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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

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Hon. Manito Thompson
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, October 25, 1999

Members Present

Mr. Olayuk Akesuk, Honourable Jack Anawak, Honourable James Arvaluk, Honourable Levi Barnabas, Honourable Donald Haviyok, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Irgittuq, Mr. Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Jobie Nutarak, Honourable Paul Okalik, Honourable Edward Picco, Honourable Manito Thompson.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): I would like to ask Ms. Thompson to say the opening prayer.

>>*Opening Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. At this time I would like to announce to the House that the member for Iqaluit Centre will not be here this afternoon and for the rest of the week because there was a death in his family. We will include Hunter and Carol Tootoo in our prayers.

Going to our agenda, Item 2, Ministers' Statements, Mr. Premier.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 10 - 1(3): Minister's Absence

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the members of this House that the Deputy Premier, Hon. Kelvin Ng, will be absent today, he will be returning to the House for tomorrow's sitting.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier.

Minister's Statement 11 - 1(3): Maligarnik Qimirrujiit

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform the members and bring them up to date on the progress made on the establishment of Maligarnik Qimirrujiit, Nunavut's Law Review Commission.

The establishment of the commission was announced at the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit workshop held last month in Apex, where government staff and Elders gathered to discuss ways in which the Government of Nunavut can include a cultural component within operations through Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Later today, I will table the terms of reference for the commission.

All members of this assembly are committed to promoting Inuit values, and I believe that Maligarnik Qimirrujiit reflects the commitment in a definitive and tangible way. A way in which Nunavummiut across the territory can recognize and relate to. One of the premises of Nunavut was that we would be able to make our law in areas that we have authority.

In order to do this, we have to review the laws that we have inherited. Maligarnik Qimirrujiit has important work to accomplish and we have looked to the members of this assembly to assist us in identifying people to be appointed as commissioners. I would like to thank them for bringing names forward before last Friday's deadline.

The commissioners need not have formal legal training. They need not speak English. Primarily, their work will be to identify Nunavut laws that are inconsistent with the vision and goals of Nunavummiut. Laws that are not in keeping with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

The commissioners will be asked to identify those areas of law for review. The goal of Maligarnik Qimirrujiit will be to encourage public discussion and to reflect the thoughts and feelings of Nunavummiut in the recommendations made to the government. That's why some of our Elders need to play a prominent role in the work of the commissioners and I will be instructing Maligarnik Qimirrujiit to work closely with the Elders in each community throughout their work. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. Ministers' statements. Mr. Anawak.

Minister's Statement 12 - 1(3): Legal Interpreter and Justice of the Peace Training

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. I apologize. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to inform members of two important initiatives being organized and sponsored by the Nunavut Department of Justice. The first is the Legal Interpreters training program currently underway at Arctic College, the second is the Justice of the Peace training program which will start in Iqaluit in November.

(interpretation ends) The Nunavut Court of Justice was officially created on April 1. This is a court that is unique in Canada as it is the country's first single level trial court. We decided on this model because it is the best for the people of Nunavut.

But we continue to face challenges simply due to the make up of our territory. We need high quality interpretation in the court room in order for the new court to serve the people effectively. Unfortunately, the few interpreters that we have in the communities have been under trained and are working under stressful conditions. We need more qualified interpreters throughout Nunavut.

Therefore, my department has asked Arctic College to select 17 applicants to take an intensive 8 week training program designed specifically for Nunavut Legal Interpreters.

Once these people graduate, they will return to their home communities and serve as interpreters for the Nunavut Court of Justice.

(interpretation) The second training program which will start in November is being designed and run by our Justice of the Peace Co-ordinator, Mr. Neil Sharkey. There has been a serious need for more qualified Justices of the Peace in our communities. As a territory, we have made the commitment to a community based justice system. But how can we call the system community based when the court only arrives in some locations every six months.

Inuit Justices of the Peace reside in their own communities and hear cases frequently. The other important benefit is that they speak the Inuktitut language and they understand the issues and dynamics of the communities in which they serve. I believe that this is another way in which we are seeing the principals of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit being applied in the justice system. I would like to point out that we managed to get federal funding to cover the costs of both these training programs for two years.

(interpretation ends) These two programs will give an important boost to the creation of the justice system at the community level and they will also result in a greater number of highly qualified Inuit working in their communities. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. Ministers' statements. Mr. Picco.

Minister's Statement 13 - 1(3): Integration of Health and Social Services Health Boards

Hon. Ed Picco: Uqaqti, I wish to inform the House of the progress achieved to date towards the integration of the three Health and Social Services Boards. We are building a unified Health and Social Services Department for Nunavut.

The work required for integration is mostly administrative at this time, though it is complicated and it must be done well to ensure services continue to be delivered properly. This work is on track and will continue right through to April 2000. I want to emphasize Mr. Speaker, that the administrative reorganization that we're doing as part of the integration process will not, and I repeat, will not in any way affect the day to day delivery of services in the communities. As well Mr. Speaker, I repeat that the government is committed to a "no layoff" policy for any employees whose jobs are affected by integration.

Mrs. Rosemary Cooper, Assistant Deputy Minister of my department has also been assigned full time to the integration and decentralization initiatives. An integration co-ordinator has been contracted to assist in the integration of both Education and Health and Social Services. The Integration Planning Committee for our senior managers of all three boards at the department has met three times. It has provided direction to a series of working committees, again with participation from all three boards, and the department

as well as the central agencies. They're currently working on the many administrative details.

Mr. Speaker, integration is only the first of a series of steps towards the building of a health and social services system designed by and for all of Nunavummiut. The redesign of the current system will evolve over the next several years. It will include honouring our commitment to decentralized positions both in Pangnirtung and to Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, while the boards will no longer exist after April 1, 2000, there is an ongoing need to maintain and enhance partnerships with communities and to build a system of accountability at the community level as well as the ministerial level. This will certainly be part of the system design work which lies ahead.

Mr. Speaker, in the meantime, I have directed the department to enter into discussions with community governments regarding interim arrangements. Some Nunavut communities already have some form of a committee, usually a sub-committee of the hamlet which considers wellness promotion and other related health and social services programs.

These committees can be the focus of discussions that might take place in communities and between communities and the department. We would be prepared to provide some support to such an approach on an interim basis. Mr. Speaker, as we move through integration and begin discussions about the future, I am more and more convinced that this unification of the system is the right thing to do. I look forward to providing members and the public with further details over the coming months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Ministers' statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

Minister's Statement 14 - 1(3): Schools Integration Project

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would like to provide members with an update on the progress made by Education Nunavut on the Schools Integration Project. As you will remember, a decision was made in April of this year to dissolve both education and health boards of management by July 1, 2000.

Since that time, an implementation co-ordinator has been hired to manage the project and I am pleased with the progress we have made. I provided you with a copy of the Implementation Co-ordinator's Handbook in August so that you would have an overview of how this project will be implemented.

Since April, I have briefed all district education councils with the exception of the Kivalliq Council. I will be attending their next regularly scheduled meeting to discuss these issues as well as the re-writing of the *Education Act*. Headquarters staff have also

met the Divisional Education Council with board staff and with the majority of school principals in Nunavut to provide briefings and to answer questions.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, discussions have also been held with the Nunavut Social Development Council and with the legislative standing committee on Culture Education and Health. Working Committees consisting of representatives of all three boards and headquarters have been working hard to design the new organization to undertake the action that is needed to redesign the administrative systems to allow us to take advantage of central agencies systems where ever that is possible.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I'm confident this will result in more cost effective regional structures. The new regional offices will be designed to provide strong support both to schools and to district education authorities who will ultimately manage more of the direction of education in their communities under the authority of a new *Education Act*.

(interpretation ends) Organization charts for the new regional schools will be ready within the next month. We are targeting staff for appointments to re-describe positions. This will be completed before Christmas. This should lessen any anxiety on the part of staff and provide the system with the required stability to do the required work that will be needed prior to July 2000. As you know, there will be no layoffs as a result of the organization changes.

The skilled people in the system will continue to be valuable members of the Nunavut Government team and if it's not possible to take place in the Department of Education, alternate jobs will be available in other departments.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, in summary, the work is on schedule and I'm confident that the integration schedule will be a success. The success will include a department and myself as Minister of Education, closer and more accountable to the students and all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Ministers' statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Minister's Statement 15 - 1(3): Sustainable Development's Implementation of the Bathurst Priorities

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the summer I had the opportunity to speak with people in my community about our government. I discussed the challenges that our government faces and the work that lies ahead with leading the Department of Sustainable Development, our department, with a broad and diverse mandate.

One elder said to me just recently, "remember Peter, a good dog team will work hard to get from one place to another, each dog pulling in the same direction, each dog knowing their role. Each dog is different but they are a team and because they are a team, when

they work together, they are powerful. They are more powerful than any snow machine.” This elder reminded me that it is my job to make sure that everyone on the team knows my direction and that the traces in my hands must be taut.

Mr. Speaker, in the first six months on the job, I have worked very hard to find out the needs of our communities and the role of my department and with this knowledge, I have worked to establish direction for the department. This direction is based on what many people in Nunavut would view as common sense and that our work must take into consideration the capacities of our people, the protection of our environment and it's resources and the development of our economy and that every aspect of our work must include Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit.

(interpretation ends) I will speak about the direction that we have established for our government as a whole in the Bathurst Mandate. I am pleased to be able to speak to you about the role of the Department of Sustainable Development. After the Cabinet meeting in Bathurst Inlet in August, I called together the senior staff in my department. I outlined for them the direction I wanted our department to take in the next 180 days. I described for them five major areas in which I expect our department to provide leadership. Each relates to the Bathurst Mandate and the four goals we set for this government.

(interpretation) First, I stressed the need for us to communicate effectively with the people of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I travelled extensively in Nunavut throughout the summer and everywhere the message was the same, keep us informed about what the government is doing. So I have told my staff in Sustainable Development, people expect that we will faithfully and regularly communicate with them.

I want my department to be a leader in the government's effort. Secondly, I have asked my department to strengthen it's community presence. We must work to provide more support for our Wildlife Officers and for the Community Economic Development Officers in each community. Thirdly, I have stated in this House before and I emphasized it again with my staff that job creation is a priority of our department.

Speaker: Mr. Kilabuk, can you please be seated? I apologize, your time of 20 minutes is up and you can request consent from the members to continue.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: I would like to request consent from the members.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Mr. Kilabuk has requested to continue with his Minister's Statement. Any objections. Mr. Kilabuk you have a consensus.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): A key to job creation is a partnership with the Federal Government.

(interpretation ends) We have been successful negotiating with the Federal Government recent agreements with Natural Resources Canada and DIAND to establish a Geoscience

Officer in Iqaluit, rather in Nunavut, and this can make a major contribution to our economy.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, I have reasonable hopes that our current negotiations with DIAND will result in the establishment of a Nunavut Economic Development Agreement this year. I cannot emphasize enough the gains and benefits of working with our partners both in economic development and in our co-management responsibilities for our environment and our wildlife.

(interpretation) The Bathurst Mandate calls for Nunavummiut to be self-reliant. Self-reliance is not being able to go at it alone, self-reliance is pulling your weight as part of a team, making full use of your own resources and abilities. When we combine our resources and abilities with others in partnership, each one is stronger.

As a fourth priority, I am determined that we must simplify our program delivery. Again, Mr. Speaker, I have told my senior staff that we must emphasize improvements in communication, explain our programs and policies and make them clear and simple so that the public can understand and take full advantage of them. Finally Mr. Speaker, I have told my staff of the pride I take in the leadership they have provided in our efforts in this government to apply Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

This government team we have been told is making a trail in new snow. Our elders have pointed to the direction we must take and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit reminds us that learning is not only about discovering what is ahead of us. Learning must be about understanding who we are and how we can use our strengths to find our way into the future.

(interpretation ends) I would like to refer briefly now to specific programs my department will be undertaking in the next six months which will address the Bathurst Mandate directly. Mr. Speaker, through my travels this summer, I have heard from our hunters about the existing *Wildlife Act*, and it's outdated approach to wildlife management. As I have said previously in this House, I am committed to modernizing our *Wildlife Act* and I will be bringing forward recommendations on how we can approach this very large process of reform.

This important new proposed legislation will be brought to cabinet only after extensive public consultation. A major part of the work of my department is dedicated to community capacity building. We work routinely with our partners in other government departments, the Inuit organizations, hamlets and the federal government on wellness, community development, labour force development and economic development. Community planning is essential to our work.

(interpretation) We will continue to provide direct financial support to communities wishing to establish their development plans. We will continue our support for Community Economic Development Officers and their professional organization, the Nunavut Economic Developers Association.

(interpretation ends) Concerning my statements on the Nunavut economy made during the last session. We are working toward an economic strategy for Nunavut. To this end, I am committing to a consultation process in which I will invite participants from each community to contribute to the creation of a Nunavut plan for economic development. I anticipate this process beginning early in the new calendar year. But in the meantime Mr. Speaker, my department will continue to pursue opportunities for our growing labour force. I am particularly concerned that we identify work opportunities for people among the Makkuktut and Makkuktut Inait Group aged from 15-39 years of age who want to make a good start in life and be recognized as useful, productive members of their communities.

My department is presently conducting background research on the creation programs that I hope will lead to the establishment of another partnership in Nunavut's job force to address the needs of our young adults, for work in our communities. I've already stated how important I regard communication by government with the public.

This is the key to achieving the goal we set in Bathurst to simplify government. My department produces and distributes a wide range of information, ranging from permits and licenses to wildlife and environmental protection. All these documents and publications currently are being revised and translated to make them more accessible and understandable to people.

Mr. Speaker, as part of our efforts to simplify and enhance business support programs, we will continue the implementation of one stop program delivery with our partners in each region. At first this will involve linking our programs with those of the regional community future organizations and we will continue to work toward one stop program delivery with the Inuit organizations as well. We will continue to support Nunavut Development Corporations.

My department will maintain our assistance to Nunavut Tourism, the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association and the Nunavut Economic Developers Association. Organizations whose work directly effects our economic prospects in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken about some of the ways my department will support the Bathurst Mandate in the achievement of three goals, healthy communities, simplicity in government and self-reliance.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by referring to the fourth and last goal, learning. Much of the work of my department depends on training and capacity building. Our people must have the knowledge and skills to take full advantage of our rich economic prospects. In the mining industry for example, we have identified opportunities for trades training that can be delivered in Nunavut and Nunavut Tourism was recently recognized as Nunavut's Training Council for the tourism industry.

We will work with our partners in Education to help ensure Nunavummiut are able to assume important roles and the majority of the jobs in the development of our mining industry. We have a labour force in Nunavut, Mr. Speaker, with distinct characteristics, some of which are unique among working people in Canada. My department has described these characteristics and will work with other departments and in particular the Department of Education to ensure that education and training is available for all our working people, including those who work in the traditional economy.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I feel very confident that we have a good working team at the Department of Sustainable Development. That we can pull our weight and help to ensure this government reaches the goals that we set in Bathurst Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. The time limit for Ministers' Statements is over. Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Okalik.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 23 - 1(3): Mr. Douglas Lem's Business Anniversary

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday, along with my colleagues from Iqaluit East and Pangnirtung, I had the honour of taking part in a wonderful anniversary celebration for one of my constituents, Mr. Douglas Lem, who celebrated three years of business here in Iqaluit. This celebration was held in Mr. Lem's business premises and it was truly an uplifting Chinese ceremony.

Douglas Lem, along with his father, operates Nunavut Catering and Consulting in my riding and regularly provide services to us. Doug is a Town Councillor and a tireless worker and provides food to the less fortunate in our community. Whenever I attend a meeting involving the improvement of the less fortunate in our community, I have come to expect Mr. Doug Lem in attendance, supporting services and volunteering services to these organizations, which reflect his true commitment to our community.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I wish to reiterate my gratitude to Mr. Lem and his staff for the wonderful ceremony and encourage him to continue his great work in our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 24 - 1(3): Coral Harbour Bridge

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today concerning the bridge that was built recently in Salliit, Coral Harbour. I just came back recently and I was able to use that bridge myself and I wanted to mention that today. The government staff and the community people are benefiting from that because Coral Harbour residents

have been working really hard towards getting that bridge. Maybe about 13 years ago when I lived in Coral Harbour this issue was just starting to be talked about and the MLA's worked really hard to try and get the bridge in place, Manito Thompson as one of them.

I think we should definitely recognize that when they were trying to establish the community and set up the bridge, the community was very helpful and we would like to thank the contractors as well, Louis Bruce is here today, and I would like to recognize him later on during Recognition of Visitors.

The contractors, even though it wasn't in the terms of reference of the contract, did over and beyond the call, in trying to get the project done. Even though it is not quite complete the bridge is being used and it's really obvious that it has benefited, and it has shown that it benefits the people in the community of Coral Harbour.

It has really encouraged them that Nunavut is there for them. I am sure that a lot of people who would have just stayed home without having transportation are able to use the bridge to go out on the land and relax. I am sure it is obvious that it is going to help them spiritually and it will benefit the people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 25 - 1(3): Absence from House

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the House, Mr. Speaker, that I will be leaving the House at 3 o'clock this afternoon as one of my constituents has invited me to a graduation ceremony. I will be gone for the rest of the afternoon, but I will be back tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 26 - 1(3): Suicide Prevention

Mr. Ireqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to make the same statement that I made when we were opening up our first meeting in April in regards to suicide. Suicides in my community started in the 60's and from there I have lost three of my immediate family members to suicide in the 1980's. I used to think, Mr. Speaker, that after I lost three of my immediate family members through suicide it was too late to do anything about suicide prevention.

Afterwards I found out that suicide is not going to stop and we have to work hard to prevent it. I would like to tell all Nunavummiut that I will do anything I can in helping to prevent suicide and will make the same statement that I made last session, and you can either take it or leave it.

I know that even if we use a lot of money, suicide will always keep happening, there is not much we can do. We can never find out what causes suicides, because there are a lot of reasons that make people commit suicide. Those who are very serious about committing suicide will never tell anybody what their reasons are. It is only after the fact that we find out how serious their problems were.

I would like to re-emphasize that at 12 o'clock, we have to pray with our children so that there is less suicide in the communities, whether in Iqaluit or in our home communities. I would like to urge the members here, through my third statement, that we have to help our people of Nunavummiut. I am speaking from my heart when I say that we should pray together with our children in order to prevent suicide from happening. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq, for your wise words. Members' Statements. Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 27 - 1(3): Sanikiluaq 4 Wheeler Accident

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This summer an accident happened in my community and I have a need to say thank you to the people out there. We had a 4 wheeler that went overboard and the people also went in the water. There was no serious damage but I would like to say thank you to the people that helped pull us out. Markossie Sala, Luccasie Arrugatainaq, Joanna Kulualuq, Johnny Meeko, and Lucassie Meeko. Also Lucassie Meeko pulled and saved the littlest one who went in the water, I am very grateful to Lucassie and also to the other people that I mentioned who helped save the people. I was one of the people involved and I would like to extend my gratitude to those people. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk. We'll help you if you want to have those names included in the Commissioner's Awards for Bravery. Mr. Anawak.

Member's Statement 28 - 1(3): Recognition of Daughters Birthday

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is going to be part of what I am saying, but first of all I would like to say thank you and recognize a person that I am sure everybody knows. He is a singer, and I would like to thank him because I adopted a little girl from that person. It is my daughter's birthday today and she is in Rankin Inlet. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak, and happy birthday to your daughter. Members' Statements, Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 29 - 1(3): Congratulations to Kirt Ejesiak

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Uqaqti, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a constituent of mine, Kirt Ejesiak of Iqaluit. Kirt was recently named

winner of the Young Entrepreneur Award for Nunavut by the Business Development Bank of Canada. Kirt was invited to Quebec City where he was presented with this award.

Kirt is well known in Iqaluit and Nunavut. He has been involved with our Land Claim organizations and his Uqsiq Communications company is second to none in Nunavut. As well as holding down a full time job, running Uqsiq Communications, Kirt also started a new venture this summer, he is renting out kayaks from his Apex beach location. Kirt is an avid paddler and he passes this enthusiasm on to his many customers. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity and ask that you and this House join me in congratulating Kirt and his wife Rannvah, on winning this prestigious award. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. We will send a congratulatory letter on behalf of the Legislative Assembly and the members. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Going back to the Orders of the Day, item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a person who always takes the initiative and a leadership role, whether it be in business or recreation, without being told to do it. She always takes her own initiative and is always a leader in her community.

Also, again, the same thing especially with the elders, helping out with the elders, Leonie Duffy is from Coral Harbour. Last of all Mr. Speaker, for Kevin O'Brien who is not here, from Arviat, Hadi Adlariaq, my brother's wife. I would like her to be recognized. Leonie Duffy is Manitok Thompson's older sister and Louis Bruce is her brother.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to go first, but it is okay, since Mr. Arvaluk is the MLA for Sallit. It is our Inuit tradition not to say our relatives names. Hadi Adlariaq, my father's sister, is the minister in Arviat, and my older sister Leonie Duffy operates a hotel and store in Sallit, and also my brother, like Arvaluk said, has his own business. I would like them to stand up again. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): As I said before, welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize someone from my home community. To give you a brief profile, you all know a little bit

about her. She is my constituency worker and she also used to work at the Hamlet Council. If she is given Inuktitut copies and if there are no typos, she will read it like I am speaking to you today. Ms. Anne Curley if you would rise please.

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. At this time I would like to recognize two people who helped very much with the planning of Nunavut. Our first MP, Peter Ittinuar, and the other one is Paul Quassa, who was one of the signatories of the final Land Claim Agreement. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 6, Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 31 - 1(3): Integration of Health & Social Services

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question that I will direct to the Minister of Health. I think it was on the 22nd that you made some comments and this is in relation to that. In your opening remarks you said you would give the communities more authority in the future.

I know there is going to be an amalgamation of the three Health Boards. In regards to community empowerment, how long is it going to take to give more authority to the communities and fully implement community empowerment.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Qujannamiik Mr. Speaker. The process of integration, as I just explained in the opening comments, has been a long one and it started shortly after April 1st, when the announcement was made that we were going to integrate the Health Boards into the Department of Health. With that, we are trying to figure out what we will have after April 1st, 2000.

For example, in the Education system, with the three Education Boards, we know that we have local education authorities on the ground after they are dissolved, after the Education Boards are dissolved. But in Health, we didn't have anything on the ground except in some communities we had sub-committees of Health under the communities or Community Health Committees.

What I am trying to say is that I have, over this past couple of weeks, had the department on conference calls with every single community, with every Mayor, every region of Nunavut has been contacted to see exactly what we have on the ground after April 1st, do we have a sub-committee of Health on the ground right now and where we don't have one we have talked to the Mayors to see if they would be interested in setting up a sub-committee of Health for the Hamlet.

Now that way Mr. Speaker, you would have elected officials dealing with health issues as part of the restructuring that we are trying to do with health, indeed Mr. Speaker, it's part of the fundamental shift that we are trying to do in health care and the delivery of health care in Nunavut. We should have a community based approach, looking at empowerment issues. So I appreciate the member's question. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Oral questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again, you said that there was almost a 9 million dollar deficit with the Health Boards. In regards to this deficit, what caused the deficit and why was there an accumulation of all these deficits over the years.

Speaker: Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to use a phrase; that's the sixty four thousand dollar question. But, to be serious, the 8.9 million dollar deficit as of March 31st of this year, was announced because the three Health Boards tabled their audited statements.

It would indicate that the debt, the 8.9 million dollars, that has been discussed publicly, was previous to the Nunavut Government being set up. Through our analysis that we are trying to do right now within the Department of Health & Social Services, it seems to be consistent underfunding in the Department of Health since the GNWT. It looks like, as we are tracking this through, around '93, '94, '95, '96 fiscal years, the expenditures on Health in Nunavut, specifically in Nunavut, did not keep up with the amount of money that was being transferred to the three Regional Health Boards.

Over the past several years the Health Boards have come forward with supplementary appropriations within the budget framework to be able to re-float or to re-base the Health budget in the GNWT. As of April 1st when Nunavut took over we inherited that 8.9 million dollars. What we are trying to do right now is to analyze this debt to see what caused it and there are different causes for it, Mr. Speaker, and I think what the member is trying to say is what are the causes, was it the expenses that we have in medical travel, is it the morbidity, people are getting sicker, we are seeing more instances of diseases that we did not see Mr. Speaker, five years ago.

We are seeing instances of diabetes, we are seeing increases in cancers, indeed Mr. Speaker, we are seeing increases in other diseases like RSV and respiratory diseases. So these types of problems come forward and we need to look at how we are going to re-base our budget, how we are going to deal with the deficit situation, so that not only can we enhance the delivery, but we can enhance the delivery of Health and Social Services at the community level. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Oral questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question. The Government of the NWT had quite a huge deficit and I believe it was in the 32 million dollar range, where they had their deficit. You didn't pay the GNWT's deficit of 32 million dollars when we became Nunavut. I believe that is included, did you pay for the GNWT deficit, Mr. Picco?

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if the member could repeat, I only got part of the question.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. If you could rephrase your question Mr. Nutarak, he didn't hear part of the question. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The GNWT, I believe there was a deficit of 32 million dollars and I think that in part of your report, did you pay for part of that 32 million dollars from your budget or did you pay for it from out of the GN pocket. Did you pay for that 32 million dollar deficit from the Nunavut Government.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can only answer as to what has happened after April 1st, as before that it was another government as you know and the debt that we have now on the books from the department of Health and Social Services, the 8.9 million dollars, I can speak directly to that. The debt that was there previous to April 1st was another government, we inherited that debt and the way the formula financing agreement is set up between the GNWT and the Government of Nunavut, the assets and liabilities negotiations are ongoing, and this does not fall within that framework.

There was an agreement reached with the Office of the Interim Commissioner, and the GNWT and the Federal Government, that those debts incurred by the Health Boards, and indeed, the Education Boards, prior to March 31st was assumed by each incoming government. So that's all I can speak to Mr. Speaker, not the 32 million, if that is the question. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 32 - 1(3): Government Support for Unilingual Businesspersons

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Department of Sustainable Development regarding the Minister's Statement. You mentioned about supporting the small business in the communities, about having a credit union or having some kind of grants and loans programs for the small businesses.

My question is can the unilingual people who can't read and write English, how are you going to improve the benefits for them from the statements that you made earlier. Because at times, small business owners who are unilingual, when they try to get funding from the government or different organizations, they have road blocks along the way as they can't speak or read English. I think we should definitely have something simple in place like an application form to be used by unilingual people. Are you going to come up with something like that for them? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I believe you had two questions there, there was one for Sustainable Development. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since we just started with the Department we have been reviewing all the application forms and all the forms that have to be filled out and how to make proposals. I reviewed that this year. For the unilingual who can't speak or write in English as you mentioned earlier, we have been trying to review forms to make it simpler for everyone, not just for unilingual people. If they want to start a small business, we are trying to set up a place where they can apply for funding. We are trying to put together consistent application forms for everybody.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of NTPC.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu you have to ask your questions to only one Minister on the same subject. So if you are going to ask a question of the Minister of NTPC you will have to wait for later. Mr. Iqaqrialu, do you have a question for the same Minister.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): We have to leave very shortly, I can ask tomorrow.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. I don't want to stop you or anything but when you are asking a Minister a question, you have to direct your questions to the same minister before you ask another question. Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Question 33 - 1(3): Definition of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Premier. During our present sitting, you kept mentioning Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit when we are sitting in the House. What exactly does Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit mean.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is interpreted in several different ways, but we try to use it in the best possible ways. We do meet with our elders and just last month we met with them through the Department of

Sustainable Development on trying to put ideas together on how to use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in the daily business of our departments.

We are now in the process of looking at the legislation of the government and our elders are our mentors in trying to get Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit implemented in our laws. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit had been misinterpreted in the past and right now our department is reviewing all of this information and putting it together. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. Oral questions Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, you want to include this in your departments or in the Nunavut Government. If you are going to use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit for example, is that going to give us more power in our activities or in our governance? My question is, through Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit we had a very viable and beneficial Inuit society, but now that we have the constitution and laws of Canada that are standard and we have to use them in Nunavut, I don't know if you can include Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into that.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqittuq. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier, we are trying to use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit as much as possible and we are going to review how we can better use it in the department and we are getting direction from the elders. We are all using them as our mentors to include Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and how we can better use it in our daily business. So we don't just leave it on the side because I am sure it is really going to benefit us in the future. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. Oral questions, Mr. Akasuk.

Question 34 - 1(3): Housing for Social Worker

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of the Housing Corporation. The social worker doesn't have any housing available in Kimmirut. Have you looked into finding possible housing for our social worker. I think the only problem we have right now is housing for that person.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Akasuk. Minister of Housing, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The public housing and staff housing policies are separate from each other because they were transferred over from the previous government. We are reviewing through our Task Force how we can improve our housing policies.

The staff housing constructed by NCC are not being used right now because of the policies that are in place. The staff housing for the government and for housing authorities are separate policies and the concern that was raised by the MLA for

Kimmirut, we are looking into it right now at this very moment. Also this morning I was able to talk about this with one of our staff and I will go and check on it as soon as possible. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral questions. Oral questions. Back to the Orders of the Day. Item 7, Written Questions. Written questions. Item 8, Returns to Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9, Replies to Opening Address. Item 10, Petitions. Mr. Havioyak.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 01 - 1(3): Alcohol Import Permit Fees

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of Kugluktuk residents not being happy with the Alcohol Import system in place since we have become the new Nunavut Territory. Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 34 signatures of residents of Kugluktuk and Mr. Speaker, the residents request that the residents of Kugluktuk would like to bring alcoholic beverages from Yellowknife without an alcohol import permit.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Petitions. Petitions. Item 11, Reports of Special and Standing Committees. Item 12, Reports of Committees on Review of Bills. Reports of Committees on Review of Bills. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Mr. Picco.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 06 - 1(3): Toward a Healthy Future

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the second report on the health of Canadians called, "Toward a Healthy Future". This report was released by the Government of Canada at a recent meeting of Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Health which I had the opportunity to attend in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

The information in this report will provide valuable decision making tools for all governments of Canada, including the Nunavut Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Clerk.

Tabled Document 07 - 1(3): Responses to Petitions

Mr. Quirke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the second session of the Legislative Assembly, eleven petitions were filed by members. All petitions were responded to by the appropriate minister and copies of these responses are attached to this tabled document. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Clerk. Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. Item 14, Notice of Motion. Notice of Motion. Item 15, Notice of Motion for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 6 – An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act - Notice

Hon. Paul Okalik: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, October 27, 1999, I shall move that Bill 6 – An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, will be read for the first time. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Item 16, Motions. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to give second reading to Bill 1 – Loan Authorization Act.

Speaker: Mr. Premier, I'm sorry we are on Orders of the Day, item 16. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 1 – Loan Authorization Act, 1999/2000

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to give second reading to Bill 1 – Loan Authorization Act. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin North, that Bill 1 – Loan Authorization Act, 1999/2000 be read for the second time.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Bill 1 has had second reading and accordingly is referred to the standing committee. Second reading of bills. Mr. Premier.

Bill 2 – An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to give second reading to Bill 2 – An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that Bill 2 – An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, be read for the second time.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Bill 2 has had second reading and accordingly

stands referred to the standing committee. Second reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Mr. Anawak.

Bill 3 – An Act to Amend the Interpretation Act

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nanulik, that Bill 3 – An Act to Amend the Interpretation Act, be read for a second time. Mr. Speaker, we are introducing this Bill to amend the Interpretation Act in order to accommodate the change to a single time zone for all of Nunavut on October 31, 1999. Section 25 of the Act has already been varied by a regulation that has been signed by the Commissioner and registered under our *Statutory Instruments Act* on September 7, 1999.

(interpretation) When we have the same time zone in Nunavut there is going to be better public communication and better small business communication in all of Nunavut. When we have this one time zone it will also benefit the Nunavut Government.

Speaker: The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Bill 3 has had second reading and accordingly stands referred to the standing committee. Second reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Anawak.

Bill 4 – An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kugluktuk, that Bill 4 – An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker we are introducing this bill to amend the Legal Services Act to provide for a Nunavut Legal Services Board to commence on April 1st, 2000. Currently the Act provides for the Board to be the NWT Legal Services Board.

The process of staffing the new Legal Services Board has begun and the office will be established in Gjoa Haven prior to April 1. This amendment is a reflection of our government's commitment to taking full responsibility for our affairs and is also consistent with our commitment to putting in place structures that are designed to meet the needs of the people of Nunavut. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. The motion is in order for second reading of Bill 4. To the principle of the Bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Bill 4 has had second reading and accordingly is referred to the standing committee. Second reading of bills. Mr. Premier.

Bill 5 – Supplementary Appropriations Act, No. 1, 1999/2000

Hon. Paul Okalik: I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Nanulik, that Bill 5 – Supplementary Appropriations Act, No. 1, 1999/2000 be read for the second time.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Bill 5 has had second reading and accordingly is referred to the standing committees. Second reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Item 20, Reports of Committee of the Whole. Item 21, Third Reading of Bills. Item 22, Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Mr. Quirke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Meeting of full caucus this evening at 6 o'clock and meeting of full caucus, tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock, both meetings in the Nanuq Board Room. Orders of the Day for October 26 at half past one.

Item 1, Prayer.

Item 2, Ministers' Statements.

Item 3, Members' Statements.

Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions.

Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Item 6, Oral Questions.

Item 7, Written Questions.

Item 8, Returns to Written Questions.

Item 9, Replies to Opening Address.

Item 10, Petitions.

Item 11, Reports of Standing and Special Committees.

Item 12, Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills.

Item 13, Tabling of Documents.

Item 14, Notices of Motions.

Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills.

Item 16, Motions.

Motion 1 – 1 (3) Report of the Chief Electoral Officer

Item 17, First Reading of Bills.

Item 18, Second Reading of Bills.

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

Item 20, Report of the Committee of the Whole.

Item 21, Third Reading of Bills.

Item 22, Orders of the Day.

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, October 26, 1999 at 1.30 p.m.. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House adjourned at 2.55 p.m.*

