is because of our Elders that we are here today.

We owe much to our Elders in Nunavut. We owe them for their compassion, love, guidance, caring, wisdom and knowledge. We have to make sure that we start to recognize them as our Professors. Uqartii, as a Minister responsible for our Elders, I am going to work to the best of my ability in promoting awareness for these Older Persons. I would like all of you to help me.

I would like to see these Elders take their rightful place once again in our everyday society in Nunavut, by being able to lead our Youth for the future.

Uqartii, in November 1998 , we gathered 26 Elders and 26 Youth in Iqaluktuuttiaq (Cambridge Bay) for the first time in our Nunavut history. If there was one thing we've established out of this important conference, it was better communication between our Elders and Youth. That is the way is used to be and that is what it must be today and in the future. Our Government is committed to continue this dialogue between these two groups. Our Department is committed to continue these annual conferences. We must place a high priority to our Elders.

Mr. Speaker, each time an Elder dies, he or she takes with them a whole lot of knowledge about Inuit/Inuinnaqtun culture and language. It is urgent that all of us in Nunavut begin to utilize these people. We need their help.

Our Government is committed to looking what ways of how we can better utilize our Elders. One of the recommendations that was made by the Iqaluktuuttiaq Conference was that a need to establish a Nunavut-wide Elders and Youth Council, which would represent the needs and interests of our Elders and Youth, in this ever changing society. Uqartii, I have asked my Department to look into the possibility of establishing this important initiative.

I have asked my department to start to assembly and collect the oral history of our Nunavut Elders and resources which document the history of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, much of this materials exists in different locations across the country and it is time to bring it home. Doing this is not a luxury - it is something we must do. Uqartii, I believe and I trust the members here will all share this belief - that our history and our culture is what makes us strong. It is what must be taught to our youth by Elders and in the education system, if our youth are to be proud, knowledgeable and informed about where we have come from. In this fashion, they will have a clearer vision of where we need to go.

Uqartii, ahiitlu Katimamajjuqatitka, I am proud to recognize the importance of my Department recording and developing the cultural and historical record on which our Nunavut Territory is based.

In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity in thanking all of our Elders in Nunavut for their hard work, contribution to our lives, wisdom, guidance and traditional knowledge. Let me be heard by the population of Nunavut, that our Government is committed to work towards a betterment of our Elders. We must make sure that we start to utilize them in promoting Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. That is the way it should be.

Quana, Uqartii.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Ministers' Statements. Orders of the Day, Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. O'Brien.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Members' Statement 49 - 1 (2): Importance of Decentralized Government

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker for over 25 years the people of the eastern Arctic have been planning and working toward the realization of having their own government. The dream of Nunavut holds many promises and benefits for its people. There are a number of items that have been incorporated into the governments plans and policies, one of which is the Inuit Qaujimanituqangit initiative, which would see the various government departments incorporate Inuit traditional knowledge and ways into the chemistry of each department.

Mr. Speaker, another, more far reaching and tangible concept is to have a decentralized government that would bring the government closer to the people which would provide many benefits such as real community empowerment, responsibility and much needed employment. Mr. Speaker for twenty some years the power of control rested far away from small Nunavut communities. That power base was Yellowknife and thus one of the reasons for this new government of Nunavut, a government closer to the people.

Mr. Speaker this brings me to my main point. The people in the smaller, less fortunate Hamlets of Nunavut have been promised a decentralized government. A government closer to the people. Mr. Speaker a decision not to have a decentralized government would be unfair, misleading and would create doubt in the real meaning of Nunavut.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, some people in this government may say we cannot afford a decentralized government. Mr. Speaker, I say we cannot afford not to have a decentralized government. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements, Mr. Picco.

Members' Statement 50 - 1 (2): Disorders of the Day, May 20

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, traditionally Fridays members make statements of a lighter or more humorous note. I am not able to do that today, as I have to speak to the serious concern that occurred yesterday in this house. Mr. Speaker, as indicated in Hansard, on our Orders of the Day, number 16, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills, and number 18, First Reading of Bills, are very similar, Mr. Speaker, very similar.

After several days of practice, rehearsal and method acting training...

A Member: ...didn't work

>>Laughter

Hon. Ed Picco: ...I was able to pull off a totally realistic portrayal of a Minister mistaken in the Orders of the Day. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, my portrayal was so realistic, Mr. Ng the House Leader, many of the members, the TV audience and, indeed the media, were fooled into thinking I didn't know the difference between number 16 and number 18.

>>Laughter

Mr. Speaker, later today I will be prepared to give acting lessons to the members, and I will also take this opportunity to thank the members for your help and consideration on the process. Mr. Speaker I will be picking up the Oscar on the break later today and I invite the members to attend with me. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements, Mr. Puqiqnak.

Members' Statement 51 - 1 (2): Payroll Deductions, Nunavut Teachers and Staff

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. As we are a new government we are going to be asking a lot of questions about what we should be doing. One of the questions that has been pointed out to me is that...(interpretation ends)...deductions which are going to the plans, like unemployment, Canada Pension Plan, retirement and so on. This was done by the Government of the Northwest Territories, federal government before Nunavut became a reality.

Mr. Speaker, the teachers would like to know if the pension plans are going to be transferred over to the Government of Nunavut or if the teachers are going to start paying all over again. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, these teachers are concerned about their seniority and starting all over again when they are transferred to the Nunavut Government. Some of those teachers have been in their positions for 10 years and some for 20 years. So they are concerned about losing out just because they have been transferred to the Nunavut Government. It would be good if the teachers in my constituency could be reassured that they are not going to lose out. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Members' Statement 52 - 1 (2): Congratulations on Success of Session

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Yes, thank you. First I am very proud that this has been a very successful session of the Legislative Assembly this week. I think that even though we have never really been involved in a Legislative Assembly, we should be proud of ourselves in the way we have conducted ourselves this week. Even though we did some stumbling, overall I think this week has been a good beginning and we should all be proud of ourselves in our success this week.

I think it shows among the members that they have a sense of humour, they are willing to learn from their mistakes, and I would like to congratulate all the members for this successful week.

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Members' Statement 53 - 1 (2): Safe Journey to Travelling Members

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker as one of the members that has not had to travel for this session and has had the luxury of being home with my family, I would like to wish all the rest of the members who will be leaving today a good journey home and that they enjoy the weekend with their families. Have a safe trip, Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Members' Statement 54 - 1 (2): Confusing Oil Smell

Hon. Manitek Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. On Fridays sometimes we like to make light hearted comments or statements. When we are coming in here to this meeting room we have to smell that oil. Sometimes we started talking about something, for example, Mr. Iqaqrialu, and I think Mr. Picco, because he was getting dizzy on the oil smell, I think that's why he was making mistakes yesterday. I hope that next week we'll come back with a clearer head.

>>Laughter, applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Members' Statement 55 - 1 (2): Success of Session, Thanks to Members

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Our meeting has been very good this week and today I can see a lot of things that I didn't see yesterday. I am a student now of this Legislative Assembly and I am getting younger. About this oil smell that has been suffocating us, I think my wife is going to be able to smell the oil when I get home and whenever I go outside I smell that. I would to thank everyone for an educational week and I think our future looks brighter than ever, especially for next week and I thank you for being able to take part in this exercise.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Members' Statement 56 - 1 (2): Learning from Mistakes

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Since I became a Member of the Legislative Assembly I still get these hot flashes and still get sweaty when I stand up to speak at the Legislative Assembly. I am very proud to say I am getting more comfortable and learning from the mistakes that we sometimes make. I would like to reassure my colleagues that we are allowed to make mistakes and we can learn from them. Also when we are listening to the news and there are negative comments through the media about our mistakes, we should not feel hurt, because we are a new government and this is the first Legislative Assembly of Nunavut and I think we need to be forgiven for our mistakes. Even when people say we are the opposition of the cabinet, we are all friends here.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Members' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Members' Statement 57 - 1 (2): Apologies to Constituents, Safe Journey to Travelling Members

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I stand up today to say that I envy the people that will be going home today. When I was first elected I used to think that my home community is nearby and I would be able to go home from time to time, but that was a misperception. Also to my constituents in Pangnirtung, I would like to apologize that I will not be able to go home on the weekend because of airline schedules. For those members who will be travelling home today, have a safe journey home.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Members' Statements. Back to the Orders of the Day. Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Picco.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**Return 5 - 1 (2): Question 48 - 1 (2) Consulting Contract, Department of Health**

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. O'Brien on May 18th on the Board transition implementation Co-ordinator. Mr. David Ramsden has been assigned to my department from the department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Mr. Ramsden is currently a doctoral student at Queen's University in Kingston Ontario, studying organizational design. He is a former Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services and a former Deputy Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs for the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Ramsden is actually with the department of the Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and they have assigned him several projects during the summer, including his work for my department. He is working closely with my Deputy Minister and the department. He is travelling to several communities to consult with managers and employees of the regional boards in order to develop a strong and comprehensive plan to

implement the amalgamation of the boards within the department. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ng.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I don't often have an opportunity to recognize people from Cambridge Bay but today I have in the gallery with us Mr. Albert Ehaloak from Cambridge Bay and I would also like to recognize in the interpreter booth, that has provided the Inuinnaqtun translation, Mr. John Komak of Cambridge Bay too.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Welcome to our session. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I don't believe we have recognized this person from Iqaluit. I remember way back in the 1970's when I first started working with CBC and prior to that I was trained by Jonah Kelly and Whit Fraser. Those were my instructors way back when, when we used to work up at the federal building. I would like to recognize Mr. Whit Fraser.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker continuing with the tradition of recognizing three residents from Iqaluit each day, I would like to recognize Mr. Tom Sammurtok who is a senior official with the Nunavut Government. Mr. Peter Scott a resident of Iqaluit East with Community Government, Housing & Transportation. And myself and Peter Kilabuk would like to welcome to the gallery Rosemary Keenainak, who is originally from Pangnirtung and living in Iqaluit on senior assignment with the Nunavut Government. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to recognize a long time resident of Iqaluit, and who used to be a long time resident of Arctic Bay, Carmen Levi, now with the Department of Education. (interpretation) Also all of the people who were not mentioned, I would like to welcome everyone to the gallery. Item 6, Oral Questions. Mr. Akasuk.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 67 - 1 (2): Translation of Legislation

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. This morning in caucus we were dealing with proposed bills. I have a question for Mr. Ng. If we are going to be proposing bills, I would suggest that all the proposed bills be in both Inuktitut and English. My problem was there were some things missing in Inuktitut. I would suggest that everything be properly translated, if they are going to be done into Inuktitut. That is for a clarification.

Speaker: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't know if there was a question there but I would like to respond. The government is cognizant of the fact that legislation must be understood before we pass legislation. I think it is just the logistics right now, the logistics and the significant expertise to actually draft legislation and whether that is able to be done in syllabics in its' entirety. I think what the government would propose probably is that the intent of the bill, the legislation summaries, would certainly be available in syllabics, but right now it is the logistics of working out that process. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 68 - 1 (2): Business Incentive Policy

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is to the Minister responsible for Public Works, Telecommunications & Technical Services. In reference to the BIP, the Business Incentive Policy, I wonder if the Minister can tell the members whether there have been any changes to that policy. I understand that it has been transferred from the GNWT into the Nunavut Government, whether or not any changes have been made to the old policy and if companies in Nunavut have copies of it? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Two questions. Minister of Public Works, Telecommunications & Technical Services, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The Business Incentive Policy of the government is ongoing until we have come up, as a government, with a new policy for this government. So it is continuing until we come up with something else, including Article 24, we have to work with that policy for this government. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker from those comments I assume that there have been no changes in the old BIP. So, therefore can I assume that the BIP as it stands today will be used for the projects that will be carried out this summer? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I understand that the Cabinet, I know we have approved an interim Nunavut BIP and contract procedures which will not be disrupting any projects that are ongoing for this summer. We will have to be talking with our stakeholders with Article 24, NTI, so we have to develop a new policy but for the projects that are going for this summer they will be proceeding. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Just for clarification then, the projects this summer are under BIP? Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes, the projects that have been awarded already, are under the old system and those are not being disrupted. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral questions Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 69 - 1 (2): Transfer of Staff from GNWT to Nunavut Government

Mr. Puqiqnak: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The transferring from the Government of the Northwest Territories to the Nunavut Government. The teachers, there are quite a number of teachers out there in the Nunavut Territories. Were hoping to increase the number of teachers, to keep up with the student ratio. Education is very important to our young people and the teachers in the Nunavut Territory are concerned about their salary deductions. That's the question I've been hearing and I direct this question to Minister of Education. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Arvaluk, Minister of Education.

Hon. James Arvaluk: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I'm very happy to respond to this question. On April 1st for the teachers and the staff at the schools, deductions were transferred to the Nunavut Government, from the Government of the Northwest Territories. We have grandfathered the system from the GNWT, during the transfer from the GNWT and there are not going to be any changes. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Puqiqnak

Mr. Puqiqnak: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the Minister of Education for responding to my question, but I have another question to the same Minister, because there's some employees out there who are confused. I would like to ask the Minister, if the teachers have had correspondence in regards to the deductions. For example in Uqsuqtuuq, I would like to see letters sent to the teachers and the employees of the schools on what system they're using, whether they're using the same system that was used by the GNWT. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Mr. Arvaluk, Minister of Education.

Hon. James Arvaluk: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I will be talking to my staff and make sure that the information goes out accordingly. We can tell the teachers union, we can give the documents to the teachers union so they can be distributed, because of course if we write to every individual teacher, it's going to take too long and what I can do is give this to the Minister of Human Resources, so that the information could be distributed to the teachers. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Third question Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. While we don't have to send those letters individually, to each teacher, I would suggest that at least the correspondence can be sent to each school, then they could be distributed to their employees. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Qujannamiik Mr. Puqiqnak. Mr. Arvaluk I hear no question, but if you would like to answer. Mr. Arvaluk Minister of Education.

Hon. James Arvaluk: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I understand your statement and I can respond by saying that we can write to the school principals and the letters will be distributed to their staffs. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Qujannamiik Mr. Arvaluk. Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 70 - 1 (2): Eligibility for Nunavut Government Staff Housing

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Human Resources, responsible for staff housing. This is an issue that I have been asking quite a number of questions and comments on over the last couple of days. I'm wondering if the Minister could inform us or if he is aware of any government employees, the government of Nunavut employees, that are not eligible for any of government staff housing. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not entirely sure about that answer, I'll have to take that question as notice in order to provide the proper information. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng, question is taken as notice. Oral questions, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Another question to Minister of responsible for staff housing, he's mentioned over the last couple of days that his department is working on a new policy for staff housing. I'm just wondering Mr. Speaker if you could provide us with time frame for when we can expect to have a new comprehensive policy for staff housing. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Ng

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I believe the member raised this earlier. I said that we have to develop a policy and bring it to Cabinet for adoption and I don't know the exact time frame, as soon as possible, I know the specific needs that are out there, demands out there, and I will try to address that as soon as I can. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker, this question is for the Minister of Public Works. When we were still under the government of the NWT some of the staff housing were sold and bought privately, but these staff houses that were bought were not renovated. Are there any plans to renovate the existing staff houses, that were bought by the public. It caused quite a concern and some of the people who bought these old staff houses, had some problems, because the houses that were bought were very old. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manito Thompson: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The people who bought those houses knew that these houses were old. Once they bought them they are no longer our responsibility and they become the responsibility of the people who bought them. If they wanted to get some funding to renovate the housing, they could've approached the CMHC for funds, but when they bought them they knew that they were old and once they are bought, they are no longer our responsibility. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral questions, Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. When the old staff houses were put up for sale, they should have been renovated, before they were sold. I don't know why they didn't do that and of course when they were bought, they were no longer the responsibility of the government. I would suggest that if we're going to be selling the

staff housing and any of the assets that we hold, I would suggest that we renovate the housing or what ever assets that we're going to be selling. If we sell old buildings, some of the people who buy these houses are not rich and it causes a problem, it caused a problem. Thank you Mr. Speaker, I would like this to be considered.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister of Public Works, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The staff housing that were put up for sale were very cheap. When you are buying housing, you're talking about \$250 thousand dollars to buy a house. The staff housing we sold were going much cheaper. For the smaller communities that don't have private homes, I'm sure the price tag seemed very high and if we're going to be selling staff housing after they've been renovated, I don't think that's a very good idea. We sold them as is. If we're going to be renovating before we sell them, we're going to be using a lot more money out of our budget. The people who bought those houses now own those and they are no longer our responsibility. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral questions. Oral questions. Going back to the orders of the day. Item # 7 written questions, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, Replies to opening address. Item # 10 Replies to budget address. Item 11, Petitions. Reports of standing Committees and Special committees # 12. Item # 13, Reports of committees on the review of bills. Item # 14 tabling of documents. Mr. McLean.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 12 - 1 (2): Inuit Educators

Tabled Document 13 - 1 (2): Adult Education Building Baker Lake

Tabled Document 14 - 1 (2): Inuit Heritage Centre Baker Lake

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table three documents today, two to the Minister of Education, one regarding Inuit Educators, the second one the condition of the Adult Education Building in Baker Lake and the third one to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, regarding the Inuit Heritage Centre in Baker Lake. Thank you

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Tabling of documents. Item # 15 notice of motions. Number 16, notice of motions for first reading of bills. Item 17 motions. Motions. Number 18 first reading of bills. Item number 19, Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Picco.

Item 19: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 2 - Boards of Management Dissolution Act

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I was looking forward to this. Mr. Speaker I move, seconded by the member for Pangnirtung, Bill 2, the Boards of Management Dissolution Act be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker today I'm introducing a piece of Legislation entitled the Boards of Management Dissolution act. This Legislation allows the government to ensure a smooth transition over the next year as we work with boards towards the new Health and Social Services for the people of Nunavut. When the members of this government accepted the recommendation to eliminate both the Regional Health and Social Services Boards and Education Boards, they were guided by Footprints 1 and 2 as well as several other studies and consultations over the past 4 years.

Before I continue Mr. Speaker I would like to take this opportunity to commend the trustees of our Health and Social Services Boards for their service over the years. The Boards ensured that the people of Nunavut played a role in their own affairs during the time as a minority in the Northwest Territories. But this is a new territory and a new day, we have our own government now, and we as residents of Nunavut are well represented by the 19 MLAs in this house.

The decision to take a different approach in providing health and social services to Nunavummiut, has been guided by two important principles. First, we want to be accountable, we want to ensure that this government is responsible and responsive to the people of Nunavut. We want to bring this government closer to the people we all represent and work directly with all our communities. Second, we want to be efficient. As we have already discussed publicly, estimates show that we will be able to re-direct significant monies, Mr. Speaker, into programs and services as a result of the impending decision.

In short, we want to ensure a Nunavut based approach, taking advantage of what our communities have in common, while still taking into account their uniqueness. I want to point out Mr. Speaker, phasing out the boards will not affect the day to day delivery of programs and services to our clients in Nunavut. The services provided by all health and social services workers in each Region will continue to serve the public.

I would like to express my appreciation to all the health and social services care providers, administrative and support staff in our communities in Nunavut. These people are the heart for health and social services in Nunavut. We all rely on them and I want to promise them that over the coming year I will devote myself to ensuring a stable and smooth transition.

Mr. Speaker I have instructed my officials at the department that we will work collaboratively with the boards as we develop an implementation plan. I've also

committed to the standing committee on Culture, Education and Health, that they will have an implementation plan completed by September of this year. As the Minister of Health and Social services I'm committing to improving the health and well being of everyone in Nunavut and I look forward to working with the members of the Assembly and the people of Nunavut to achieve that goal, that this legislation will bring us one step closer to. Mr. Speaker, to adopt a new direction for Health and Social Services in Nunavut. Qujannamiik Mr. Speaker .

Speaker: Qujannamiik Mr. Picco. To the principle of the bill, question has been called. Those in favour. Opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 2 has had second reading. Item # 19 second reading of bills, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I seek unanimous consent to waive rule 67 (2) and have Bill 2, Boards of Management Dissolution Act ordered into the Committee of the Whole today. Thank you Mr. Speaker

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mr. Picco. The Minister of Health is seeking unanimous consent to waive 67 (2) to move bill 2 to committee. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 2 stands referred to the Committee of the Whole for today. Item # 19 second reading of bills. Mr. Arvaluk.

Bill 3 - Divisional Education Councils Dissolution Act

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I will be speaking in Inuktitut, but your interpreters have a copy. Mr. Speaker it gives me a great deal of pleasure to stand before you today to introduce this piece of legislation entitled Divisional Education Councils Dissolution Act.

In keeping with the vision we have identified to guide the Government of Nunavut, this legislation will enable us to truly place people first and to operate in a manner which is accountable and fair to the people of Nunavut. The school boards in Nunavut now known as the Divisional Education Councils were originally created to give the residents of the eastern arctic a voice in the government of the NWT. With Nunavut that concern no longer exists.

After consultations with the Inuit organizations, Municipal governments, Community groups, Health care professionals, and educators, a recommendation was made to the Nunavut Cabinet to eliminate both education and health and social services boards. Cabinet accepted that recommendation and similarly it was endorsed by the Caucus.

The responsibility for the delivery of these services will now be transferred to the elected leaders of the people of Nunavut. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all those individuals both current and past who have served as members of the Divisional Education Councils and whom have contributed to the education of our children across Nunavut. In the past we all experienced the challenges of having to deal with and provide government services at a distance. Although the physical distances between the

communities remains the same, we will now have to operate across a lesser distance in terms of government bureaucracies. By providing the most efficient structure to government, we are assuring the most expedient service to our people.

For the Department of Education, this means we will be closer to the children, closer to the family and closer to the communities, whose needs we aim to serve. It means that the Minister of Education will be more directly accountable for the education services provided in Nunavut Communities.

This is a very exciting prospect for our new department, we look forward to the challenges implicit in this legislation and to benefiting from the vision therein. Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to inform this legislature and also inform the people of Nunavut that in the months and years ahead, the department of education will seek to strengthen the role of the parent, the role of the family, the community and the community district education authority. All of us have a role in the important social function of educating our children.

We envision an environment in which responsibilities and accountabilities, are clearly defined, beginning with a positive partnership between the student, the parent and the teachers supported by a motivated and challenged community and district education authority. Mr. Speaker, education is a fundamental and important to the success of Nunavut and this piece of legislation is a first step in building our new future in Nunavut. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Qujannamiik Mr. Arvaluk. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour?. Opposed? Bill 3 has had second reading. Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to waive rule 67 (2) and have bill 3, Divisional Education Councils Dissolution Act ordered into the Committee of the Whole today. Thank you Mr. Speaker

Speaker: Qujannamiik Mr. Arvaluk. The Minister is requesting to waive 67 (2) . Do we have unanimous consent for bill 3 to be considered in Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? Bill 3 stands referred to Committee of the Whole for today. Qujannamiik.

Item # 19 second reading of bills. Item # 20 Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 1 Appropriation Act 1999/2000, Bill 2 Boards of Management Dissolution Act, Bill 3 Divisional Education Councils Dissolution Act, committee reports 1-1 (2), 2-1 (2), 3 – 1 (2) and 4-1 (2) with Mr. Iqaqrialu as the Chairperson.

Item 20: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairperson (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): Please be seated. Some members will be leaving to their home communities over the weekend. I don't know if we can complete

this department today but at this time I am going to ask for a short 15 minute break before we proceed.

>>Committee recessed 11.02 and resumed 11.23 am.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that we report progress.

Chairperson (interpretation): Okay, Mr. O'Brien would like to make a motion to report progress. There is a lot on our agenda items, maybe if we adjourn now we can deal with them after the long weekend. Please raise your hands if you agree to defer this committee report. All those opposed. We will adjourn this committee of the whole. We will report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. Item 21, Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 21: Report of Committee of the Whole

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker your committee has been considering Bill 1, and committee report 1, 2, 3 and 4 and Bill 2 and 3, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu, is there a seconder for the motion? Mr. Nutarak has seconded the motion. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

Orders of the Day, number 22. Third Reading of Bills. Number 23, Orders of the Day, Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Mr. Quirke: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Tuesday May 25, 9.00 am, meeting of full caucus, Cadet Hall followed by a meeting of the regular caucus, also meeting of the Management Services Board after the adjournment of the House.

Orders of the Day, Tuesday, May 25, 1999

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. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters:
 - Bill 1 - Appropriation Act 1999/2000.
 - Bill 2 - Boards of Management Dissolution Act
 - Bill 3 - Divisional Education Council Dissolution Act
 - Standing Committee Reports 1-1(2), 2-1(2), 3-1(2) 4-1(2)
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Clerk. I now adjourn the session and the next session of the House will be at the Cadet Hall. Sergeant At Arms.

>>Assembly adjourned 11.28 am.

