



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

1st Session

1st Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1999

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Members of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. Ovide Alakannuark
(Akulliq)

Mr. Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

Mr. Levi Barnabas
(Quttiktuq)

Mr. Enoki Irgittuq
(Amittuq)

Mr. Ed Picco
(Iqaluit East)

Mr. Jack Anawak
(Rankin Inlet North)

Mr. Kevin O'Brien
(Arviat)

Mr. Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit West)

Ms. Manitoq Thompson
(Rankin Inlet South-Whale
Cove)

Mr. Glenn McLean
(Baker Lake)

Mr. Donald Havioyak
(Kugluktuk)

Mr. Olayuk Akesuk
(South Baffin)

Mr. Kelvin Ng
(Cambridge Bay)

Mr. James Arvaluk
(Nanulik)

Mr. Jobie Nutarak
(Tunnunig)

Mr. Peter Kattuk
(Hudson Bay)

Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak
(Nattilik)

Mr. David Iqaqrialu
(Uqqummiut)

Mr. Peter Kilabuk
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IQALUIT, NUNAVUT**THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1999**

> The Legislative Assembly convened at 3.30 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Akesuk, Mr. Alakannuark, Mr. Anawak, Mr. Arvaluk, Mr. Barnabas, Mr. Havioyak, Mr. Iqaqrialu, Mr. Irqittuq, Mr. Kattuk, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. McLean, Mr. Ng, Mr. Nutarak, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Okalik, Mr. Picco, Mr. Puqiqnak, Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Tootoo.

>> Singing of O'Canada

Mr. Quirke (Clerk-Designate): Thank you. I would like to ask Bishop Idlout and John Homann to perform the opening prayer.

>>Prayer

Ms. Perkison (Deputy-Clerk Designate) (interpretation): Thank you. The Tatiigiit Group and the Iqaluit Drummers will now perform singing and drumming.

>>Song and Drum Dancing

Ms. Perkison (interpretation): We will now have the throat singers perform.

>> Throat Singing

Ms. Perkison (interpretation): I would like to welcome you all to the first sitting of the first Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. The floor is open for motions. Mr. Alakannuark.

ITEM 1: Adoption of Rules of the Legislative Assembly**Motion 1 - 1 (1): Rules of the Legislative Assembly**

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for South Baffin, that the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut be adopted.

Mr. Quirke: Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Quirke: Motion passed. The floor is now open for nominations for the election of the Speaker. Mr. Anawak.

ITEM 2: Election of Speaker

Motion 2 - 1 (1): Election of Speaker

Mr. Anawak: Mr. Clerk, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hudson Bay, that Levi Barnabas, of the electoral district of Quttiktuq, take the Chair of this House as Speaker.

Ms. Perkison: There is a motion on the floor to nominate Levi Barnabas, the Member for Quttiktuq, as Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Ms. Perkison: Everybody's agreed, the ayes have it. On the direction of the Assembly I declare that Levi Barnabas is duly elected as the Speaker of this first Nunavut Legislative Assembly.

--Applause

Mr. Quirke: I would ask that the mover and the seconder of the motion escort the Honourable Speaker to the Speaker's chair.

ITEM 3: Remarks by Speaker

Speaker (Mr. Barnabas): Honourable Members, Mr. Prime Minister, Madame Commissioner, Madame Minister, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Welcome.

Please allow me to begin by expressing my deep appreciation for the trust and confidence that you have placed in me by selecting me as your Speaker.

As Speaker, it is my responsibility to serve this Assembly in the spirit of impartiality and fairness. For this Assembly to truly serve the people of Nunavut, its elected representatives must know in this House, and within its rules, they have the freedoms and privileges that come with the heavy responsibilities placed upon them.

I pledge to you that I am mindful of my duty to ensure that the rights of the House and its members are upheld.

Our work starts today. As we perform our duties in this House, its committees and in our constituencies, we know that the eyes of those who elected us to our positions of trust are upon us. As the youngest of Canada's legislatures, much is expected of us.

This legislature is only one of two in all of Canada that does not operate on a partisan basis. As such, we have the opportunity to fulfil the commitment that Nunavut will combine the best of Inuit and contemporary forms of government.

When we come together as an Assembly, we do not do so in the expectation that confrontation will be the order of the day. Rather, the spirit of consensus guides us. The best decisions are those that are achieved through dialogue. Civility and respect are among the qualities that shall characterize this place.

Consensus can build accountability. This House will succeed when those who make the choices that affect the lives of our families and the communities know that their actions are subject to the scrutiny of the Assembly as a whole.

Together, we will find the path - a path that is lit brightly by the fact that the composition of this Assembly reflects the diversity of Nunavut itself. Some of us come from the Assembly of our new western neighbour, and we are grateful for the support of our former colleagues and constant friends.

We look forward to the benefits of the wisdom and experience that members who served in the west bring with them. Their contribution will be matched by the ideas and perspectives of new members.

The people of Nunavut expect us to learn, listen and act. I am confident that the Honourable Members will work to do so - a pledge we all took just hours ago when we took our oaths.

To all assembled, I would like to speak briefly about this historic place. Although in a few short months this Assembly will sit in its new home, this place has many memories for those of us who have walked a long road to reach this unprecedented day.

On May 25, 1993, in this very room, the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement was signed. Many of the people who were there on that day are also with us this afternoon. We thank the students of Inuksuk High School for once again sharing their place of learning.

We look to the energy of our youth and the wisdom of our elders to inspire us in the years ahead. I would like to take a moment to recognize the elders and youth that are with us today. Elders from all of Nunavut's communities are represented at this gathering - we thank them for their years of effort in achieving this day.

The pages that you see come from the 19 constituencies of Nunavut. Many of them are travelling away from home for the first time. Krista, Eric, Kenny, Nina, Tommy, Genevieve, Gloria, Rachel, Jonathan, Jayne, Solomon, Stacey, Johnny, Itidloi, Jesse, Lorna, Kipanik, Edward, Qujjuk, Teevi, Fauna and Jennifer - We are very proud of you. We are also honoured to have with us in the room today the honourable Premier of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Jim Antoine, and former Premier Nellie Cournoyea.

I believe that you will all agree that the artwork which surrounds us is beautiful. The wall hangings that you see were made by the Quqshuun Ilihakvik Centre in Gjoa Haven; the Tusaniq School in Repulse Bay and the Inuujaq School in Arctic Bay.

On behalf of the Legislative Assembly and the Government of Nunavut, I would like to express our deep appreciation for the beautiful painting that you see in front of the stage. It was presented last evening by the Honourable Jonathan Motzfeldt, Premier of Greenland, to the Honourable Paul Okalik.

I am also pleased to tell you that the chair in which the bearer of our mace, Mr. Simon Nattaq, sits today was most generously donated to us by the Speaker of the Upper House of the Parliament of Canada.

These symbols, like the Qamutik that rests on the floor, will find a home in our new Assembly building.

I would finally like to recognize the artists who created the mace. We are honoured that they are with us today. Inuk Charlie, Joseph Suqslaq, Paul Malliki, Mariano Aupilardjuk, Mathew Nuqingaq and Sam Pitsiulak – thank you. The mace, which will shortly be presented to the House, is itself a reflection of the rights and authority of a democratically elected Assembly. It is a gift from the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation and seven other Inuit organizations. It speaks eloquently for itself in the way it embodies the soul of our land, this Assembly and our people.

Thank you.

ITEM 4: Presentation of Mace

Speaker: Would the pages Kipanik Eejeesiak and Teevi Mackay, please summon the bearer of the mace.

>>The mace is brought in and laid upon the table.

Speaker: We can begin now. Please all rise and the page Qujjuk Amagoalik will be escorting the Commissioner.

Speaker: Madame Commissioner, the Members of the first Legislative Assembly of Nunavut have elected me to be their Speaker. At this time, so that all members of the Assembly can best carry out their duty to Nunavut and to their country, I would like to claim for them their undoubted rights and privileges, especially freedom of speech in their debates, access to your person when necessary and your favourable consideration of their proceedings.

Commissioner Maksagak: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to declare to you that I believe in the duty of the Assembly and, not doubting that the Assembly's proceedings will be conducted with wisdom and care, I grant and allow the Assembly its constitutional

privileges. I assure you that the Assembly shall have ready access to me and that the Assembly's proceedings, words and actions shall receive from me favourable consideration.

>> The Commissioner takes the Chair.

ITEM 5: Commissioner's Address

Commissioner Maksagak: Elders, Mr. Speaker, your Excellencies, honoured guests, Members of the Legislature, I am pleased to welcome you to the opening of the First Session of the First Assembly of Nunavut. This is a great honour for me to give the first Commissioner's Address on behalf of our new government.

I would like to congratulate you Mr. Speaker, the Premier-elect, the Cabinet and all of the Members of this Assembly on being called to form the first government of Nunavut.

The people of Nunavut have put their trust in this Assembly to work together in the creation of a new government in a new Territory. They have elected you because they believe and trust in your will and ability to carry this work forward.

Our Elders here today and listening to this speech on radio and on television can tell us how far we have come. They remember the times, from their own lives and from the histories of their parents, when Inuit were alone in this land. As Inuit we built our lives from what was around us. From snow and bone, from the animals of the land and the sea, our Elders fed and cared for their families. They accomplished everything with little. They travelled thousands of miles, at home in their environment, and taught the next generations the strength and ingenuity to carry Inuit into the modern world.

The modern world is now here. As Inuit we share Nunavut with others who have come to join us. English and French speaking Canadians, people from many lands, have become part of Inuit communities. New tools have been introduced to Our Land and Inuit have taken those tools and made them our own. Snow and bone have turned to metal and paper. Together with our new neighbours we have established towns, built schools and airports, negotiated a Land Claim, and now we see the creation of a new territory. Nunavut is ours, but ours to share.

There is work to be done everywhere. Our government plans to develop a budget over the coming months and will introduce it this spring to this Assembly. Our government will work to deliver services and programs to the people of Nunavut in a sensitive, responsive and responsible manner. Our government also asks for your patience and your goodwill. Not everything will work the first time, not every office will be staffed; there will be some delays and false starts. This is our government, we built it, we own it, we now have the responsibility to make it work. Tell us when things go astray and we will work with you to make them right.

Our government will develop a legislative agenda for presentation to this Assembly. This will begin our journey towards creating Nunavut solutions, laws, policies and programs. In continuing this journey we commit to listening to the people of Nunavut and continuing to be guided by the people's needs.

As a demonstration of unity in Nunavut for the future, our government intends to take measures to bring all the people of Nunavut into a single time zone, from Qikiqtarjuaq to Kugluktuk, from Davis Strait to the Coronation Gulf, from the Belcher Islands in the south to Ellesmere Island at the top of the globe.

Mr. Speaker, this is a day of ceremony and celebration. It is appropriate that our government is introducing today the Flag Act, which will designate the official Flag of Nunavut. I am confident that the people of Nunavut will be proud to see this symbol of our new territory flying in all our communities.

Thanks are due to more people in more ways than words can express.

To the peoples of Canada and their governments, in each province and territory, who have supported Nunavut over the years: we thank you with all our hearts, and we are proud to join you.

To the peoples of the Northwest Territories as we leave them, for having travelled so far with us, and for having been companions on our journey: we thank you and wish you safe journey as our paths part.

To our elders who first dreamed, to our leaders and negotiators who first spoke the dream, to our children who have taken the dream into their hearts and lives: we owe you everything and we will work to earn the trust we have been given.

Today we join hands with you in the birth of Nunavut.

Speaker: Thank you Madame Commissioner. Now I would like to invite the Hon. Jane Stewart, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to address this Assembly. Ms. Stewart.

ITEM 6: Presentation by the Hon. Jane Stewart, MP, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

Hon. Jane Stewart (Min. Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honour to be present at the first sitting of the new territory of Nunavut. Respected elders, Commissioner and Prime Minister, I join your voices in congratulating the Premier-elect, the members of cabinet and the members of the Legislature on their achievement to date.

Mr. Speaker I congratulate you as well on your selection and I listened to your advice to your colleagues in your introduction. You talk about the fact that as an Assembly you

will work with civility and build consensus and I am sure that's true, but in my experience it's unlikely that the next sittings of this Legislature will be as sober and as calm as this. I don't expect that you will have the beautiful voices of the youth here to guide you but certainly it will be the youth and their future that will guide your decisions.

You will be supported by the elders and by the symbols that are in your Legislative Assembly that remind you of who you are, from whence you come and the significance of your responsibilities.

For years the people of the eastern arctic have dreamed of a territory they could call their own. And while it has not been easy, individuals, organizations and government have long worked side by side with vision and determination to make the dream a reality.

Today we are celebrating the fruits of our labours, Nunavut. This realization was carried out by the residents of Nunavut for the people of Nunavut. Recall the Northwest Territories of 1870, a vast expanse of land by any measure, east to west, north to south. Already home to aboriginal people, it was soon the land of opportunity for newcomers. A territory diverse in both population and geography. Responding to this diversity, Canada has redrawn its map over time. Out of the original Northwest Territories it built first the province of Manitoba in 1870, then the Yukon Territory in 1898 followed by the creation of Saskatchewan and Alberta in 1905 and then further additions to Manitoba at the turn of the century. Today out of the still vast Northwest Territories, Canadians have created yet another territory that reflects our democratic vision. That territory is Nunavut, our land.

This evolution goes to the heart of what makes the Canadian federation strong; government's ability to grow in lockstep with the aspirations of her people. As other nations around the world struggle to define themselves, often with great human cost, we count ourselves very lucky. Ours is not a history of war and conflict, it is one which is inspired by co-operation, by balance. We have built a strong country in which we are masters of our own destinies. With Nunavut, Canadians have once again taken the opportunity to make choices about their future. Those elders gathered here today have never doubted that it was the right choice. And through their decades of hard work towards this moment they never doubted that if you can dream it, you can do it.

As Nunavut takes its place in the Canadian federation it will be tested. You know, as do I, that expectations are very, very high. You must create jobs, improve health, keep youth in school. The government of Nunavut, you, will be called upon to do all this and much, much more. But I believe this is a territory and a people that are ready and up to the challenge. Of course we can't predict exactly what the future will bring, but I am convinced it holds tremendous promise for the people of Nunavut and Canada as a whole. In fact, across the north, in Nunavut, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon there is exciting economic, social and political change underway. Change that brings Northerners the tools and control they need to build strong, self-sufficient economies and communities, and an even brighter future. Just as the path of progress led us west in the twentieth century, so the path of opportunity leads us North in the twenty-first.

The Government of Canada is proud to have been a partner in this important undertaking. It is a testament to the strength and importance of the partnership that has been forged amongst the Inuit, the governments of Nunavut, the Northwest Territories and Canada, that despite the fact that there has been a division of land, a division of assets and a division of resources, the language and understanding of what we are doing has always been expressed in terms of creation. The creation of Nunavut. Thank you to all those whose commitment has brought about the birth of Nunavut. Congratulations to you the political leaders and to the people of Nunavut. Thank you and best wishes.

Speaker: On behalf of the Assembly I would like to thank you for your remarks. The Chair will now entertain nominations to adopt the Premier and Executive Council. Mr. Hunter Tootoo, Honourable Member for Iqaluit Centre.

ITEM 7: Appointment of Premier and Executive Council of Nunavut

Motion 3 - 1 (1): Appointment of Premier and Executive Council

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

Whereas Section 55(1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act requires that there shall be an Executive Council of Nunavut;

And Whereas Members of the Executive Council are appointed by the Commissioner on the recommendation of this Assembly;

Now therefore, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baker Lake, that this Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of Nunavut that the following Members be appointed to the Executive Council/Cabinet:

Honourable Jack Anawak, the Member for Rankin Inlet North;

Honourable James Arvaluk, the Member for Nanulik;

Honourable Donald Haviyok, the Member for Kugluktuk;

Honourable Peter Kilabuk, the Member for Pangnirtung;

Honourable Kelvin Ng, the Member for Cambridge Bay;

Honourable Ed Picco, the Member for Iqaluit East;

Honourable Manitok Thompson, the Member for Rankin Inlet South/Whale Cove;

And further confirm that the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Paul Okalik, has been chosen Premier by the Legislative Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Are you prepared for the question? Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the motion carried. On behalf of all the members of the Assembly, I congratulate the members of the first Executive Council and wish them wisdom as they carry out their very important duties. Mr. Premier, do you wish to address the House?

Mr. Okalik (Premier): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

ITEM 8: Premier's Address

Mr. Okalik: Respected Elders, Mr. Speaker, those who have visited, Mr. Prime Minister, Minister Stewart, Madame Commissioner, please feel welcome in Nunavut. As all of the Nunavut residents, I am very proud of this moment and in having been selected as the first Premier for Nunavut. I wish to thank the members of the Legislative Assembly for their support and encouragement in my selection as Premier. In the past two weeks, I have enjoyed working with the cabinet and the regular members. We have already dealt with a number of issues and I look forward to working with you for a productive five years in our future.

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank other Inuit and other people who have come to visit us on this historic day, especially the people of Greenland who have given us this beautiful wall hanging. The Inuit from Nunavik who have also come to help us celebrate this joyous occasion, I thank them as well and also the Metis people of Canada who have come to help us celebrate and will be presenting us with a fine gift, they have been very helpful while visiting us in Nunavut.

As you all know, we had a long, hard journey towards Nunavut. There was a lot of hard work but we have reached the end of the journey and it feels like we have completed a lot of work. The Inuit of Nunavut have settled the largest land claim in Canadian history. When we look at the Canadian map we have reshaped that map today. Those are very symbolic gestures and they are a very big part of being a new territory of Nunavut. For those who have been elected to positions and have created a government based on the principles of human rights, there are a lot of outside people who have admired what we have done. We would like to create a government that is founded on integrity and openness, that is one we can be proud of.

On this journey, in trying to get Nunavut, there were troubles, many have fallen. There were a lot of very special people who could not be here to celebrate with us today. Some of us have lost family members to suicide and some have lost relatives to the land as they were out harvesting the resources, trying to live the life of our forefathers. Some of us have known those who fell victim to abuse and aggression. But it has always given me strength because we have to look to the future while respecting and remembering those who we lost, who are here today and watching us. In respect of those dear people I would like to ask for a minute of silence to remember those who did not reach this day. I would ask for a moment of silence.

>> Moment of silence observed

Thank you. Today the eyes of the world are upon us and as well the eyes of Nunavut are upon us and watching. Our ancestors are also watching us. They look to us, the people of Nunavut. In their eyes there is hope and expectation that we will succeed, and as the Premier I will have a lot of responsibilities and I know I will have to work very hard. I do not take that lightly, I accept that responsibility and I will continue to place first and foremost the people of Nunavut because that is part of my job. We are going to have a government that has many responsibilities and that cannot be taken lightly. The people from Kugluktuk to Broughton Island, from Sanikiluaq to Grise Fiord will have to help us. All of the Nunavut residents will have to work hard, for our future has to be well planned in order for us to succeed.

I have gone to every corner of Nunavut and I know that in the future, I am confident we will accomplish a better future. To date I have seen a lot of strength and character in my fellow Inuit and those who are willing, committed and determined to work. Today our ancestors watch us and we must remember that because of their dedication we lived to find Nunavut, we must get an education and to learn, whether in the schools or on the land, we must relearn our traditional skills.

We have to demonstrate that we can deal with the problems our society faces, because we are the only ones that can fix them. Our children especially, because they are watching, we have to prove ourselves to them and stand out as better role models.

I pledge to you, the people of Nunavut, that the government of Nunavut will work to ensure that there are the right conditions to assist you in making change. We will make it possible for you to rise up and get an education. We will make it possible for your families to move forward. We will make it possible for our communities to grow in a healthy way. We will put conditions in place for you to make Nunavut strong again.

To the people of Nunavut, nakurmiik, qujannamiik, matna, koana, thank you and Merci. In closing, I would like to echo comments by my colleague Ovide Alakannuark, "We are no longer dreaming. This is reality. We have arrived."

--Applause

Speaker: I would like to thank the members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut and thank the Premier for his words. I would like to ask the Prime Minister, Mr. Jean Chrétien to address the Assembly.

ITEM 9: Address by the Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, P.C., MP, Prime Minister of Canada

--Applause

Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister of Canada): Mr. Speaker on behalf of the people of Canada I am honoured by your invitation to address the first ever meeting of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. I would like to offer my congratulations for your election. Compared to the election of the Speaker in the House of Commons in 1993, that took almost a full day, it was done pretty rapidly here and I would like to congratulate you.

I want to congratulate the Premier for having won the confidence of his colleagues here during the recent election. I would like to tell him that it took me thirty years to become Prime Minister and you became Premier in two weeks.

--Laughter/Applause

I would like to tell you that it is a great privilege to serve as leader. It is both a serious responsibility and an incredible opportunity to shape the direction of a government and build the future of a people. Each and every member of this honourable Assembly deserves equal praise and recognition. You will go down in history as the first government of Nunavut. In you the people of Nunavut have invested their faith and trust. An investment that is never made lightly, but never more so than when a people take their first steps into a whole new future.

I never lost sight of that basic truth about elected office through thirty six years of public life. Whatever the position, whatever the title, even if it is the Prime Minister of Canada our job is about people, about being worthy of their confidence, about placing their hopes and dreams above everything else, even if one must work night and day to make those dreams come true.

Governing is very different from the business of getting elected. I learned that lesson soon after I arrived on Parliament Hill. The trail of a victory is quickly replaced by the awesome amount of work that must be done. As Nunavut takes flight you are dealing with immense challenges. Whether it is educating your fast growing population, alleviating poverty and social breakdown or building the capacity within your own government to address these challenges, you have your work cut out for you. Work that will require patience, creativity and tremendous energy to resolve. Fortunately, the people of Nunavut are blessed with these qualities in abundance. Your new Premier and Cabinet are fine cases in point. You have the added advantage of being able to draw the best from both worlds. Traditional Inuit teachings and values that have passed down through the ages and a modern government structure with access to state of the art technologies.

Unlike in years past, the north of today is no longer hostage to geography and climate. It is very much a part of the wired world, with equal access to the opportunities for growth and development that it presents. I have no doubt that you will find the solutions that you seek. That you will build on these strengths, focus your agenda on what can be achieved and set your sights on what matters the most to your people.

I want to assure you of the Government of Canada's commitment to being an active partner in your work and ensuring a new passage to the new millennium. I also want to remind you that your contributions to Canadian society will extend beyond the boundaries of the new territory. Your insights and ideas will be welcome as we address national priorities. Your unique northern perspectives and your consensus approach will be valuable as governments throughout Canada work together for the common good. Just as the qulliq has served as a beacon of hope and illumination of your people, your presence on the national scene will shed new light on how we can build a better country. Nunavut is an acknowledgement that there is strength in diversity. That government works best when it is closest to the people, that we will only move forward as a nation when we all move forward together.

As someone with a life long love of the north and a binding commitment to advancing the interests of northern people, the launch of the government of Nunavut is a very gratifying moment in both my personal and political life. Indeed, among my proudest achievements as Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development was helping create the first fully elected Legislature in the Northwest Territories, a milestone on the road to Nunavut. It was great days in some ways when I was naming the members, until I named one and he decided to vote against my instructions. So I decided it was better to have everybody elected.

I have high hopes and expectations of the men and women in this auditorium. I am confident that by building on your rich Inuit heritage, remaining true to the people who elected you and embracing the support and encouragement of all Canadians, Nunavut will be a great success. I look forward to watching your Nunavut dream become a reality in the days and years ahead and I will look for your Inukshuk as you lead the way. Good luck, congratulations and a happy Nunavut day. Long live Canada, long live Nunavut.

--Applause

Speaker: On behalf of the Assembly, I would like to thank the Prime Minister of Canada for being with us on this most historic day and for his gracious remarks. It is a day that all of us will remember for the rest of our lives and a day that our grandchildren and theirs will continue to be proud of. Thank you, Prime Minister. We will now proceed with the consideration of Assembly business. Motions. Mr. Iqittuq, Honourable Member for Amittuq.

ITEM 10: Business of the House**Motion 4 - 1 (1): Appointment of the Management and Services Board**

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Mr. Speaker;

Whereas section 35(1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act provides for this Assembly to appoint members to the Management and Services board;

And whereas the Management and Services Board shall be appointed during the first session of each Legislature;

Now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nattilik, that the following Members be appointed to the Management and Services Board of this Assembly:

Honourable Levi Barnabas;
Honourable Kelvin Ng;
Olayuk Akesuk;
Glenn McLean;
Hunter Tootoo.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Question, are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: The motion is carried. Mr. Nutarak the Honourable Member for Tunnunig.

Motion 5 - 1 (1): Appointment of Striking Committee

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Whereas it is required by the provisional rules of the Assembly to appoint a Striking Committee to recommend members to comprise the Standing Committees of the Assembly;

Now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Uqqummiut, that the following members be appointed to the Striking Committee of this Assembly:

Mr. Olayuk Akesuk;
Mr. Kevin O'Brien;
Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Question. Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: The motion is carried. We will proceed to bills. Mr. Havioyak, member for Kugluktuk.

First Reading of Bills: Bill 1, Flag of Nunavut Act

Mr. Havioyak: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Arviat, that Bill Number 1, entitled Flag of Nunavut Act, be now read a first time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Question. Are you agreed? The motion is carried and Bill Number 1, Flag of Nunavut Act has been read for a first time. Mr. O'Brien, Member for Arviat.

Tabled Document 1 - 1 (1): Terms of Reference for the Standing Committees

Mr. O'Brien: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document: Terms of Reference for the Standing Committees. Thank you.

**Terms of Reference
Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health**

The mandate of the Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health is to:

- Review legislative and policy proposals, draft legislation, departmental business plans and estimates;
- Review Bills referred by the House;
- Review departmental performance; and
- Consider any other matter referred by the House

The Standing Committee has oversight responsibility for the following:

- Department of Health and Social Services
- Department of Education
- Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth
- Unless otherwise referred to in the terms of reference of any other Standing Committee, all Boards and Agencies that fall under the responsibility of the Minister of Health and Social Services; the Minister of Education and the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth

Terms of Reference
Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development

The mandate of the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development is to:

- Review legislative and policy proposals, draft legislation, departmental business plans and estimates;
- Review Bills referred by the House;
- Review departmental performance; and
- Consider any other matter referred by the House

The Standing Committee has oversight responsibility for the following:

- Department of Sustainable Development
- Department of Justice
- Department of Community Government, Housing and Transportation
- Department of Public Works, Telecommunications and Technical Services
- Unless otherwise referred to in the terms of reference of any other Standing Committee, all Boards and Agencies that fall under the responsibility of the Minister of Sustainable Development; the Minister of Justice; the Minister of Community Government, Housing and Transportation and the Minister of Public Works, Telecommunications and Technical Services

Terms of Reference
Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges

The mandate of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures is to:

- Consider matters referred by the House with respect to the operation of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*; and
- Consider any other matter referred by the House

Terms of Reference
Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services

The mandate of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services is to:

- Review legislative and policy proposals, draft legislation, departmental business plans and estimates;
- Review Bills referred by the House;
- Review departmental performance; and
- Consider any other matter referred by the House

The Standing Committee has oversight responsibility for the following:

- Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs
- Department of Finance and Administration
- Department of Human Resources
- Unless otherwise referred to in the terms of reference of any other Standing Committee, all Boards and Agencies that fall under the responsibility of the Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; the Minister of Finance and Administration and the Minister of Human Resources
- Workers' Compensation Board
- Nunavut Power Corporation
- Public Utilities Board

The Standing Committee has additional responsibility for:

- Reviewing issues with government-wide ramifications;
- Conducting the overview of the budget and the fiscal framework;
- Examining the reports on the annual financial statements and public accounts of the Government of Nunavut and the Report of the Auditor-General

Terms of Reference

Ajauqtiit

The mandate of the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* is to:

- Consider issues related to the Government of Nunavut's obligations with respect to the implementation of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), including the activities of the Government of Nunavut in relation to the operations of the Boards, Commissions and other bodies established by the provisions of the NLCA;
- Review the budget of the Office of the Legislative Assembly;
- Recommend the appointment of positions that, by statutory authority, are made by the Legislative Assembly; and
- Consider any other matter referred by the House

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Quirke, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Tabled Document 2 - 1 (1): Returns to the Writ of the General Election, February 15, 1999.

Mr. Quirke: Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling the returns to the writ of the first general election held in Nunavut on February 15, 1999.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Quirke, this concludes the business before the Assembly for the afternoon sitting. We will continue this Assembly business later this evening. There

is a presentation to be made to the Assembly from Repulse Bay before we adjourn. Before recessing the House I would like to thank you all for coming. I would also like to remind everyone of the swearing in of the Executive Council by the Commissioner of Nunavut about fifteen minutes from now in this chamber. This House now stands recessed until 6.00 this evening. Thank you.

>> Assembly recessed at 4.57 pm.

ITEM 11: Swearing In of Members of the Executive Council

Speaker: It is my pleasure to welcome everyone present to the swearing in of the Members of the Executive Council. Although this ceremony will not take very long, it is a very important one. Madame Commissioner, it is my great pleasure to report to you that earlier this day the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut passed the following motion:

>>Reference Motion 3 - 1 (1)

That this Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of Nunavut that the following Members be appointed to the Executive Council;

Mr. Jack Anawak, Member for Rankin Inlet North;
Mr. James Arvaluk, Member for Nanulik;
Mr. Donald Havioryak, Member for Kugluktuk;
Mr. Peter Kilabuk, Member for Pangnirtung;
Mr. Kelvin Ng, Member for Cambridge Bay;
Mr. Paul Okalik, Member for Iqaluit West;
Mr. Ed Picco, Member for Iqaluit East;
Ms. Manitok Thompson, Member for Rankin Inlet South/Whale Cove;

And further confirm that the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Paul Okalik, has been chosen Premier by the Legislative Assembly.

Commissioner Maksagak: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would ask that Premier-elect Mr. Okalik come forward at this time. Mr. Okalik, would you please swear the oath of office.

Mr. Okalik: I, Paul Okalik, do solemnly and sincerely promise and swear that I will duly and faithfully and to the best of my skill and knowledge execute the powers and trust reposed in me as a Member of the Executive Council of Nunavut, so help me God.

Commissioner Maksagak: I would ask that Mr. Anawak come forward at this time. Mr. Anawak, would you please swear the oath of office.

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): I, Jack Anawak, do solemnly and sincerely promise and swear that I will duly and faithfully and to the best of my skill and knowledge execute the powers and trust reposed in me as a Member of the Executive Council of Nunavut, so help me God.

Commissioner Maksagak: I would ask that Mr. Arvaluk come forward at this time. Mr. Arvaluk, would you please swear the oath of office.

Mr. Arvaluk: I, James Arvaluk, do solemnly and sincerely promise and swear that I will duly and faithfully and to the best of my skill and knowledge execute the powers and trust reposed in me as a Member of the Executive Council of Nunavut, so help me God.

Commissioner Maksagak: I would ask that Mr. Havioyak come forward at this time. Mr. Havioyak, would you please swear the oath of office.

Mr. Havioyak: I, Donald Havioyak, do solemnly and sincerely promise and swear that I will duly and faithfully and to the best of my skill and knowledge execute the powers and trust reposed in me as a Member of the Executive Council of Nunavut, so help me God.

Commissioner Maksagak: I would ask that Mr. Kilabuk come forward at this time. Mr. Kilabuk, would you please swear the oath of office.

Mr. Kilabuk: I, Peter Kilabuk, do solemnly and sincerely promise and swear that I will duly and faithfully and to the best of my skill and knowledge execute the powers and trust reposed in me as a Member of the Executive Council of Nunavut, so help me God.

Commissioner Maksagak: I would ask that Mr. Ng come forward at this time. Mr. Ng, would you please swear the oath of office.

Mr. Ng: I, Kelvin Ng, do solemnly and sincerely promise and swear that I will duly and faithfully and to the best of my skill and knowledge execute the powers and trust reposed in me as a Member of the Executive Council of Nunavut, so help me God.

Commissioner Maksagak: I would ask that Mr. Picco come forward at this time. Mr. Picco, would you please swear the oath of office.

Mr. Picco: I, Edward Picco, do solemnly and sincerely promise and swear that I will duly and faithfully and to the best of my skill and knowledge execute the powers and trust reposed in me as a Member of the Executive Council of Nunavut, so help me God.

Commissioner Maksagak: I would ask that Ms. Thompson come forward at this time. Ms. Thompson, would you please swear the oath of office.

Ms. Thompson: I, Manitok Thompson, do solemnly and sincerely promise and swear that I will duly and faithfully and to the best of my skill and knowledge execute the powers and trust reposed in me as a Member of the Executive Council of Nunavut, so help me God.

Commissioner Maksagak: I would like to extend my congratulations to the newly appointed Premier and Ministers of the first Executive Council of Nunavut. They carry

with them a heavy, but I am sure welcome, burden of responsibility. Their decisions will influence the lives of all the citizens of Nunavut, today, tomorrow and far into the future.

Speaker: Thank you Madame Commissioner. On behalf of the Legislative Assembly, I too would like to congratulate the Premier and the Ministers. This concludes the Swearing-in ceremony and I would like to thank you all for coming. Thank you.

--Applause

We will reconvene in about five minutes. Short break.

--Assembly recesses for five minutes.

Speaker: I call the House to order. We will proceed directly to the motions. Mr. McLean.

Motion 6 - 1 (1): Appointment of Clerk

Mr. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baffin South, that Mr. John Quirke be appointed as Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Are you prepared for the question? Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: The motion is carried.

--Applause

Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Motion 7 - 1 (1): Appointment of Deputy Speaker

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker,

Whereas section 40(1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act requires that a Deputy Speaker shall be elected at its first session;

And whereas, the Legislative Assembly wishes to appoint a Deputy Speaker;

Now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Tunnunig, that the Honourable Member for Natilik, Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, be appointed as Deputy Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Are you prepared for the question? Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: The motion is carried. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Motion 8 - 1 (1): Appointment of Deputy Chairpersons of Committee of the Whole

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker,

Whereas there is a requirement for the naming of two Members to hold the positions of deputy chairpersons of the Committee of the Whole;

And, whereas, it is desirable to appoint two Members;

Now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hudson Bay, that the Honourable Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, and the Honourable Member for Amittuq, Mr. Enoki Irgittuq, be appointed as Deputy Chairpersons of the Committee of the Whole.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Are you prepared for the question? Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: The motion is carried. Mr. Okalik.

Motion 9 - 1 (1): Appointments to the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Whereas it is required by Rule 83 that a Standing Committee be appointed;

Now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet North, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges:

Ovide Alakannuark;
Enoki Irgittuq;
Kevin O'Brien;
Glenn McLean;
Peter Kattuk;
Hunter Tootoo;
Uriash Puqiqnak;
Olayuk Akesuk;
Jobie Nutarak;
David Iqaqrialu.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. Are you prepared for the question? Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: The motion is carried. Mr. Irqittuq.

Motion 10 - 1 (1): Appointments to the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Whereas it is required by Rule 83 that a Standing Committee be appointed;

Now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baker Lake, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Ajauqtiit:

Mr. Hunter Tootoo;
Mr. Ovide Alakannuark;
Mr. Peter Kattuk;
Mr. David Iqaqrialu;
Mr. Olayuk Akesuk.

And further, that Mr. Jobie Nutarak, Mr. Kevin O'Brien and Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak be named alternates;

And further, that Mr. Hunter Tootoo be appointed as Chairperson;

And further, that Mr. Ovide Alakannuark be appointed as Co-Chairperson.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Are you prepared for the question? Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: The motion is carried. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Motion 11 - 1 (1): Appointments to the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Whereas it is required by Rule 83 that a Standing Committee be appointed;

Now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baffin South, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development:

Mr. Kevin O'Brien;
Mr. Enoki Iqittuq;
Mr. Jobie Nutarak;
Mr. Glenn McLean;
Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak.

That Mr. Peter Kattuk, Mr. Hunter Tootoo and Mr. Ovide Alakannuark be named alternates;

That Kevin O'Brien be appointed as Chairperson;

That Mr. Enoki Iqittuq be appointed as Co-Chairperson.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Are you prepared for the question? Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: The motion is carried. Mr. Tootoo.

Motion 12 - 1 (1): Appointments to the Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Whereas it is required by Rule 83 that a Standing Committee be appointed;

Now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Amittuq, that the following members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health:

Mr. Jobie Nutarak;
Mr. Peter Kattuk;
Mr. Ovide Alakannuark;
Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak;
Mr. Kevin O'Brien.

That Mr. Glenn McLean, Mr. David Iqaqrialu and Mr. Olayuk Akesuk be named alternates;

That Mr. Jobie Nutarak be appointed as Chairperson;

And Further, that Mr. Peter Kattuk be appointed as Co-Chairperson.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Are you prepared for the question? Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: The motion is carried. Mr. Nutarak.

Motion 13 - 1 (1): Appointments to the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Whereas it is required by Rule 83 that a Standing Committee be appointed;

Now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Akulliq, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services;

Mr. Olayuk Akesuk;
Mr. David Iqaqrialu;
Mr. Hunter Tootoo;
Mr. Enoki Irqittuq;
Mr. Glenn McLean.

That Mr. Kevin O'Brien, Mr. Peter Kattuk and Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak be named alternates;

That Mr. Olayuk Akesuk be appointed as Chairperson;

That Mr. David Iqaqrialu be appointed as Co-Chairperson.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Are you prepared for the question? Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: The motion is carried. Mr. O'Brien.

Motion 14 - 1 (1): Adoption of Terms of Reference For Standing Committees

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you. Mr. Speaker I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Amittuq, that Tabled Document 1 - (1) Terms of Reference for Standing Committees be adopted.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Are there any questions? Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: The motion is carried. Mr. Okalik.

Motion 15 - 1 (1): Application for Membership in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Whereas the Assembly supports the aims of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association;

And Whereas this Assembly desires to take its place in the world alongside of other parliaments and legislatures;

Now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nattilik, that the Speaker, on behalf of all Members assembled, apply for admission to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, such membership to be effective immediately on approval of the application by the General Assembly, and that this Assembly agree to abide by the provisions of the Constitution of the Association.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Questions? Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: The motion is carried. Are there any further motions? Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Havioyak.

Second Reading of Bills: Bill 1, Flag Act of Nunavut

Hon. Donald Havioyak: I move, seconded by the Member for Arviat, that Bill 1, Flag Act of Nunavut, now be read a second time and be deemed to be reported without amendment by Committee of the Whole.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Are you prepared for the question? Are you agreed? The motion is carried and Bill 1 has been read for the second time. Third reading of Bills. Mr. Havioyak.

Third Reading of Bills: Bill 1, Flag of Nunavut Act

Hon. Donald Havioyak: I apologize, I move, seconded by the Member for Arviat, that Bill 1, Flag of Nunavut Act, now be read a third time and be duly passed.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Are you prepared for the question? Question has been called. Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: The motion is carried and Bill 1 has been read for the third time and duly passed. Mr. Clerk, would you like to ask if her Honour, the Commissioner of Nunavut, is

prepared to enter the chamber and assent to the Bill and prorogue this first session of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Madame Commissioner. Thank you.

ITEM 12: Assent to Bill 1 and Prorogation of the First Session

Bill 1, Flag of Nunavut Act

Commissioner Maksagak: Please be seated. As Commissioner of Nunavut it gives me pleasure to assent to Bill 1, Flag of Nunavut Act. Prior to proroguing this session I would like to inform the Assembly that the second session of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut will convene in Iqaluit on May 12, 1999. As Commissioner of Nunavut, I hereby prorogue this historic session of the first Legislative Assembly.

--Applause