

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak
(Baker Lake)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic
Development and Transportation*

Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak
(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for
Labour; Minister responsible for the Qulliq
Energy Corporation*

Hon. George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial
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Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention;
Minister responsible for the Workers'
Safety and Compensation Commission*

Hon. David Joanasie
(South Baffin)

*Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister
of Education; Minister of Languages*

Joelie Kaerner
(Amittuq)

Mila Kamingoak
(Kugluktuk)

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South)
*Minister of Community and
Government Services; Minister
of Human Resources*

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Margaret Nakashuk
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Hon. Patterk Netser
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*Minister responsible for
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Minister responsible for the
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Emiliano Qirngnuq
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Paul Quassa
(Aggu)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)

*Premier; Minister of Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of
Energy; Minister of Environment; Minister
responsible for Aboriginal Affairs;
Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister
responsible for the Utility Rates Review
Council*

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

*Government House Leader; Minister of
Family Services; Minister responsible for
Homelessness; Minister responsible for
Immigration; Minister responsible for the
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Cathy Towtongie
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. George Hickey, Hon. David Joanase, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Hon. Patterk Netser, Mr. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>*House commenced at 13:32*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak)(interpretation): I ask Member Towtongie to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much. Before we proceed, I have a statement to make. Before we proceed with the orders of the day, I wish to make a statement.

Speaker's Statement

As Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, I am pleased to welcome Nunavummiut who are following our proceedings for this special one-day sitting of the House. Although today's sitting will be brief, we warmly welcome you.

(interpretation ends) I also wish to take this opportunity to formally pay tribute to the late Ludy Pudluk, who passed away this summer.

As the House is aware, Mr. Pudluk was a long-serving Member of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories prior to division who represented a number of communities of the High Arctic.

In recognition of his lifetime of public service, Mr. Pudluk received the Order of Nunavut in 2018 at a ceremony that was held in this Chamber. Many of us who are present today had the honour of attending Mr. Pudluk's investiture ceremony, and I wish to express the deepest condolences of this House on his passing.

I also wish to take this opportunity to publicly thank Ms. Helen Klengenberg for her service to Nunavut as Languages Commissioner. Ms. Klengenberg has recently advised my office of her decision to resign for reasons of health, and we wish her all the best. I anticipate that the Management and Services Board will begin its recruitment process for this position in the near future and will make announcements as required with respect to an acting appointment.

On behalf of all Members of the Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to congratulate David Qamaniq on his successful election yesterday as the new Member for Tununiq.

>>*Applause*

Member-elect Qamaniq will formally take his seat at the upcoming fall sitting of the House, and I am confident that I speak for all Members when I say that we are very much looking forward to working with our new colleague.

We will now proceed with the orders of the day. (interpretation) Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to proceed directly to Item 15 on the order paper. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed directly to Item 15 in the *Orders of the Day*. Are there any nays? There are no nays. We will now proceed to Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Member Lightstone for Iqaluit-Manirajak.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 28 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act – Notice

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, September 19, 2019, I will move that Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act*, be read for the first time.

At the appropriate time I will seek consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister Ehaloak.

Bill 29 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act and the Interpretation Act with Respect to Nunavut Day – Notice

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Good afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, September 18, 2019, that Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act and the Interpretation Act with Respect to Nunavut Day*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek the consent of the House to waive the notice period so that Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act*, can be read for the first time.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking consent to waive the one-day notice requirement so that Bill 28 can be read for the first time. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Member Lightstone, please proceed.

Bill 28 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act – First Reading

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act*, be read for first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

First Reading of Bills. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I request consent of this Assembly to waive the one-day notice requirement to allow first reading of Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Labour Standards Act and Interpretation Act with Respect to Nunavut Day*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Minister of Justice (interpretation ends) is seeking consent to waive the one-day waiting rule so that Bill 29 can be read for the first time. Are there any nays? There are none. Ms. Ehaloak, please proceed.

Bill 28 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act and the Interpretation Act with Respect to Nunavut Day – First Reading

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for South Baffin, that Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Labour Standards Act and Interpretation Act with Respect to Nunavut Day*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Second Reading of Bills. Member Lightstone for Iqaluit-Manirajak.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek the consent of the House to waive the notice period so that Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act*, can be read for second time.

Speaker: The member is seeking consent to waive the one-day waiting rule so that Bill 28 can be read for the second time. Are there any nays? There are none. Mr. Lightstone, please proceed.

Bill 28 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act – Second Reading

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Nunavut Elections Act* with respect to the eligibility of public servants to be candidates in elections for municipal councils and district education authorities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion. (interpretation ends) To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 28, as it is a House Bill, is referred to Committee of the Whole.

(interpretation) Minister of Justice, Hon. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I request consent of this Assembly to waive the one-day notice requirement to allow for the second reading of Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act and the Interpretation Act with Respect to Nunavut Day*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The minister is seeking consent to waive the one-day waiting rule so that Bill 29 can be read for the second time. Are there any nays? There are none. Minister Ehaloak, please proceed.

Bill 29 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act and the Interpretation Act with Respect to Nunavut Day – Second Reading

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for South Baffin, that Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act and the Interpretation Act with Respect to Nunavut Day*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Labour Standards Act* and the *Interpretation Act* to appoint Nunavut Day as a general holiday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 29 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 19. Committee of the Whole on Bills and Other Matters. Bill 28 with Mr. Rumbolt in the Chair. I ask that members remain at their desks so that we can immediately proceed with the Committee of the Whole.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

Chairman (Mr. Rumbolt): Good afternoon, members. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. I hope everybody had a good summer and ready to get back to work.

I would now ask the chair of the...sorry.

In Committee of the Whole we have the following item to deal with: Bill 28. What is the wish of the committee? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to review Bill 28 and once concluded, report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 28?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 28 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. I now ask the Speaker and the witnesses to go to the witness table, please. Sorry, just the Speaker at this time.

Thank you. I would now like to ask the Speaker if he has any witnesses he would like to appear before the committee. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like a witness to be present. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree for the witness to go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witness in.

Thank you. For the record, Mr. Mikkungwak, if you could please introduce your witness. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me present today is the Law Clerk, Michael Chandler. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Welcome, Mr. Chandler. I would now ask Mr. Mikkungwak to proceed to your opening comments, please.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have the opportunity to provide some brief opening comments concerning Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act*.

(interpretation ends) As a number of members who are present today will recall, legislation was passed in the year 2017 to harmonize the administration of elections to municipal councils and district education authorities under the *Nunavut Elections Act*. In the course of preparing for the upcoming elections that will be held across the territory on October 28, 2019, a technical issue was identified that requires a statutory amendment to ensure that clear rules are in place for employees of the territorial public service who wish to stand for election. The bill before the House today clarifies that an employee of the territorial public service will not be required to take a leave of absence in order to be a candidate in the upcoming local elections given that such a requirement would be an unreasonable barrier to participation. However, appropriate requirements concerning notice and permission will remain in place in the government's *Human Resources Manual*.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. I welcome your comments and questions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Do any members have any general comments? If not, I will ask members to go to the legislation binder that should be located under your seats.

If you could please go to Bill 28, which should be on tab 28. Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to conclude Bill 28?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 28 can immediately be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Are there any closing comments? Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Also to my colleagues, thank you very much. Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act*, is going to be passed.

This fall on October 28, 2019 Nunavummiut will vote in the elections for both the hamlet councils and district education authorities. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Applause*

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mikkungwak. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour. Opposed. Thank you. Motion carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to the orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member Rumbolt.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 28 and would like to report that Bill 28 is immediately ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Minister Kusugak.

>> *Applause*

All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 28 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act – Third Reading

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 28 is ready for assent.

I wish to advise the House that as Her Honour the Commissioner of Nunavut is presently away on official business, Bill 28 will receive written assent.

(interpretation) Moving on with the orders of the day. Item 22. (interpretation ends)
Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the Standing Committee on Legislation meets tomorrow at nine o'clock in the morning here in the Chamber.

Orders of the Day for October 17:

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

9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Our meeting is adjourned for the day. We will be having a fall sitting and we will see you again during that time.

(interpretation ends) Pursuant to Motion 40 – 5(2), this House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 17, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 13:59*

