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**DAY 55**

**Wednesday June 4, 2003**

**Pages 3667 – 3723**

**Baker Lake**

**Speaker: The Honourable Kevin O'Brien, M.L.A.**

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

*Speaker*

**Hon. Kevin O'Brien**  
(Arviat)

**Ovide Alakannuark**  
(Akulliq)

**Hunter Tootoo**  
(Iqaluit Centre)

**Jack Anawak**  
(Rankin Inlet North)

**Enoki Ireqittuq**  
(Amittuq)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Ed Picco**  
(Iqaluit East)  
*Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Power Corporation; Minister of Energy, Minister of Homelessness and Immigration*

**Hon. Manitok Thompson**  
(Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove)  
*Minister of Education, Minister of Human Resources*

**Uriash Puqiqnak**  
(Nattilik)  
*Deputy Speaker*

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk**  
(South Baffin)  
*Minister of Sustainable Development*

**Glenn McLean**  
(Baker Lake)

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

**Jobie Nutarak**  
(Tunnunuiq)

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**  
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**James Arvaluk**  
(Nanulik)

**Rebekah Williams**  
(Quttiktuq)

**Hon. Peter Kattuk**  
(Hudson Bay)  
*Minister of Public Works and Services*

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk**  
(Pangnirtung)  
*Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Community Government and Transportation*

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**Baker Lake, Nunavut  
Wednesday June 4, 2003**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Mr. Jack Anawak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Donald Havioyak, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Irqittuq, Honourable Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Glenn McLean, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Jobie Nutarak, Honourable Kevin O'Brien, Honourable Paul Okalik, Honourable Ed Picco, Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, Honourable Manitok Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Mr. O'Brien): I would like to call on to Mr. Havioyak to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker:** Good afternoon Members, Mr. Premier and the people in the gallery. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Kattuk

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 168 – 1(6): Pond Inlet Playground**

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like send my good greetings to the people of Sanikiluaq and my wife Alice. I will be my Minister's Statement in English.

(interpretation ends) I would like to share a story of government and community working together. The Department of Public Works & Services is a service department, providing assistance to Government of Nunavut departments and agencies. But as the staff in Pond Inlet have shown, they are also there to serve Nunavummiut.

The staff of Public Works & Services in Pond Inlet have joined with school staff and parents to volunteer their time to erect that playground so the children of Pond Inlet will have a safe place to gather and play. Since it is in a centralized location, it will also serve as a community playground. In addition, basketball hoops will be erected around the Nasivik High School.

Mr. Speaker, this is an example of how our staff not only serves the community as Government of Nunavut employees, but more importantly, as members of a healthy community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister Picco.

**Minister's Statement 169 – 1(6): Training for Nunavummiut for Health Sciences**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Good afternoon Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker. There are a growing number of positions within the health sciences that depend on Nunavummiut for delivery. Community Health Representatives are the backbone of health promotion and health education in Nunavut. Clerk/Interpreters make the vital connection between community and medical services, and our growing contingent of nursing students is opening up opportunities for Nunavummiut in that profession.

I have good news on each of these fronts. Through cooperation with Arctic College and the Nunavut Housing Corporation we have been able to use existing funds to deliver the CHR course in Pangnirtung this year.

Our goal is to attract at least 10 CHR students who will enrol in the program in September and graduate in June 2004. I encourage people from throughout Nunavut to apply, especially from the Baffin region where we currently have six Baffin communities that are without CHRs.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, we will have the opportunity to partner with Arctic College this year to continue the good work of the Interpreter/Translator program in delivering the medical terminology modules to existing CHRs and clerk interpreters beginning in January 2004.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Nursing Program continues to grow and the Department has been able to provide support for the final year of that program.

All of this training is from within the Departmental budgets and represents the transfer of skills and the development of professional staff to serve Nunavut over the coming years. We are grateful to the partnerships provided by Arctic College and the Nunavut Housing Corporation in these programs and to the members of this Assembly for your continuing support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Are there any further Ministers' Statements? Premier Okalik.

**Minister's Statement 170 – 1(6): Northern Cooperation Agreement**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the past 6 months the three northern territories have developed a closer working arrangement and have cooperated to the benefit of all northerners. This was demonstrated when Canada agreed to provide an additional \$60 million dollars to the north as part of the Health Care Renewal Accord.



The additional funds would not have been made available if the Northern Premier's did not cooperate and together reject the proposed Health Accord in January 2003. I thank the efforts and cooperation of my colleagues, Premier Kakfwi of the NWT and Premier Fentie of the Yukon. This example of cooperating clearly demonstrated that when we work with our northern colleagues, together we achieve more.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to advise the House that in September I intend to sign a Northern Co-operation Accord with the NWT and the Yukon. This accord is to be signed in Cambridge Bay. Nunavut will acknowledge the ties of history, geography and peoples and the unique circumstances of the North.

The three Territories have mutual concerns respecting matter of economic development, political evolution, aboriginal rights and environmental and social framework.

(interpretation) Within the NWT and the Yukon we wish to explore opportunities to share information, to collaborate on issues of mutual interest and to find common voice in a northern agenda.

(interpretation ends) This accord will enhance our working relationships with our neighbours at the political and officials levels, develop and advance a common agenda on matters of mutual concern, foster economic opportunities, provide mutual support in matters of regional, national and international interest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Minister Thompson.

### **Minister's Statement 171 – 1(6): Summer Student Employment Program**

**Hon. Maniok Thompson:** Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me to rise today to inform my colleagues that the 2003 Summer Student Employment Program is now underway. I am pleased to say that \$700 thousand has been allocated to the 2003 Summer Student Employment Program.

There are several enhancements to the program this year. Wage subsidy provided to the Departments has been increased to 100%. In addition to community college and university students, high school students are now eligible under the program.

The progressive pay rate for returning students recognizes and compensates them for the experience acquired during previous work placements in the Government of Nunavut.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, priority hiring is clearly given to Inuit beneficiaries first, followed by Northern students. The program also includes orientation, mentorship and evaluation components to ensure that students are provided with the necessary support and development to help achieve success on the job.

A pro-active communication plan has been implemented to increase student awareness of this program. In partnership with the Department of Education, a package containing the program details, application process and contacts was sent to Financial Assistance for Nunavut Student clients in March.

Each of the Nunavut Arctic College's three campuses and Community Learning Centres received a package of program details for posting. Summer Student coordinators have visited some high schools to promote the program. A territory wide print media campaign was in both northern newspapers for 3 weeks. Recruitment information has been placed in prominent locations in communities including Hamlet offices.

Mr. Speaker, our youth are our future. Summer Employment provides opportunities for Nunavut students to explore different types of work and to gain meaningful job experience while completing their education. This program is one of the ways we can begin the training process for the youth of Nunavut and to help provide them with a bright future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Minister Akesuk.

**Minister's Statement 172 – 1(6): Sivumut Economic Development Strategy**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good afternoon, first of all I would like to say I love you to my wife. Today is our fifth anniversary.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, I want to update the Members of this House on the preparation of an economic development strategy for Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, in the past year, consultations were held with many different interest groups in the territory to discuss issues that should be included in an economic development strategy for Nunavut. Cabinet also agreed to work with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. to provide direction for the economic development activities of three levels of government, Inuit Organizations and the private sector.

Delegates at the Sivumut Economic Development Strategy Conference in March 2003 in Rankin Inlet discussed how we can work together to promote economic growth in the territory and identified many issues that must be addressed today if Nunavummiut are to benefit fully from economic growth in the future. Above all, Mr. Speaker, delegates at the Sivumut conference pointed out that an economic strategy for Nunavut should help us participate in the global economy, while ensuring we maintain our values and traditions and our role as stewards of the land.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, since the conference, we produced a report on the conference proceedings and distributed it to all conference delegates. We have also continued to work with our partners in the Sivumut II Economic Development Strategy Working Group on the preparation of the final economic development strategy document. That document will be sent to delegates once it goes through appropriate approval channels.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I want to thank NTI, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the delegates for helping us create a common economic development strategy for the territory. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Are there any further Ministers' Statements? Mr. Anawak.

### **Motion 026 – 1(6): Minister's Statement 167-1(6) to COW**

**Mr. Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with rule 34, I move seconded by the honourable member from Netsilik, that Minister's Statement 167-1(6) be moved to committee of the whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Minister's Statement 167-1(6) is referred to Committee of the Whole. Moving onto Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 550 – 1(6): Priority Hiring Policy Planning**

**Mr. Anawak** (interpretation): I would like to say this afternoon, for those people who do apply for positions of jobs within the Nunavut Government, since the creation of Nunavut, who should be prioritized? I think that this has been changed. I think that we are going to have to look into it more closely. Perhaps we should prioritize these people here and prioritize less these other.

Before it was created the Inuit, females and the disabled should have been placed as the top priority. It was running quite well, especially for Inuit. We would like to be able to see Inuit and we are going to keep pushing to have people employed in these areas, especially with disabled people.

(interpretation ends) It is important that the Government recognizes that there is some disadvantages by women and the disabled in the hiring process. It is all very nice to have a policy that says the priority hiring will be the beneficiaries to the Nunavut Land Claims.

I wholeheartedly agree with that, but it still leaves out the fact that if you have a beneficiary that is fully fit trying to get a job beside a disabled, I think that the outcome is clear, that there should be priority be given to that disabled person.

Right now the policy states that the priority hiring will be for beneficiaries only, when it used to be women and the disabled. I think that it is bad enough that they do not necessarily have the facilities like ramps in some of the public places.

(interpretation) I seek unanimous consent to conclude my Statement.

**Speaker:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed. Mr. Anawak.

**Mr. Anawak** (interpretation): Today, we know for a fact that there are very few Inuit in the workforce. I am sure that if I were to ask how many there are, they will respond by saying there are a lot of females working but are they in a managerial position? Or are they in a very regardless whether they are Qallunaat or not, because we are a consensus government, and we have to look at everyone as equals. How many are able to work and it seems that the females along with the physically and mentally disabled are at a disadvantage and it seems that they are not in managerial positions.

I am going to be elaborating more on this later on. We are going to have to start pushing this issue. Since 1999, females and the disabled people have clearly been at a disadvantage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Item 3. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

### **Member's Statement 551 – 1(6): Healthy Food, Healthy Children**

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the health of our children. Mr. Speaker, the youth in Taloyoak has been stressing very strongly to parents that children need to eat healthy foods.

Mr. Speaker, there are many young parents who do not know how to prepare healthy foods with vegetables, instead they purchase ready-made frozen or canned food, such as stews, pastas, pizzas and burgers. Although these are convenient, they are not what is considered a healthy diet.

Mr. Speaker, vegetables are also often more expensive in our communities. For example, green peppers in Yellowknife costs \$3.49 a kilogram, while it costs \$9.99 for a kilogram in Taloyoak. Another example is that broccoli costs \$4.79 a kilogram in Yellowknife, and in Taloyoak it costs \$10.

Mr. Speaker, I have seen programs directed towards pregnant women to prepare healthy foods for their newborn babies. I believe that there should be something similar for our young parents. Mr. Speaker, the food mail program is a good one. Our Government should be actively pushing for improvements for this program.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to be able to finish my statement. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**Speaker:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you colleagues. As I said earlier, our Government should also be doing what it can with shipping companies and airlines to ensure that the cost of fresh, healthy foods are affordable, especially for the residents of the small and remote communities. Later today I will raise questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*>Applause*

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

#### **Member's Statement 552 – 1(6): Caribou Harvesting in Coral Harbour**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, thank you, very much Mr. McLean that we were able to go down to the for a delicious meal and the Elders that we saw.

What I want to say is about our caribou hunt in Coral Harbour, it was very successful and it creates about forty jobs for when they do that caribou harvest. And what the Minister has indicated before, perhaps I will elaborate more.

After being in Coral Harbour for the past fifteen years, a family in two dwellings had to share one caribou, as they were not very abundant then. Now, according to the Minister's study there are now sixty thousand plus caribou on the Southampton Island, one hundred by one hundred sixty kilometre island.

We are trying to be very careful and the caribou on the coast island are not being disturbed and they do die off sometimes. And we do not want this happening at Southampton Island and we were able to harvest six thousand caribou because I am sure that we can reach six thousand.

The Minister indicated that the Salliq Development Corporation, he said to me that the caribou are being sold, for instance, the hides, antlers, and other things. And the Minister indicated that it would be very beneficial for the people for Sustainable Development in Coral Harbour.

But I am going to have to ask the same question during question period as to how Sustainable Development is going to be helping the people of Coral Harbour when they are trying to get the Salliq Development Corporation in Coral Harbour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Member's Statement 553 – 1(6): Arctic Char in Kugaaruk**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to talk about the animals that we do harvest such bears, black bears, Musk-ox and char because they are the domestic food for the Inuit and some are for commercial.

For instance, Kugaaruk has a lot of arctic char and they would like to be able to sell them commercially, but the Government always says that they study first before you we can proceed with commercial fishing.

They have to do studies over and over and over again and this is, it seems that the Government keeps saying that the population of each animal is decreasing and they are not increasing and even when we want to do something about it, the Government always says that we want to do studies first.

For instance, musk ox are getting closer to the community, because we have heard that musk ox are a lot more dangerous than a polar bear when they are angry. We as a Government should follow what Inuit want because we can sustain these animals and every five years the studies are done. As an Inuk, this is a long wait, what are we to do while we wait for the five year study to be completed? The studies are being done it takes too much time. That is what I wanted to say today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Mr. Iqittuq.

**Member's Statement 554 – 1(6): Study for Decentralization in Hall Beach**

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say hello to the people of Hall Beach and Igloolik. I think we are quite homesick right now. I would like to talk about, Mr. Speaker today, about our government when decentralization was being introduced the government indicated they were going to be helping the communities out.

I think they are going to have to start considering how the have not communities should be given jobs as well. For one instance in Hall Beach the unemployment is very high. Perhaps the mining exploration will start someday and the non-decentralized communities would be helped very much.

I would like the government to consider Hall Beach in the summertime because we do not have work, we do not have a dock. It does not have inlets, whenever we have high winds from the south the surges are very high and we have to pull all the boats right to the land because of the surges and they deteriorate a lot quicker when they are plastic, even when they are aluminium.

Mr. Speaker, the boats are getting bigger and they are getting faster and sometimes they ask for a tow for them to bring in their boats to the land, I would like to ask the Minister of Community Government and Transportation, I think it was last year that the docks would be introduced to all the communities. I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

**Speaker:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement, are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues. The Minister was going to review the docks for the communities and I asked the Minister right away if the Hall Beach would be one of the priority communities to be studied. Mr. Speaker, when get to question period I will be asking the same questions later on thank you.

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

#### **Member's Statement 555 – 1(6): Decentralization in Baker Lake**

**Mr. McLean:** Mut'na, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I want to speak on the issue of decentralization in Baker Lake. Mr. Speaker, yesterday my colleagues and I discussed the topic of Inuit employment and encouraging Inuit employment across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, in Baker Lake we have always done that. In Baker Lake we recognize that people who live in a community for a long period of time are best able to assess and serve the needs of their neighbours. It is no secret, Mr. Speaker, that when jobs at home are scarce, my constituents are not afraid to leave this community and to go where the jobs are.

This willingness is evident just by looking at the number of people from Baker Lake who are living and working in Iqaluit. Some of those people are home in Baker Lake today only because they are travelling with the Assembly this week.

Mr. Speaker, this shows that the people of Baker Lake are motivated to do well. When there are jobs available, the people of Baker Lake have come forward, learned how to do those jobs, and excelled in them. A good example of this is the Nunavut Power Corporation. Of the 18 Power Corporation's positions in Baker Lake, 16, Mr. Speaker, are filled by Inuit staff from Baker Lake.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, this is good news. I want to congratulate Douglas Iglookyouak from Baker Lake, who graduated from Hershing College in Winnipeg with a diploma in Computer Network Technology. Douglas will be arriving home this evening and begin working again with the Nunavut Power Corporation here in Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, I am in support of decentralization initiatives. People should not have to travel half way across the country to find a job to support their families. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to congratulate the Hamlet Council of Baker Lake in their success in hiring and training all Inuit employees. As of last year, Mr. Speaker, the Hamlet of Baker Lake had almost 100 employees, 98% are Inuit. That means that Inuit held positions at all levels.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of them as constituents. And also, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to congratulate the new Board of Directors of the Hospice Board for the first anniversary of running the new Martha Talerut Centre, a place for dental care. To date, there are twenty full and part-time staff, all Inuit, now working there. Inuit caring for Inuit.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. Ed Picco, and especially Dr. Best for helping this community establish this centre so quickly because now our elders do not have to travel from Baker Lake to receive twenty-four hour care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

### **Member's Statement 556 – 1(6): Control Raven Population**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know how long my statement will be because I cannot really hear your little bell. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding my son's gift to me so that I can wear it here in the Legislative Assembly. My daughter also gave me a watch with my name on it. However, my grandparents would never have given them this type of gift because we never had these.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to state today for the residents of Nunavut, especially in the Baffin region. The population of ravens are skyrocketing and I'm wondering if we need to have a program to control the raven population. They may carry diseases that may be passed on to other wildlife.

I see it as an upcoming problem, especially for the Baffin region. I will ask questions at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause



**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

**Member's Statement 557 – 1(6): Training Opportunity in the Mining Sector**

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to say hello to my Constituents and relatives from home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) I rise today on the issue training opportunities for my constituents to actively participate in the emerging mining sector.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to hear the Minister of Education and I told you that this week her Department is developing a Nunavut Adult Training Strategy. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the timely beliefs of this strategy that addresses community by community training needs that are geared towards current and future employment opportunities.

In my community Kugluktuk, that means training that will enable people to take an active role in mining and services to support the mining sector.

Mr. Speaker, my Colleagues and I have raised this issue many times. It is important that we take advantage of every opportunity that is presented to us. I encourage the Minister to work with the industry representatives to ensure that Training Strategy reflects industry requirements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Ms. Williams.

**Member's Statement 558 – 1(6): Substance Abuse**

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some positive news for all Nunavummiut. This is an issue that has been worked very hard on.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the issue of substance abuse and dependency and the poor record of our Government on these issues.

Mr. Speaker, I have been shocked by the decision by our national Government to introduce Legislation to decriminalize possession of certain amounts of marijuana. This decision is a wrong one, Mr. Speaker. It sends the wrong message to our youth and a wrong message to our society.

Mr. Speaker, I have been disappointed at the silence of Nunavut Government on this issue. Although our Government has taken strong positions on other Federal outrages such as gun registry, the shrimp quota issues, it has been publicly silent on this problem.

Mr. Speaker, I know that our Government cannot stop Ottawa on its own, but it should raise its voice and I question why our Premier and our Health Minister have been silent.

Mr. Speaker, I find it very strange that while our Minister of Health has introduced a Bill in this House to impose restrictions on tobacco use. He has not said a word about marijuana, which is also a dangerous drug.

Mr. Speaker, I really do not think that our Government is serious about helping people and communities to fight substance abuse and dependency. I learned last week that the Wellness Centre in Iqaluit has been shut down by the Workers' Compensation Board for being an unsafe building.

**Some Members:** Shame, shame.

**Ms. Williams:** Mr. Speaker, if we have money for pension plans, if we have money for new offices for bureaucrats, then we should certainly find money for wellness centres. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

### **Member's Statement 559 – 1(6): Education in Nunavut**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am going to rise today, again, to talk about education in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, over the past couple of days we have heard the Minister of Education make a number of strong statements and commitments. I am very optimistic that we will hear many more of these in the months to come.

Mr. Speaker, almost exactly one year ago in this House, we unanimously passed a motion to support the empowerment of our District Education Authorities. However, as we heard from the standing committee on Health and Education, DEA representatives from across Nunavut have recently indicated that they feel less and less empowered and involved.

As members are aware, from recent debates in this House, the Iqaluit District Education Authority has expressed great frustrations at having its decision on the issue of standardized assessment testing vetoed by the Department of Education.

Recently we heard of cases across Nunavut where the lines of responsibility and authority between a District Education Authority and the Regional School Operations Office are often unclear and contradictory with respect to the hiring and termination of school employees.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a consistent supporter of the DEAs as they too are elected representatives for their community and the important role that they play in our schools and our communities.

I want to see a renewed commitment on the part of the government to empowering our DEAs and providing them with the resources they require. This is what I'm sure that we would like and they would like. This is what they were promised when the government was going around to try and get their support in dissolving the Divisional Boards of Education.

We want to see a clear productive relationship between the DEAs and the Department and its regional offices. I'm sure that all the DEAs would love to see that as well.

I would like to see these roles and responsibilities very clearly laid out in the next version of the Education Act so that we don't have this grey area of interpretation and misinterpretation on behalf of either party. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Mr. Nutarak.

**Member's Statement 560 – 1(6): Thank the Minister of Public Works and Services**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister of Public Works on behalf of the residents of Pond Inlet, especially the students in Pond Inlet. I recently heard some positive news, but I'd also like to inform the Public Works Minister, although he's gone through some hard times with the bad gas, there was something positive that actually came out of that in Pond Inlet. I would like to publicly thank him for his support to the people of Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Member's Statement 561 – 1(6): Former Pangnirtung Resident in Baker Lake**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to say hi to my wife Rosie and my kids and while we are here in Baker Lake, thank you Kevin and you namesake in Broughton Island.

While here in Baker Lake we're quite far from Pangnirtung and although we are far away there is a person that lives here that used to live in Pangnirtung before and I'd like to inform her other family that Hector Duval is fine and Mickey Akavak is fine. And Naujaq, the reverend's wife is also fine, I have seen her. They really enjoyed her company while she was in Pangnirtung and I would also like to apologize to my constituents, during my regular radio spots we have a different time zone so I was a little late for my regular radio spot.

I will be going home on Saturday before we go on to Sanikiluaq, my colleagues' home town. I would just like to inform those families that their families living in Baker Lake are fine and I would like to thank my colleague here for taking good care of us thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Members' Statements. Mr. Picco.

**Member's Statement 562 – 1(6): Iqaluit Breakwater Condition**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Speaker, first of all I would like to thank Mr. McLean also, for his very good words and for the opportunity to eat lunch with the residents, the elders this afternoon; and I do support the medicinal usage of marijuana as Minister of Health and I just want to say that also.

Mr. Speaker, between 1994 and 1997 the Government of the Northwest Territories completed work on the breakwater in Iqaluit. Since that time several repairs had to be carried out because the structure and/or design does not seem conducive to the adverse conditions of ice and some of the highest tides, Mr. Speaker, in Canada.

Many constituents have suggested that by upgrading and extending the old causeway, the old causeway in Iqaluit, could facilitate deep water loading and off loading as well as providing a safe berth for boats on high and low tide.

Mr. Speaker, since 1999 our community has almost doubled in size and the number of boats and residents using the various breakwater and boating sites has also increased.

Mr. Speaker I have spoken to the president of the Iqaluit Hunters and Trappers Association, Mr. David Ell, about commissioning a study on the issues around harbour use breakwaters and possible infrastructure development to support traditional pursuits and enhance the existing infrastructure in Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker I would hope to be able to proceed on this through constituency of Iqaluit East with that budget of mine in the next few weeks.

And I would hope to be able to involve not only the Hunters and Trappers but also the municipality and the City of Iqaluit and the councils. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Just a caution Picco that this is Members' Statements and you should be careful as to the making Ministers' comments during Members' Statements in reference in your support of medical use of marijuana.

Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Item 4. Return to Oral Question. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I'd like to recognize all good people of Baker Lake that are here today in the gallery, welcome. Mr. Anawak.

### Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**Mr. Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a nephew living here but he is not here. I would like to recognize some of my constituents here but I'm not exactly, Gilbert and the people from skyward. I would like to recognize them, they live in Rankin as well. Qaumak is here as well, Emiline. And I also saw Susan who lives here, has lived in Rankin Inlet before. I would like to recognize her and as well, my long time friend I went to school with Joe Niego, Mayor of Baker Lake. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some people to recognize. There are two in particular. When I was a child, Vivian Joedee, who I know very well is in the Gallery and Thomas Ilaittuq, my nephew, my cousin's son, I would like to recognize him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to recognize, always patient here during our meetings and working hard with the job, from my community, George Metuq. I would also like to recognize, while we are here in Baker Lake, my staff, first from my Office, Pat Best, I recognize you and Shawn Maley, I would like to recognize him as well, just stepped out. My Colleagues Constituent. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Irgittuq.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 554 – 1(6): Update on the Hall Beach Breakwater

**Mr. Irgittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to be the first one. Mr. Speaker, according to my earlier Member's Statement, I would like to ask the Minister of Transportation regarding the study on the breakwaters in Nunavut.

I am just wondering what the status of the upcoming study for Hall Beach is at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was a commitment to look into the breakwaters in the communities. It is still a go and for the next two years it will be an ongoing program, but I would also like to say that the Federal Government's Coast Guard is also involved in the study.

And regarding his question, Hall Beach, I am not sure if it is on that list, but I am sorry to say that I do not have a list of exactly what the schedule is for the visits to these communities for the study. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqittuq.

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, It is unfortunate that he does not have the information. I am wondering if the Minister has the authority to direct his staff to ensure that Hall Beach is one of the first ones to be looked at. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you. I do not have the authority, but my Colleague's breakwater or boating area has been given a few changes, and the Study will still be ongoing for a couple of years, and so I am sure that his constituents...I am going to find out to see if Hall Beach is on the list and where. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqittuq.

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He did not respond to my question. I asked if the Minister has the authority to say which community can be prioritized for the travelling schedule on the Study. That was my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to respond to him further. This Study, there will also be a component as to which communities needs to get their breakwater constructed first. Through this study it will become more apparent. The staff from my department are open to me as to who should be given a priority. So I will inform him as time goes. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final Supplementary. Mr. Iqittuq.

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank the Minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, final supplementary already. I would like to ask the Minister does he agree with me that this very important breakwater will be one of the first priority of this Government? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry, but can you please have him repeat his question? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Mr. Iqittuq.

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I asked him if Hall Beach can be bumped up to be one of the first communities for this study? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that there are two meanings for his questions. First to be constructed, or first to be visited for the study? What I can say to my colleagues is that Hall Beach and Igloodik are on the list of communities to be visited and I will give him more information as to when it will take place. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Question 555 – 1(6): Decision Making Authority and Responsibilities for DEA's**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for my voice. Yesterday I made a statement in regards to the Education Authorities. I would like to ask the Minister of Education that the DEAs, especially in my community, there is no authority or power in the DEA in my community.

My question is during the Divisional Boards, the DEAs were involved in the decision making in regards to the schools locally. The system has changed completely around. So, I would like to ask regarding the community District Education Authorities, will they be given more authority and responsibility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Education. Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The District Education Authorities, yes they need empowerment and they need the authority in the community because they are elected people by the community to represent the people for education and those District Education Authorities are more knowledgeable about what is required in the community by working with the school principals.

Yes, the District Education Authorities need more authority and the staff should listen to the wishes of the District Education Authorities, they should learn to respect the District Education Authorities because the staff are not elected, they are staff members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand her response very clearly. Yes, the District Education Authority, as I have stated before that the chairman of the District Education Authority and the principal of the school, they

have to work with the rest of the people and those two solely cannot operate and run the school system.

So, I was wondering if, I would like to ask the Minister if they look into this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The staff and the senior staff, yes, the District Education Authority is below the high officials and I have also directed my staff of the Department to work with the District Education Authorities and that the District Education Authorities need authorities and power.

And the staff have to represent the District Education Authority and they are to listen and respect the decisions of District Education Authority and I have already sent that directive out to my officials because the District Education Authorities will have power and authority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have said before, I am talking about the District Education Authority when we attended a meeting in Kitikmeot. Yes, they were talking about this issue, that is why I am stating this.

I would like to see a commitment where the District Education Authorities are involved in the decision making. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Nunavut Government, the Divisional Boards of Education and Health were dissolved and the Community District Education Authorities were to be given more authority by dissolving these Regional Boards and that is what our goal is and that is what it should be.

They should be given authority just like the Hamlet Councils and Housing Authorities. They have the authority and the District Education Authority likewise should be treated the same as those other entities as previous Minister obviously understood this.

And yes, it will be so and as the Minister for this Department, the District Education Authorities will be respected, their decisions will be respected after the Regional Boards were dissolved, the DEAs were empowered, I am not too sure if it is a fact but it seems like the staff have more authority when the authority should have remained in the District Education Authority. This is going to be fixed and the DEAs will be respected by the staff. Thank you.

>>Applause



**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Question 556 – 1(6): Subsidy for Healthy Food**

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during the Member's Statements, I made a Members' Statement on behalf of my constituents in Taloyoak. For example, nutritional healthy foods for children, especially the vegetables that are sold in the stores are expensive.

In Nunavut we know that Nunavut is a very vast territory. Even though we have a large territory, the only mode of transportation is by airlines. We cannot drive down to southern Canada to deliver, or vice versa, we have to use airlines to order or purchase our food, because we do not have a highway system.

I would like to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for Transportation in regards to the food mail program, through the Post Office. The Post Office and the Department of Transportation, have they have worked together to make sure that these healthy foods could be subsidized? I would like to direct that question to the Minister responsible for Transportation. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can deal with that. My office has been working on the Post Office Food Mail Program for perishable foods. We have been dealing with this and also we have working with the Federal Government to ask them to give us more support in this area.

We have been working continuously on this. I think that it has been the past two months that the representatives of the Federal Government went to Iqaluit to consult with the impacted entities and the people. We have never been given the chance where the Food Mail Program will be located at and I know that it has an impact on the price of food, and we have asked them to keep the prices of our groceries lower. We have dealt with that issue to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. During Members' Statement I call them rabbit food, which are vegetables, I call them *ukaliq food*, *ukalii niqingi*, and you are Mr. Okalik.

Looking at this example, in Yellowknife the price for green pepper it is \$3.49 and in Taloyoak, it is \$9.99. There is a large price difference here. During your response earlier on you said that you have worked with the Federal Government for the Food Mail Program. In order to have healthier people we need to feed the nutritional food to the younger people. Therefore, I would like to ask the Minister, Mr. Speaker, how can the

food mail program subsidy be more visible at the smaller community level. We do not even see the price go down at the local level from the food mail program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I agree with the member, yes, healthy food is still too expensive. As I have stated before, they should be more open, they should open a location where we can order food mail groceries from.

Whenever there is a competition the prices of anything go lower. In Kugaarjuk we are now doing a study with the assistance of the Federal Government on how we can reduce the price of groceries in Nunavut. We will use Kugaarjuk as a model and that study will be done for up to a year through the Department of Health and Social Services. Yes, we have been looking and reviewing this and I too want to thank my colleague for bringing this up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Question. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Mr. Minister, for working on this issue, but the smaller communities that are far removed from the larger centres deserve more attention from this important program.

And I do appreciate the Federal Government for providing assistance. We would like to see other assistance having a positive impact at the smaller communities. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, in his response he has stated that the Federal Government has been working on some assistance. Have they made a report to Nunavummiut how the price goes down, how the assistance works, perhaps the minister can do that, provide information to the public. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Premier Okalik

**Hon. Okalik** (interpretation): Yes, thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, we will continue to work on this and we are committed to lobbying the Federal government to improve the program, and we will have more meetings on the Kugaarjuk study. This summer we will meet with the Federal Government to review how we can resolve this situation, and at that time there will be more opportunities to discuss this matter further and later on we can still provide submissions after the meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Premier Okalik. Oral Questions. Are there any further Oral Questions? Mr. Arvaluk.

### **Question 557 – 1(6): Fur and Antler Marketing**

**Mr Arvaluk** (Interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Sustainable Development. Mr. Speaker, in my member's statement I mentioned that, well

first of all I congratulate the Minister for issuing a news release on the Commercial Caribou Harvest success in Coral Harbour.

It also says that the Coral Harbour Development Corporation is making efforts to examine value added production initiatives to include fur pelt production etc. And that, he calls it an initiative. These initiatives will allow them to better utilize animals that are harvested. What is the role of the Department of Sustainable Development in efforts of the Coral Harbour Development Corporation to produce fur pelt, caribou leather production, sale of antler and cartilages to the world market. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Good question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last time I was in Rankin Inlet I met with a coordinator for Coral Harbour Development Corporation and we discussed the matter on how we can give them more assistance when we talked about this initiative.

We said that we can try and give them support for the hide and for the antlers or for the cartilages for promote the selling of the by-products of the caribou. We have stated that we can give them more support through computers, systems and also our coordinator in Keewatin, we have given him direction to be more sensitive on how to promote the marketing of caribou like the selling of by-products such as the fur or the hide or the antlers.

We are working with the Kivalliq Development Corporation and also we will discussing this matter with the coordinator and we would like to see some form of assistance.

Our Premier had stated that we will be looking at how we can support the non-decentralized community on economic opportunities and we will try and provide more support to the non-decentralized communities and consider them for these kinds of projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot hear him, Mr. Speaker, we cannot hear, I apologize, Mr. Speaker. I am not used to pressing my own button. I would like to thank my nephew for pressing my microphone on.

We would like to thank the Minister for working on this and showing interested, but we know that in Coral Harbour, they have to show their own initiative when they want to develop something for economic opportunities.

I know that we have tried the marketing of arctic char, especially in Chesterfield Inlet, but it has not been able to go through, but in regards to caribou, caribou by-product marketing plan, perhaps he can provide funding to the Hamlet Council for one position,

for one PY. Will they be able to provide funds for the selling of caribou by-products internationally so that they can make plans for them? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding with the economic situation in Coral Harbour, I am sure the people in Asia are interested in buying the antlers and the hides.

And I have spoken to the CEO of Salliq Development Corporation and he is willing to work harder to market these items, the antlers and hides to the world. I am sorry I cannot answer you right away, but I will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Marketing Plans, developing Business Plans, Economic Development Plans, and also Infrastructure Plans are complicated and time consuming. We do not have the already available employees with our CEDOs, or Hamlets, this will have to be contracted out.

Can the Minister assure me that he will, by recognizing, provide a very small investment of \$100 thousand dollars has a great big potential for economic return for the residents of Coral Harbour.

Would he commit to at least working with the Coral Harbour Development Council, or the Hamlet that he will assist in the initial funding of PYs to look into all these potentials? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into this. And with the Development Corporation in Coral Harbour could be very successful as they have already done something like this. If we can talk to the Salliit Development Corporation and then we can proceed and I will look into this more with the Salliit Development Corporation. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

### **Question 558 – 1(6): Community Based Training Opportunity**

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to speak to Minister Thompson. Perhaps if I can speak in English it will probably be a lot simpler. (interpretation ends) On my statement earlier I mentioned that the Department is developing a Nunavut Adult Training Strategy. I also mentioned the Community-based training as a concern that was raised by my community to make sure that we have community-based training for people that wants to work in this sector.

I am not saying that the original training centres are not doing what they have to do to get the constituents working in the mining sector. My question is can the Minister assure my constituents to have this community-based training program looked at and put in place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can certainly look at the Member's community in terms of mining courses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): I had said earlier there are many people that are looking for jobs in my community in the mining sector. There are many people that want to work in the mining sector when they do not have the training; they have a hard time getting into the mining sector.

Maybe if we had training programs for the mining sector, maybe through DIAVIK, Government of Nunavut, and the Department of Education, may perhaps they can get together and work together in providing training programs for the DIAVIK Mines. That is something I have said time and time again, if they can work together, because I think once these people have been trained in the mining sector, the mining sector will be able to assist them with getting jobs in mining. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Mr. Speaker, I just made the announcement for adult learning strategy for Nunavut, which will identify and address adult training.

One of our priorities is the mining sector and by the end of this fiscal year, we should have five courses delivered that are related to the mining sector and these include the introduction to mine welding, mineral exploration, construction and cooking.

We're also working with Department of Sustainable Development and Arctic Colleges to make sure that these courses are delivered and I will make sure that Kitikmeot is involved in these courses as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Question. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry about that. I'm sorry. I'm having problems with my mic.

Thank you, Minister. It's very pleased to hear that you are providing training programs so that these people can be given job opportunities for the mining sector. Would you commit

yourself to the Kitikmeot Region, that you will provide training programs in the mining sector? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure yet where the training is going to take place but we will probably try training at various communities and make sure that all the regions are involved that are interested in that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

### **Question 559 – 1(6): Raven Population**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is going to be a very brief question and I'm going to summarize it.

As I mentioned earlier, is there a law that prevents the killing of ravens if their population becomes too high. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that there have been concerns about ravens in other communities that we have visited.

Mr. Speaker, because they are scavengers, they eat anything. There is a federal by-law that we have to abide with and there's a concern about this species, with the population increasing too much, especially with the (atakutaqtiit) scavengers.

I will look into the scavenger issue and I will let the member from Uqqummiut know and I will talk to him again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand him very well. I thought I was going to be very brief however, it's not a simple matter.

Would it be possible or impossible for us to within Nunavut, because they are scavenging our caches, our foods, could the Minister to look into this if the communities can do something about the species that are overpopulating in our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can look into it. Because we have to abide with the Federal Government bylaws I will look into how we can deal with the scavengers issue. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the scavengers, whatever they have to scavenge is not very abundant. With the ravens we have because they are very bothersome now. I forgot one of my questions.

Have you not looked at the Federal Government laws in regards to our ravens? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said earlier, I will look into this, I will look into the different kinds of species, what laws we have to abide with. I myself and I am sure, my staff will look into it with these different laws from the Federal Government.

I will look into it myself and I will direct my staff to look into it to see how we can address this issue. I am sure that the different kinds of species will be answered in one answer right away. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps if he gets the answers as to how or what the law says before our next Session or perhaps this summer. I am sure that you can get a response from the Federal Government as to what we can do about the scavengers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will work on this properly and get the proper answers from the laws. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

### **Question 560 – 1(6): Standardized Testing – Improvements to the Education System**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say hello to my grandchild in Pond Inlet if he is watching. My question is directed to the Minister of Education. On June 2, in her Ministers' Statement, she announced standardized assessment testing for Nunavut.

As she stated, there are very different levels for different grades. I am wondering if she can elaborate on as to what improvements need to be made in the education system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Education. Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson:** (interpreted) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had stated earlier that the education level, within Nunavut, are too varied and I cannot say that the grade three levels are all standard within Nunavut because it is not true whether they be grade nine, there are different levels for each community because there is no direction in those areas.

Although they have curriculum for all of Nunavut, Mr. Speaker, for instance if they have an Inuktitut class or an English class there are some communities that have higher levels and some that have lower levels and so because of that I had given the direction to have it looked into. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The students in the classrooms, for instance in Baker Lake, in Rankin Inlet, probably have different levels regardless if they are in the same grade, so that is my understanding, if I'm correct?

She mentioned testing programs. How can the standardized testing be used to ensure that we have similar levels across Nunavut? What is she going to do to ensure the levels are levelled out for all grade levels in the classrooms for our students within Nunavut? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A grade three student has to have learned a certain level of education according to the curriculum and a grade six student also have to have that level according to the curriculum, perhaps what is happening is that they get passed on to grade seven even if they did not have that grade six level.

From grade three to grade six to grade nine, once we know what the different levels are and what levels we expect them to be at we will compare all the grade three levels in Nunavut and find out where improvements need to be made. Only then will we have an idea through this standardized testing that grade six have that certain level, and for grade nine as well.

If standardized testing is done at three grade levels at three, six, and nine, once the standardized testing is complete then we will know what education levels our Nunavummiut students have. Because at this point it is safe to say that they are all too different because these grade three students and grade six students do not even have that level of grade six and they are passed on the next grade.



We will look at, we have no results of standardized testing whatsoever, so Mr. Speaker, we know that the teachers give them tests, math tests, and spelling tests, and that is different from what I am talking about. I'm talking about standardized testing in English and what are the barriers faced, whether they're actually at a grade six level when they're in grade six or whether they are being passed to other grades without having the level they need to be at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, with the minister's comments regarding the testing and passing grades without the level. Those students that went to Churchill, residential schools, are some of the most well known and well educated people of Nunavut.

We hear many times that the students that have grade 12 don't have the level needed. Is that perhaps because we don't know the exact levels due to the lack of standardized testing? Is that why we are short changing our students? Is that where the problem comes from because there is no standardized testing in place? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister of Education. Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 1971 the company Nelson, it's a school supplies company did a Canada wide study to see if the grade levels were what they were supposed to be at. Back in 1971, 1972, or 1973 there was standardized testing done in the NWT as to what levels the grade threes are at and today there is no standardized testing and these results are from way back when.

But we do know that the students that complete grade 12 are not able to enter universities. They need to get further upgrading before they can be admitted because universities have stringent policies for entry.

Once they get back into the communities. For instance, they used to send high school students to Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Yellowknife before the grade extensions were introduced in the communities.

The academic program is not offered as much in the grades 10, 11, and 12 because they are being offered the basic general level courses. We should be teaching academic level courses so when students were being sent to away to regional centres, for instance, if they were taking a science course this teacher would only focus his time on that subject and nothing else.

Today now that the communities have up to grade 12, these teachers have to be multi-talented to teach different kinds of subjects. There are not very many who are interested in taking academic courses. There are perhaps only five students in Nunavut at this point taking academic level courses and so those that are in grade 12 are taking the general programs.

Because of that Mr. Speaker, the education system can be improved only when we know what levels our students are at. We will look into standardized testing for grades 3, 6, and 9 because there are no results of any study at this point. That is why we are intending to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Just before we continue, just to remind members, that we have eight minutes left and we have six members yet to ask questions. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try to make it brief. As she said, there are no results as to what levels our students are at. Grade 3, 6, 9, 12, as she stated how is she going to administer the standardized testing. When can we expect results of this testing? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have to find something that is suitable to Nunavut and we will have to find out what the Nunavut students at the grade 3 level are at. We have to also find what levels the students at grade 6 are at and grade 9 and so on. Once we have a better idea, we'll have benchmark to have something to compare to. As well, we're not saying let's use southern testing and adopt it for Nunavut. There will be studies done as to what is relevant for Nunavut and I'm sure they will find out from other provinces for examples as to how they administer those tests.

(interpretation end) Mr. Speaker, standardized testing takes a lot of work. We will have to find the norm for Nunavut students. As soon as we know what the norm is at grade 3, grade 6, and grade 9, and we get those bench marks, then we'll be able to test the kids.

Right now we don't have any standardized testing; we don't have a bench mark. It's just different. It varies from school to school even it's an hour away from a community. Mr. Speaker, we will develop a standardized test developed by Nunavummiut, for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Mr. Anawak.

### **Question 561 – 1(6): Preferential Hiring Policy**

**Mr. Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to go back to my Member's Statement today. (interpretation end) In April 1, 1999 the people of Nunavut took a giant step forward but as soon as that April 1, passed, I think we started back tracking on some areas.

One of those areas was its preferential hiring policy. The hiring policy developed, I think, by the Government Northwest Territories and adopted I think across Canada, but I think

adopted by the Government of Nunavut as well at the beginning, was that it would be beneficiaries, women and the disabled.

But in the process leading up to now, the government dropped women and disabled which I think is inexcusable.

(interpretation) That is why it is harder for these people to obtain jobs for women and people with disabilities. They are now not a part of the preferential hiring criteria. So I'm asking the Minister if she will commit to changing that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitoq Thompson:** Mr. Speaker, I think it's Article 23 that says that we have to have Inuit employed at all levels in the government. That was our priority as a government. Right now, I can say that the female population in Nunavut are doing very well. We have 1 thousand 492, 61% female employed in the Government of Nunavut.

>>Applause

We have 967, only 39% male employed in the Government of Nunavut. According to Article 23, we had to make sure that Inuit were employed whether they are women, male or handicapped. I can say that the female population has not been discriminated against according to my stats. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Anawak.

**Mr. Anawak:** Thank you. If I was a Government, I would not be so quick to pat myself on the back over those figures. What percentage of those women are at the senior levels of the Government, at the very senior levels of the Government?

This is a public Government, I am all in favour and I have been trying to get the issue of the Government hiring more Inuit based on their ability rather than their type of qualifications, but that does not seem to get anywhere and I am just wondering if the new Minister and by the way, if three people went into to go get a job, a man, a woman, and a disabled today, I doubt very much the disabled would get the first nod or the woman, what the percentage of those women are at the very top levels of the Government.

I think it would be nice to get a lot more Inuit in the Government, but it is no good if we are just going to pay lip service to have Inuit working just for the sake of working, but actually what we should have are people, operating Inuit at the very top levels operating the Government.

So, my question is, again, the disabled have the hardest time because some of the buildings do not have ramps. As much as we can push Article 23, the fact still remains that we are a public Government and this is traditionally being a policy of any

Government and we adopted from the Government of NWT. So, I ask the Minister again, is she considering any changes to that policy? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say for myself that, as a Minister being female, I have in the Human Resources, Carmen Levi who is a beneficiary, who is my Deputy Minister, Assistant Deputy Minister Okalik Eegeetsiak, who is a beneficiary, three females in my Education Department.

I have a female Deputy Minister, who is a non-beneficiary, I have Nowdlak, who is beneficiary, and she is my Assistant Deputy Minister in Education. I have another Assistant Deputy Minister, Cathy Okpik, who is a female beneficiary as another Assistant Deputy Minister.

So, I am actually 100% female in the senior level for my Department. I do not have any males at the higher end, not that I am against males, it just happened that way.

I cannot say that we will put the disabled to work just because for the sake of putting them to work. We will find jobs for them and my staff knows that and I know that most Government buildings now have ramps because I was also the Public Works Minister, that was one of the capital projects we put in.

Right now, I have to go with the Agreement that says Inuit get jobs. It will be an Inuk handicap that will come first, it will be a female handicap or a male handicap, female Inuk, a male beneficiary that will get the jobs.

That is our priority. I know that we have handicapped people that are working in the Government. My priority right now is that Inuit take on the jobs in every sector of the Government and we will train them to get those jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Anawak.

**Mr. Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you. It is good to hear that her department is like that but her department is one and she said one thousand, whatever, are working. The number of women. She talked about only five women when there are so many staff within the Government.

It is good to hear that they are working at those levels. However, the senior management positions, at times we have to sometimes help those that are less advantaged, whether they would be handicapped.

If she says yes we are going to work on it, that is one thing, but we need the action to go with what she says. If she just says that, it is not going to work. So that is why we need to discuss more as a Government and by ourselves so that the women and the people with disabilities be more involved in obtaining jobs, because I am not convinced that there will

be priority hiring for handicapped people, because I am not convinced that they will be given the priority.

We seem to be going backwards what we have fought for so hard as a Government for Nunavut. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Mr. Speaker, I did not hear a question. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Mr. Anawak.

**Mr. Anawak** (interpretation): What I said that yes, it is good to hear the words coming out of her mouth. That the Minister will work on it. At the lower levels if they hear that then yes, it will happen. There are barriers, although she says that she intends to work on it but it does not go anywhere from there on end, it is just lip service.

What is she going to do to improve the hiring process for the Government of Nunavut as a public government and we know that the hiring policy for preferential hiring of Inuit in the senior management level positions all across Nunavut, not just the certain departments because there is none. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Mr. Speaker, I did not hear a question.

**Speaker:** Mr. Anawak one more time if you would like to address the issue.

**Mr. Anawak:** Mr. Speaker, it is all very well to say this is what the Government is doing, or this is me as the Minister telling my staff what to do. Somewhere in the middle there seems to be a black hole. What is the Minister going to do to ensure that what she is saying here in the House gets carried out in the rest of the Government? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will find out as the Minister where the big hole is and deal with that big hole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I will say that the female are doing very well in the Government of Nunavut workforce.

Mr. Speaker, we know that with the suicide statistics, most of our young men are killing themselves, more than the women. I think we have to address both the female and the male to see that they both get jobs.

Right now we're doing very well with the female. We have to make sure the males are also given jobs and have the opportunity, if it's in training mines, heavy equipment or

whatever. Mr. Speaker, I've been to quite a few graduations and most of the graduates are female.

I went to a carpentry course, they were all female. There was one male in a hairdressing course. I went to Sanikiluaq, all the graduates for the teacher education program were all female too.

Mr. Speaker, my priority is to put beneficiaries in those jobs and as the Minister I will make that commitment that we will train Inuit to take on the jobs. That's all I can say Mr. Speaker. And if my senior staff don't hear that direction, I will find out who they are and I will deal with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Anawak.

**Mr. Anawak** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, yes, it's very good to hear those statements, but to date, the male have always been ahead in getting jobs and in getting administrative jobs.

I'm glad to see women in the work force in the administrative positions. What I'm trying to say is that the government, yes they are working very hard as a public government to hire beneficiaries but there's a barrier and we keep talking about the barriers.

Perhaps we'll start talking about the barrier issues today. The staff in the department still don't understand that they are in the Nunavut Territory. If the Minister is unwilling to see female and disabled people, I know that there are other people out there considering this.

Yes, I think the Minister will have to focus more on disabled people and also the female should be more in the senior positions. I just wanted to point that out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** I believe that was more of a comment. Minister Thompson, do you wish to respond. Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The physically disabled people and female, I'm not saying that I will not consider them, what I'm saying is that Inuit beneficiaries should be hired, they should be filling the positions and I will work to the best of my capability with the assistance of the members of this legislature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The members will note that question period is now over. Before we continue, I just want to make a general comment, not directed at any one member of the cabinet or the regular members. Question period is over, we still have four members left to ask questions.

So, I would ask the regular members to be more precise and concise with their preambles and their questions and ask members of cabinet also in response, to be as precise as they

can. It is somewhat unfair that members do not have an opportunity to ask a question here in the house.

Before proceeding with the orders of the day, we'll break for 20 minutes and there will be coffee served

Sergeant-at-Arms

>>*House recessed at 15:45 p.m. and resumed at 16:21 p.m.*

**Speaker:** Returning to Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Written Questions. Mr. McLean.

### **Item 7: Written Questions**

#### **Written Question 011 – 1(6): Impact of New Public Housing Rent Scale**

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my written question today is to the honourable Kelvin Ng, Minister responsible with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Impact of new public rent scales:

- 1) As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003, broken down by community, how many public housing units were owned or leased by the Nunavut Housing Corporation?
- 2) As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003, broken down by community, how many were vacant?
- 3) As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003, broken down by community, how many income support clients were residing in public housing?
- 4) As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003, broken down by community, how many households were assessed increased rent after the implementation of the new public housing rent scale?
- 5) As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003, broken down by community, how many households were assessed decreased rent after the implementation of the new public housing rent scale?
- 6) As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003, broken down by community, how many households did not experience any changes to their assessed rent after the implementation of the new public housing rent scale?
- 7) As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003, broken down by community, how many households were assessed at the minimum amount of rent?
- 8) As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003, broken down by community, how many households were assessed in amount of rent equalling the actual cost of their unit?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. McLean.

**Written Question 012 – 1(6): Mental Health Workers**

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is to the honourable Ed. Picco, the Minister of Health and Social Services regarding mental health workers.

- 1) How many full-time, Inuit mental health workers are currently employed with the Government of Nunavut?
- 2) What training programs currently exist in Nunavut to train Nunavummiut for positions in the field of mental health?
- 3) In what ways has the Department implemented Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit into the new mental health strategy?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 7. Written Questions. Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

**Written Question 013 – 1(6): District Education Authorities**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my written question is to the Minister responsible for Education:

- 1) What formal authorities, responsibilities and powers do District Education Authorities have with respect to hiring, termination and discipline of teachers employed under the collective agreement between the Federation of Nunavut Teachers and the Government of Nunavut?
- 2) What formal authorities, responsibilities and power do District Education Authorities have with respect to hiring, termination and discipline of school principals?
- 3) In May 2002, I believe, the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut passed a motion regarding District Education Authorities. What specific actions has the Department of Education taken in response to this motion?
- 4) What is the Department of Education's position with respect to the establishment and funding of the Nunavut-wide District Education Association?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 7. Written Questions. Are there any further written questions? Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address. Mr. Anawak.

**Item 9: Replies to Opening Address****Reply to Opening Address 002 – 1(6): June 4, 2003**

**Mr. Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me the opportunity to reply.



In my reply, since Nunavut was created on April 1, 1999, Nunavummiut had high expectations and even before the creation of Nunavut they had high expectations. And they had expected and celebrated that they would have their own Nunavut Territory.

In response to the Commissioners opening address, at times yes, as a government, we do want to please the public. For example, when the government says yes, we are successfully operating, I think it was last year, John Amagoalik who worked very hard to create Nunavut, stated that the government should not just sit idle, they have to move forward, it would be better.

In view of that, the government's operation should not be nervous or should not favour this or that. Also, I don't want the cabinet members to think that I'm pointing fingers at them. I'm talking about government as a whole.

We don't look at the individuals when we talk about Government of Nunavut. Yes, we are very pleased to see more housing units being built in the communities because there is a high shortage of housing.

From last year, to date, perhaps when we require 17 hundred houses, we only built 3 hundred units so far and I know there's still a high shortage of housing and housing shortage is one of the causes in creating problems in social wellbeing at the community level.

When there's a shortage and overcrowding in the homes, there are disagreements that start, first and second, in the design of the homes, I think we should consult with the public out there on the designs of the homes, that way, we can build and design homes that are more relevant to Inuit way of living. Also, if a barge arrives with housing materials, whether it's a barge or a ship, and then they would hire people from outside of Nunavut and then they would arrive after the shipment of the material has arrived.

We all know that they are capable construction workers at the local level. Whether it be by way of housing association or through hamlet councils or through the private sector, Inuit individuals, perhaps even without a business can construct homes.

I know that I do have a brother in law who can build and construct homes without certification. Then why, when we award contracts to construct units, why don't they split them up.

That way we can split the money to the community at the local level if the contract is split up at the local level. It can be split up this way, that person who is going to be ordering or building the unit and the construction, or the construction of the unit could be contracted out to the local people at the community level that way they can have more people from local communities.

But now a days we see outside people out of Nunavut to construct our units and they don't even live in Nunavut and that's inappropriate and we use large sums of money to

bring those people up and the money doesn't stay in Nunavut when it could have stayed in Nunavut by hiring or awarding local people if the government had strength.

The government can say that they these units can be built by the local level and it's not, it's very simple to change or amend. What is the government afraid of? Are they afraid of the private sector because they're their friends?

I know that it's very simple to resolve this issue but it seems like they don't want to do it. I have many friends in the private sector as well but I know at the local level that there are many people who can construct units.

If they can't find an individual to fix the furnace yes they would have to order furnace, oil burner furnace contractor. If they can't find a local contractor that way the money can stay in Nunavut rather than going outside of Nunavut to southern businesses and it has been the case to date.

Some people in the community level can't find work or jobs and they end up being supported by income support and they just watch the outside construction workers building the units and these could be done by the local people.

If it's for the water heating furnace, if there are no people like that or plumbers like that they can bring in people from the outside to work on those things. I think that we should keep the money at the local level for the construction of the units and so I would like to advise the minister for Sustainable Development if you want to find out more about economic opportunities then that's where the money can be made when the contract is split for the ordering and also for the construction of the unit.

The construction of the unit could be done at the local level. That could be rectified very simply and yes we are very glad that there are many students in schools and yes education is one of our priorities.

When the commissioner during opening address he said that 35% of our budget goes to the schools. Yes, we're pleased to see that but education how is the education system set up to date?

I know that it's going to improve in the upcoming months but how is the system supporting the disabled people within the schools. Disabled people, people with disabilities, whether it be physical or mental should be given better services within the schools because I don't think that they'll be provided the services adequately.

The education system like the minister and I'm very pleased that the minister is now working on these issues that we're concerned about and I'm sure that she's very strong in resolving these issues rather than just being pleased and happy. Rather than just passing students to grade 12 it does not make it better.

Yes, we would like to see more students who can graduate who can go to further their education after grade 12. We would like to see that, and use the community or Nunavut as a foundation if they would like to further their education. This is something that we could be proud of

All the communities, I know that they are starting to have graduates in all of the communities. I just came from Repulse Bay a couple of days ago, and one thing that we need to promote is further education after Grade 12. I just went to a Grade 12 graduation but both of the graduates had babies in their *amautiqs*, it was pretty hard to know whether they wanted go to University or College. Both of these graduates had babies in their *amautis* so therefore I figured that they will not further their education.

During the Commissioners Opening Address it states that we are now starting to work on the training programs for the Nurses, Lawyers, and that we have been told that we are incapable. I do not know who told the Government that the Inuit people are incapable of working in this. I believe that Inuit can do those things.

This is a two fold issue in regards to training nurses. Nursing students have always been lacking funds. They never know if more money will go into the Nursing Program, but the Akitsiraq Law Students Program is serviced better and they are trying to make the lives of Nunavummiut better.

I did not say that myself. I was told that the other one is trying to help. The Nursing Program is trying to provide service to keep healthy and the other training program, the Akitsiraq program is trying to help the people who committed crimes because they are Lawyers that they can defend the criminals.

It is not the case but I was told that. When I was told that that is how it is understood by the public. We should look how the public understands these issues rather than what we understand. We should be talking about the understanding of the public that way we can understand and have a better clear understanding.

It was mentioned that the Nunavut Power Corporation that we were going to be holding the NPC, as was indicated by the Commissioner and he was told that it was going to be impossible, who has told him that the Nunavut Power Corporation was going to be owned by the people of Nunavut.

As an Interim Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, the Power Corporation has wanted to hang on to the Power Corporation but we get a part of it. We did not want to get partial because we were going to split it in half. Because it was already set up in 1999 that it was going to be split up between the two territories. I know this for a fact because I was the Interim Commissioner and I indicated to them that if we are going to be given a part of the Power Corporation and we were going to reject it. We would rather have our own Power Corporation within Nunavut.

With Jake Otis, who was the Minister of the Northwest Territories Government, I have indicated to him many times that after the review how the work was being done, but it seems that we were just being made fun of. There was nothing concrete giving to us for guidelines within the departments stating our departments are going to be doing this and your departments are going to be doing that. Maybe first of all, I would like to apologise to the interpreter. I have nothing written down

I thought there was a commissioner and there was a review done and to their understanding, how the Nunavut process was being created and I don't know whether they understood the process of Nunavut being created. Because they were just waiting for Nunavut to be created and Northwest Territories is saying what is happening to the rest of Northwest Territories.

(interpretation end) Mr. Speaker, just a little bit on the mid-term review, it's nice to say that the mid-term review emphasised for all members, the importance of some of the most basic goals of the creation of Nunavut. That's a nice sounding statement.

That's basically all it is if the people out there are not satisfied with the way the government is being operated. Not everybody will be satisfied ever. But there should be a fair amount of satisfaction with your government and right now, I don't think there is because I've travelled across Nunavut in the last number of months and there's not too much optimism out there today. A mid-term review is supposed to reflect on what can be done.

Changing the deputy ministers, changing the ministers is not going to do it. It's like changing the deck chairs of the Titanic on it's way down. What we need to do is have a whole sale change in the way the government operates in order to recognise the wishes and dreams of the people who wanted Nunavut, who started the whole process of Nunavut Territory years ago, years and years ago in the early 70s.

To realize those dreams, we have to have some rather dramatic changes within the government at the bureaucracy level, at the civil service level. I don't mean throw them all out but change in thinking, a change in the way that people think that there up here for.

Direction, given by the people who are in charge, who say look, this is not acceptable, the way we're operating the government. Let's change some basic ground rules here. It's no good to just say or just change around a few people if the commitment is not there from those people. Then there's no point in changing it around because the commitment will not miraculously commence.

(interpretation) Like we have indicated that since the separation of the Government of Nunavut, okay we've got our own Government of Nunavut, however, having our own Government of Nunavut, there are a lot of items that we still don't understand that is supposed to be directed to Inuit and they are representing Inuit for the people of Nunavut.

We can move our government to Winnipeg from Iqaluit. If we're not going to be committed to our people of Nunavut. If we are going to be committed with our hearts and we are going to have to start working on why, and with our souls, why did we work so hard to create our own Nunavut because our hearts are in Nunavut. And we are going to have to commit our hearts to be to work hard within Nunavut.

And there are a lot of people that say what does this mean? Sometimes it is impossible for us to talk about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, it is in our system, we know it, and it is in our system.

And we do not have to re-learn it. But Just talking about it is useless. For these instances that I have used, the examples, the communities, sometimes it is impossible when we are talking about a cabinet, but for instance, if we did the study, inside here, because I am very proud that we can speak Inuktitut all the way it would be all right. What would you do if we had to operate only in English, and operate with interpreters, or without?

If we are really committed to Inuktitut language, if we are committed to Inuit culture, are we going to have interpreters regardless if we are going to be working in all in Inuktitut or Qallunaatitut if they are bilingual?

Sometimes they do not need interpreters whatsoever, but if we are committed to Inuktitut language there are going to be interpreters required, if you are in Quebec, even we are bilingual the meeting would be run in French, and French interpreters would be required.

At least we should be understood now how committed we are to use the Inuktitut language and to use the traditional knowledge and because we are going to have to start pushing and it seems that sometimes when we are trying to talk properly, sometimes we are treated that way, but however, when we are talking about it like I indicated earlier, I would like to elaborate on it more.

For those people who apply for positions within the Government jobs, as long as they are aboriginals and because they, the women and the disabled were included.

We know that in the community the levels are not going into managerial positions or they are not being thought of when the commissioner talks about creation of positions, of jobs.

Sometimes when it is being talked about, okay they are going to start working on it, it is very beneficial, are they going to be in the managerial position, there is an obstacle, and there is always a barrier, a glass ceiling. All over, you can the people in managerial positions through the glass; the glass is stopping you from climbing any further. We are trying to create something for the Inuit to, we were told that many women in the job force and so what is the percentages that are in managerial positions?

How many disabled people are in the managerial positions? I've never seen a disabled person in those positions and even though the disabled person was qualified they were not considered for the position.

Like last year, we started working in this house about suicide prevention. Just recently there was a suicide prevention. There were between 600 or 700 people in Iqaluit and it was very beneficial during Saturday, Sunday and we went right on through Friday and although it was a beautiful day and there was fishing derbies going on in the other communities and those people many, many people went to Iqaluit to talk about suicide prevention.

I expected to see some of you in the workshop but I didn't see one of you. But like I said earlier it was a beautiful day and there was fishing derbies going on and I didn't mind being in Repulse Bay at that time.

It was known and we saw that the people were working hard really on the suicide prevention and there were leaders from Qikiqtani Inuit Association, when I saw him in Saturday morning and I was proud of him that he rather be at the suicide prevention program rather than going out hunting.

It's impossible for me just to talk about suicide prevention. We have to do something about it. How can the Health and Social Services can do more about the suicide prevention programs?

I know it's going to be worked on and I know that they are working on it already and how people can be more involved. We're going to be asking the Minister of Health and Social Services when it was mentioned just before our last meeting. I'm sorry I was not able to attend that meeting because I had just lost a relative and I got sick myself.

In talking about Nunavut, about ourselves within our own government, because we are an elected body, there are people outside of this house who are who knows more about how they dreamed about the creation of Nunavut.

As government, let's not be nervous when we are being told and when we are being finger pointed. If we don't get nervous we're just going to be in a bubble and not hear anybody who is talking to us.

I know there are people who are happy with the creation of Nunavut but there are many people who are dissatisfied about Nunavut and they're still asking when are we going to get our own Nunavut.

Perhaps with the elections coming fairly soon, this question is going to be raised. What kind of government do you want to have? What kind of government do I have? What is happening with the government that it was suppose to be a consensus government and in February the voters will think about this?

Ask questions to the cabinet, to the government. This is my vision here and this is what I expect.

The Inuit should start pushing the government and the government will be more useful for Inuit. It would be beneficial to all Inuit because the Inuit tends to help each other but the government is not doing the same thing that we want. I think it to myself, this government is supposed to help Inuit, to work well with Inuit.

I'm sure this will be brought up again in a few months or a few years from now. And for those there are private sectors in Nunavut, the private sectors can start thinking about how can they make our contract better.

Sometimes they are rejected. For instance, for Canadian North Airlines, Arctic Coops, Nunasi Corporation, sometimes they are rejected because they are outside of NNI. Canadian North is owned by us 50/50 percent but what about Arctic Cooperative Ltd., I don't know what percentages of how many percent we do own, but Canadian North, we do own half of it.

It is not recognised under the NNI policy. Why. Because we are not supporting our own airlines? For the Health and Social Services, they're always saying that some medical people that are going out for medical reasons are not satisfied with what kind of aircraft they are going.

Because I'm from Kivalliq and I support Canadian North. I don't exactly know what message I get out of that airline, but if it is making a profit, it will be beneficial for all of the north. First Air, I'm not against, them. They are also own by other Inuit but that's from a different region outside of Nunavut.

If they're profitable, I'm not going to see any of it. But if Canadian North does, I will see some benefits coming in. It won't directly come to me but indirectly it will. So, we shouldn't be holding back.

When we're talking about housing, there is a critical housing shortage in Nunavut. Some live in a small house, in Bathurst Inlet, we saw small nice little houses that are perfect for young couples.

You can add on to them and that's probably a cheaper house than what we have with the option of making an extension to that unit. So we have to start rethinking. The Housing Corporation should start asking the people as to what they would like to see with housing.

There are some in the south, once they come up with the numbers, they make a fire station in Naujat, and the doorway is facing the wind. And so, the Naujamiut would have to fix that problem which in the first place was not their fault.

So, these simple things on paper that paper qualities that we depend on too much when in fact, we have the knowledge up here that could be used. I would also like to reiterate the Minister for Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth's comment and I am sure I can ask of him at the appropriate time, but as soon as he got elected, we started talking about an Elders' Council and this is the fourth year now and we are still talking

about it and we are hearing it will come. However, am not in the Department anymore. I thought that body would be very effective because we do know our leaders become leaders by being elected.

At times, we do not even look at their qualities, but we look at how good they can speak, but not their qualifications. We just look at the image of the person. When we look at Elders who are going to be appointed to the Council, we'll have to have authority. We have to give them authority and to look after them by the Government and if it does happen, we as regular Members, are we going to take part once this Elders' Council is appointed because we were not told as yet whether we will be involved in the selection process.

But this Council will be very important to the Government, it has to be and if it will be effective and if it is going to have the teeth to have the authority and thinking about how the structure will be, I think we should be involved if it is going to be within the Nunavut Government, we should be involved in the selection process for the appointment to the Elders' Council.

Elders have expectations and nowadays there are a lot of Elders who have been taken out of positions. They are still looking for ways in which how they can contribute to our lives.

If it was back then, we would be asking the Elders, we would be visiting the Elders for their advice, say if I have a relationship problem I would go to them for their advise. If I had problems with my brothers, I would go to them for advice.

These are the people that can help us to deal with our social problems and if someone is in trouble, then the Elders would deal with it or if they have to learn hunting, about life, then the Elders would be responsible for that. Wildlife issues, then they would deal with it.

Now, today, it is like this: social issues, social problems, we will go to a social worker. If there is someone misbehaving, we will go to the police. Wildlife issues, problems, we will go to wildlife officers. If there are problems in the community, we will go to the Hamlet.

The Elders' place in society has been taken away. We have to take that back so you have the knowledge because they do say: We will become Elders one day, but we have been hardened more so perhaps because we have taken on the Qallunaat's way of life.

So it is urgent that this body that will be formed, we have to think about it so that it is effective and not just lip service. I think that is what we are expecting.

The Commissioner through his address, he says that things are going fine, that is what we expected because that is what the Government wrote, but at times they should not just be



paying lip service because we still have so much more work to do. Let us work on those responsibilities. Work on your responsibility.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it is no good to say, 'We still have a lot of work to do.' and leave it at that. It is no good to just say that. 'We still have a lot of work to do.' Well get to work. Make those changes that are necessary in order to satisfy the people of Nunavut about the Government. Get to work. Change those policies; change those rules; change those hiring policies; change the way the people are coming up, just getting off the plane and then going to work as maybe, in one case, in one community somebody coming off the plane from Ottawa and becoming an Income Support Worker for a community. Isn't there anybody in that community?

Do not be afraid to be biased for the community. Get the people from the community. Do not be afraid that the community is going to say, 'You cannot do that.' If you hire from within the community, they certainly are not going to say that, or getting Social Workers straight off the plane from Newfoundland. Not that there is anything wrong with Newfoundlanders, but maybe there is somebody from that community that can do the job just as good if not better, because they would also have the cultural experience, cultural knowledge and sensitivity to that community.

Let us utilize those people. Let us utilize those people. Are we afraid to? When are we going to change those policies to ensure that the wishes of the people are listened to? When are we going to ensure that Social Workers are going to listen to the Justice Committees. That they are going to think that the Justice Committee is a worthwhile body to work with, instead of thinking that I am a Social Worker with paper qualifications, so who are they, sort of attitude.

It is time that we started breaking the ground, rushing forward to make those changes. It is time that the Government started breaking the ground, rushing forward to make those changes. It crawls at a snails pace. And sometimes maybe the hill is a little too steep so it goes back a little bit.

Let get to work guys. Let us make sure that we do our best to serve the people of Nunavut who put us in here in the first place, collectively, not 19 individual ridings, collectively, they put us here, and it is up to us to serve the interests of those people.

The only reason we exist is because of those people out there. Let us give them some attention. Let us not get carried away thinking that we are so important that we can do all the things without consulting the people, right Donald.

It is a tragedy that we have not gone as far as we should have today. It's nice to sometimes take a back seat and yeah, we've done some pretty good things in the last four years. As I said, when we have nothing to compare to, how can you say we're doing pretty good. We have nothing to compare ourselves to.

We may be thinking we're doing pretty good, we got Nunavut. The only comparison we have could be the Northwest Territories and between them and us, it's like, as Qallunaat would say, the difference between fire and ice or whatever the term is, night and day, fire and ice, whatever. You know. They have totally different kinds of existence in the Northwest Territories. I'm not going to knock the Northwest Territories. Unfortunately in their case, the Aboriginal people happen to be a small minority I think, a bit of a minority there.

There in a different situation all together, so I'm saying we can't compare ourselves to the people of the Northwest Territories. We have to remember that we have a stake in Nunavut. All of us, or most of us have a stake in Nunavut.

I made a brief remark yesterday about, that I'm going to be around here, I'm going to be in Nunavut for a long time. I'm going to die in Nunavut, sooner or later.

>>*Laughter*

Later rather than sooner. I just made this remark, maybe a facetious remark. I just said that there's people that take pot shots at us. And some of those people, I know, are not going to be around here when I'm still around.

So, that's why I try and keep going. If I stumble, and that should be the case for everybody, if you stumble, you get up and start walking again.

(Interpretation) At times, we go through hardships. After we've been through that hardship, we have to know that it will be over. Let's not give up. And that's what we say to the youth.

We were told and I had also said it here, that I thought we were controlling because we have the Government of Nunavut. And then I was told yes, you are in control but we don't grasp that idea yet.

We have to grasp that idea and realize that we are in control and that we have that authority as of the very first time as a government anywhere, that we have the Government of Nunavut.

However, we are not using that power and we are not continuing the dream by Amagoalik, Ningutsiaq, Qallutsiaq, Meeka Kilabuk and those people. That was the dream of Elijah Mannariak and those people.

We haven't grasped the idea totally that we are in control. So that's why we have to work harder on that. So, those are the types of things we have to realize. Some of them, it's simple.

For instance, if we want more economic development in the communities, Department of Sustainable Development will say to Finance, change that contracting policy regarding construction of housing.

This house, for instance, erection of the building, give that contract to that community, someone from the community and that money would stay in the community. The staff employees would be in the community. They're not going to rush on the job because they're not getting out of the community. The money would stay in the community, perhaps because they have a wife, kids, parents and relatives, and then money will stay in that community. That's simple.

So, if they're holding back or nervous from those people that are contracting. There is so much money that is flowing down south. Millions of dollars that has flowed out of Nunavut in construction.

Myself I can't build house. I'm not a carpenter but I do know that in each and every community, there someone that can build a house regardless if they have that piece of paper or trade certificate. The government has to get going and be more stern and not just be against some of the ideas.

When you listen to the government they have really fought for us against the Federal Government and really stood their ground. So, we've done some good in area because we deserve it. It's what we should be doing.

I hope, I don't know how many of us will be back or if any of us will be back next year perhaps in another community in Nunavut, however, those who are left here should really work hard to that for the first time Inuit in Nunavut, not the leaders of Nunavut, yes its desirable to be voted into top jobs but there is a lot of people that can replace us who can do the job.

Let's not just think about being elected. We have to think about how we can better serve the people. Not just our constituents but Nunavut as a whole. So, how we better serve the Inuit and that is a mindset we have to start taking on.

But I do know, because I'm saying that when you're being elected in the different ridings it's an issue. Yes, we are elected from different constituencies in Nunavut however as an Inuk you'd think that there is other Inuit in Natilik, Nanulik, Amittuq, Akulliq in Baker Lake, Iqaluit Centre, Quttiktuq, high arctic, Pond Inlet, they're Inuit.

And now we get so divisive, for instance, Baffin, Kivalliq, Kitikmeot, there is a lot of big divisiveness because we're from different regions. It's natural but we have to change that. Like say, I have to get elected because I'm going to work hard on this.

Yes, you may be well meaning, but as a regular Joe on the street, you have to think, well I can help those other people all across Nunavut as a whole. Yes, it's good that the

election process and the campaigning and all this, we start really more or less being self-serving at times.

(interpretation ends) I know I've got unlimited time, however, in the interest of my colleagues; I will try and make it short.

When the commissioner was delivering his opening his third speech of the sixth session he mentioned a lot of things and he mentioned the Bathurst Mandate which is I think a good thing to work towards but somewhere in the process I think we've lost some of the drive to get there. I would just like to touch a little bit on not so much the Bathurst Mandate, but on the decentralization.

Earlier this year we went through some problems with some decentralization issues. The decentralization issue was always the first one put out by the Nunavut Implementation commission. It was one of the first ones that they said the Government of Nunavut will be decentralized. I think it is a very good idea, communities should benefit from the fact that we have a Government of Nunavut, but in the process we started decentralizing decentralized communities when in fact the build up in the capitol is still ongoing. We think you would be somewhere down south if you did not happen to notice the mountains, and the snow, and the ice, walking in Iqaluit. Why do not we decentralize more, but from Iqaluit?

There are thousands, literally thousands people, brand new, not really we are not necessarily slating to go to Iqaluit. But now we have a problem because we happen to be over by a few people in my community of Rankin Inlet, we will decentralize Rankin Inlet.

Rather stupid thing I thought, but I am not in charge. But decentralizing an already decentralized community does not seem to make sense. And by the way, people, we think some attitude seems to be that we can play around with the bureaucracy, the bureaucracy is a bunch of people Mr. Speaker.

Human beings with a heart, with feelings. IQ, we talk about IQ. Those people that were supposed to move out of Rankin Inlet, all of them have families in Rankin Inlet, all of them have Families in Rankin Inlet, close knit.

It is nice when people want to move out of their communities. But sometimes people do not want to move, because their family life is more important. The bureaucracy is a bunch of people, sometimes we may not always agree with them, but they are people with heart, with feelings, being able to think, so let us look at them as people rather than just something out there that we can just take a piece out of and put it out elsewhere.

Use IQ, close knit families. When are we going to start looking at the fact that in the whole plan to April 1999 the people expected a government that is closer to the people, a government that takes the best of what contemporary governments have to give along with what Inuit have to give.

Those are the kind of things that the people want to see out there. So, Mr. Speaker, I am sure I will get another chance to outline my views before the end of this assembly; I think we have addressed the Budget Address so I will get an opportunity to do that.

(interpreted) I just wanted to point those issues Mr. Speaker, the public out there, many people out there are expecting, they still have expectations let us not be scared of them, let us not be scared of them, because they are not scared of us, they just have expectations.

Let us at least review and try to review their expectations and try to work towards their expectations so that when we, the reason why we created Nunavut, we wanted to have a Government that runs more like Inuit culture.

(interpretation ends) Let me say, just an observation, the higher person, I do not necessarily disagree or agree with him, ...(interpretation) ...I observed an individual stating that when in observance of the Government and looking at the Ministers' side and the Inuit Ministers have been shuffled to the other portfolios, but the other two non-native Ministers still hold their portfolios.

That is what the public observed and an individual said what they were feeling, they were wondering why the Inuit Cabinet Member's portfolio had been shuffled when they did not do that. I am just stating that because that has been observed by the public.

The public observes the Government and I am sure there are many more people out there that feel the same way and observes the Government like that. So, at least, we should at least be more sensitive to the views of the public.

At times I know, we are Inuit people and we have a pretty good idea of what the needs and requirements are out there. If we do not talk to the public, general public out there in the community, we will never know what their true feelings are.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to point on these issues and I would like to thank my honourable Colleagues and I know that some of my honourable Colleagues did not really want to listen to me and some of them did not want to hear my response to the opening address.

But I expect, in conclusion, I expect that within this year, perhaps not in Baker Lake Session, that we at least should work towards achieving our goal. We would like to ask the people, the general public out there, what type of Government would you like to see? Are we going to achieve our goal? As a Member if I elect you, are you going to achieve the goals of Inuit aspirations? We need to ask these questions to the public out there.

Lastly, I would like to thank and also, although I have spoke about it here in Baker Lake, I have relatives and I have recognized an individual from Repulse Bay and my nephew and Mona Autut.

I know that Baker Lake is a very beautiful community, but as a shoreline, Inuit people, I know that you miss the shoreline, I know that when we were seal hunting in Repulse Bay, as I said that I was going to Baker Lake, when we started talking about heating and lighting fuel, Inuit people are very proud of Baker Lake residents because they have at least used their fish fat for heat and light because they are very capable of surviving and I would like to say that I am very proud of them for surviving and thank you, Mr. Speaker, very much for the opportunity to make my response. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Anawak. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing in Special Committees. Reports of Standing in Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees under Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of documents. Ms. Thompson.

### **Item 13: Tabled Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 121 - 1(6): The Nunavut Arctic College Annual Report – 2001-2002**

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although we almost fell asleep, I would like to table the following document.

(interpretation end) The Nunavut Arctic College Annual Report. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to table copies of the Nunavut Arctic College Annual Report 2002 in accordance with Section 18 of the Public Colleges Act for the fiscal year 2001/2002. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Item 13. Tabling of documents. Mr. Akasuk.

#### **Tabled Document 122 – 1(6): Nunavut Tourism Business Plan 2003/2004**

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document; Nunavut Tourism Business Plan 2003/2004. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Item 13. Tabling of documents. Are there any further tabling of documents. Mr. Quirke.

#### **Tabled Document 123 – 1(6): Response to Petition 006-1(6) – Unfair Rent Scale**

**Clerk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the response to petition 6-1 (6), filed with the office of the clerk by the Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Tabling of documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

#### **Item 14: Notices of Motions**

##### **Motion 027 - 1(6): Extensions to Bill 36 An Act to Amend the Worker's Compensation Act and 37 An Act to Amend the Liquor Act**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday June 6, 2003, I shall move the following motion;

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Qamanittuaq that notwithstanding Rule 68(1), the Report of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services on the Review of Bill 36, an Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act and Bill 37, an Act to Amend the Liquor Act be extended until such time as the committees have concluded their reviews. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

##### **Motion 028 – 1(6): Tabled Document 117-1(6) Utility Rates Review Council Report to the Minister and 118-1(6) Executive Summary Annual Report of the Nunavut Power Corporation to Committee of the Whole- Notice**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, June 6, I will move the following motion;

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Qamanittuaq, that tabled documents 117-1 (6) and 118-1 (6), be moved into Committee of the Whole for discussion. And Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will ask that my motion be dealt with today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

#### **Item 16: Motions**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there nays. There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Tootoo.

##### **Motion 028 – 1(6): Tabled Document 117-1(6) Utility Rates Review Council Report to the Minister and 118-1(6) Executive Summary Annual Report of the Nunavut Power Corporation to Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Qamanittuaq that tabled documents 117-1 (6) and 118-1 (6) be moved into Committee of the Whole for discussion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 34, Bill 38, Bill 39, Minister's Statement 126-1(6), 164 -1(6), 167- 1(6), Tabled Documents 117-1(6) and 118-1(6). With Mr. Iqaqrialu in the Chair. Does the Members wish to proceed to Committee of the Whole, agreed? With Mr. Iqaqrialu in the Chair.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

**Chairperson** (Mr. Iqaqrialu)(interpretation): I call the meeting to order. During Committee of the Whole we will deal with Bill 34, Bill 38, Bill 39, Minister Statement 126-1(6), Minister Statement 164-1(6), Minister Statement 167-1(6), Tabled Documents 117-1(6) and 118-1(6). These are the issues to deal with. Ms. William.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Committee would like to start with the Minister Statement 126-1(6). Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. The Minister for Human Resources, can go down to the Witness Table along with her official, Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Yes, I can go down to the Witness Table, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Thank you for coming, Minister. Introduce your officials, please.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My official for Kivalliq Region, for Human Resources, Jane Aupaluktuq, Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Yesterday, there were some more people to speak, is it okay for you to continue on from yesterday?

**Mr. McLean:** Mut'na, Mr. Chairman. And I will try to make this promise to you again that I am trying to make my comments brief, but on this issue, I am hoping that I will keep them brief.

On the job descriptions, I was glad to see the Government come forward with this, very glad, because in my experience of representing one of the fourth largest community in Nunavut and also a decentralized community, I have seen a lot of changes in the last four years, I would like to think positive changes in this community, because it was a have not community for a long, long, long time, and we are finally getting some jobs and there are



not a lot of jobs, there are 40 or 50 jobs, but I see the significant impact that it has made on this community. I see more Hondas, I see more boats and motors, and I see more private homes. I just see a lot more people working today, than what was working four years ago.

On that issue, I am glad that the Government is going to take away artificial barriers in regards to hiring people. I do not want to point my constituents out, but David Samalik, who is vice-chair of the Nunavut Power Corporation, also he overlooks, he is President and CEO of four or five Inuit Development Corporations, and a successful businessman in Nunavut.

At one time, myself and him were both unemployed in 1991. I am not scared to say that I was unemployed, I was and so was he. We both applied for a job, an EEDO position. I am not bragging I had fifteen years of business experience with Northern Stores and in the private sector. A job opened up here. I called David because I know that David was looking for a job because we had families and bills to pay. I said, 'Are you applying?' And he says yes, and then I said 'Well I better not apply, he says no go ahead, apply Glenn, I encourage you. Let us make sure that the best guy gets the job.

We were totally trusting of the Government. I being the naive person that I am and trusting guy, yeah, okay, I will apply. There was three applicants from Baker Lake and the applicant that they hired, in my humble opinion, according to me and David when we heard about it later, we figured that we were maybe just a tiny little bit more qualified. I figured David would get the job because he is Inuk and I am a Qallunaaq, I am one of those guys yeah I think that they are making the right decision.

To our horror they gave it to someone that never even lasted four months in it. We were hurt that we never even got an interview. I am just saying from his experience and my experience and it makes you pretty bitter. It makes you pretty bitter that you are trying to contribute to the community, you want to help people, and then when you come down to a simple little job, and I do not want to downplay this, a simple little job as an AEDO, because it is an important position, that you do not even get a consideration, a letter, a phone call about that.

That was in the old GNWT, Dave and I were really happy when Nunavut came along. We were saying that maybe if we apply again, then maybe we have a better chance. I do not think that either one of us has applied for a job in Nunavut yet. I know that a lot of people in this town that have applied for jobs.

I would like to think that sometimes when you live in a community and you talk to people and they are your neighbours, that you know them, and you work with them and hopefully you are fighting for them to get a job when they are unemployed because they have to feed their families also.

On that issue, I just want to put out a personal experience with a close friend of mine. Maybe it did us good because if we had become AEDOs, we would probably be sitting

there oppressing the business community, like what is happening now in Nunavut. I am glad that we are not.

On that I am glad that the Department is looking at bringing down artificial barriers. I just want to go on where I have got some concerns is when you are looking at the Health and Social Services, I do not think you can take down too many artificial barriers when it comes to Nurses or Teachers. I think that there is a standard there that has to be protected and I am talking, we were talking about this before.

A problem that I have is when we sometimes bring in other professionals, and I am talking about counsellors. There is a lot of Inuit people in this community, elders, and middle aged people, my age, that would make great counsellors, if they were given a little bit of training. But because they do not have a University degree in brain technology, sometimes these people aren't even get considered for training. And they might only be unilingual and that's another issue.

I think unilingual people are being discriminated against in Nunavut. I'd say unilingual Inuit people. Unilingual English speaker people aren't but the unilingual Inuit people in my opinion are being discriminated against.

I wonder today, how it would be approached and I'd love to be on the interview process, I'd love to go in and see how its done. If somebody applies for a job and their unilingual, how they're graded.

There are a set of rules in an interview process and I'm not attacking the department or I'm not attacking the current minister, I'm not attacking Jane. I'm just saying, there is an old manual that we probably inherited from the Government of the Northwest Territories with the point system Manitok, and you probably seen it.

Has that been converted to do this. And the reason I say that is because I think when I look at the direct appointments that have been done in the last two or three years, it shows to me that maybe the government is right in reclassifying these 800 hundred job descriptions.

Because if the government direct appoints through cabinet and more and more people, I support that because it seems to cut through a lot of the red tape in the hiring process now. So, I would encourage you when you're looking at these artificial barriers that you know, when we get people that have been up here for a long, long, long time, doing the interview process and hiring. I'm talking about Inuit people.

I think you'll see our Inuit employment go up. But when we bring new people in from the south and they're in on the interview process and they're scoring and stuff like that, I don't think they have the whole picture of the person's life.

And when you get new people from the south, they come in and go, okay this is why she didn't pass or this, according to a point system and like Janes been around for a long time

and I think she's very competent what she does and I know you are very competent and will do a good job in this.

So, when we're doing these interviews or you're doing these interviews for people try to take the whole picture in place that you know okay, they might not have grade 12 for a clerical position or they might have not have you know 60 words a minute that it specifies in a job classification, maybe they only have 30 or 40 words per minute.

I hoping that when you are redoing this that you're looking at things like this. That a person can go on and improve their skills once they get that job.

And somebody said to me one day here in town, and I was a little upset, that development officers position was vacated for a couple of months and a young person applied and they said we can't hire the young Inuit person because they don't have the experience.

Well how is a young Inuit person in a place like Baker Lake going to get experience if they're not given a part time job to try. And I think I can speak for all of us and say that none of us have started out on any job where we've been perfect at it.

And the other issue I want, on the reclassification of these jobs and removing the artificial barriers. I think today still and I keep saying it and I've looked around is training on the job still important? Its very important so if you take a young person out of high school in Baker Lake or Rankin Inlet or Arviat or Pond Inlet and they're applying for a job, I would really hope in my heart that they might not have all the qualifications that somebody in the south has but why not put them in there in a training position so they can come through.

Its called investing in our futures and investing in our children. So, you know this is in the clerical, the book keeping and stuff like that. That if we can build that, I hate that word capacity, but if we can build the expertise in our communities you know be taking young people and brining them through the system and training them and having some patience with them, then we'll get our IEP numbers up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very briefly. I'd like to start off with, I have a similar things what my colleague had said because I use to be a social worker for 14 years and after I resigned I applied for a counsellor's job where we can just go and I was told that I have to go further training for two more years.

If I don't want to go for further training that job would be deleted. I don't expect this government will do the same thing. After being a social worker for 14 years and being told that you have to go for further training for an extra two years is a little too much.

I'm very proud. In Grise Fiord, Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, just recently, there were long service awards and I saw Mr. Puqiqnak given an award for a long service person and

there were many people who were given long service awards for 5-30 years of service. They did the same thing in Iqaluit.

I think this is going to be very beneficial for those who are going to be contributing services for the government for many years. The majority of people who received the long services awards were women. There were very few men. They were the clerks, the interpreters.

The Health Centres employees were given awards and this is was a proud moment for me to see all these women. I'd like to elaborate more on those people who do casual work for a few months and then they go back to work because they are only casual employees.

There are a lot of casual employees in Iqaluit. I am sure there would be a lot more Inuit casually employed. Sometimes these casuals are on their job for six months or a year and then they're actually appointed to full time positions.

When Inuit are not applying for jobs, it's very uplifting to see an Inuk applying a managerial positions. There are many people in Iqaluit who work casually in Iqaluit.

The second one I'd like to talk about is to help you. When there was a pan arctic oil exploration in the high arctic, there used to be a person who did the job evaluations on work performance and there was an employment counsel who did the evaluations. That person would talk to that person because like, Mr. Anawak, because it's spring time right now, there are people who want to go out seal hunting.

For those people who are casually employed, and they just leave their casual employment due to the fact they want to go out hunting. It would be nice to have a job evaluator who would be able to talk to these people because whether if there was a Qallunaat manager or an Inuk manager, if there's a problem between the employee and the manager, then that person will tend to resign or quit their jobs.

Sometimes that person who the employment counsellor would be very beneficial for this government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Thank you, colleagues and Ms. Thompson. Very briefly, not for those with the job description, it is not too long ago, and I am sure that he or she would not do that, the only way to get the proper employment within the government was if you had certifications or if journeyman certificates and these are the barriers that we do have.

And with the airbrakes it is sometimes airbrakes licence you require class three licence. And those people who are well educated tend to pass the, between 1970-75, there were people who were readily available to work and they unilingual people and those people were not qualified but they were able to do the work properly.

But, and I know for a fact, there is a unilingual mechanic in my community who has been on the job since 1976 and is still our mechanic and who is a unilingual person. And up to date there are a lot of people who are unemployed, especially middle aged people. And it is impossible for the middle aged people to get employment.

And, I myself was employed for a total of twenty-three years as fuel truck driver and I was sort of a mechanic but I am although without a certificate I was able to do some mechanical work.

For instance I know that when you work with different kinds of fuels, fuel, gas, or diesel, you can tell the difference between the fuel oil, and diesel oil, and I know that we never had bad gas in my community, I know the Inuit and I know for a fact that they can do a job better than a qualified or a certified person.

There are people who are able to work in the community are unemployed due to the fact that they are uneducated. We are going to have to start thinking about these people who are not fully educated.

And will we, we as Inuit, we tend to look at a person, okay, he can do the job, but although, because sometimes the Government does not care about us whatsoever. And what we would like to be able to see is the people in our communities to be employed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairperson:** Thank you Mr. Alakannuark I do not have anyone else on my list for general comments. So if there are no further general comments we will all move onto questions. If there are any questions, comments, if not Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** In recognizing the panel there are no questions I would like to move that we report progress.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): There is a motion to report progress. All those in favour. All those opposed. Carried. The Speaker can now return to the chambers. Thank you, Mr. Minister, we will see you again.

>>*Sergeant-at-Arms*

**Speaker:** Returning to Orders of the Day. Item 20. Reports of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Chairman. Mr. Iqaqialu.

### **Item 20: Report of Committee of Whole**

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your Committee has been considering Minister Statement 126-1(6) and would like to report the committee is still considering the Minister Statement. I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a motion on the floor, is there a seconder for the motion? Is there a seconder for the motion? Mr. Puqignak will second the motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Quirke.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, some announcements for tomorrow morning 8:00, the meeting at the Management Services Board, please bring your binder that was given to you by the page.

9:30 Meeting of the Standing Committee on Health and Education. Both meetings will take place in the Nunamiut Hotel Board Room.

Orders of the Day for Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>:

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. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
  - Motion 23-1(6)
  - Motion 24-1(6)
  - Motion 25-1(6)

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

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

- Bill 34
- Bill 38
- Bill 39
- Minister's Statement 126-1 (6)
- Minister's Statement 164-1 (6)
- Minister's Statement 167-1(6)
- Tabled Document 117-1(6)
- Tabled Document 118-1(6)

20. Report of Committee of the Whole.

21. Third Reading of Bills.

22. Orders of the Day.

Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Quirke. Just a few housekeeping items to pass onto the Members. The Ballet lessons for the Members will be cancelled this evening, except the softball game, will be cancelled, but instead there will be supper at Norman Attungala's house and that is house #179 near the Anglican Church and also the Baker Lake Youth Parliament will start tomorrow morning at 11'O'Clock and that is 11 instead of 10.

And the barbeque afterwards will be held at the school, instead of the Heritage Centre. This House stands adjourned until Thursday June 5, 2003, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:05 p.m.*

